

National Symbols of India

National Emblem

The National Emblem is an adaptation from the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka.

The four smaller animals at the bottom of national emblem are horse and bull (visible) and lion and elephant (not visible).

The National Emblem was adopted by the Government of India on 26 January 1950.

'Satyameva Jayate' inscribed below has been taken from the Mundaka Upanishad.

National Anthem

The national anthem 'Jana Gana Mana' was first sung at Calcutta session of Indian National Congress in 1911, 27 Dec.

It was adopted by the Indian constitution on 24 Jan 1950.

Its English rendering has been given by Tagore himself.

The song was composed originally in Bengali by Rabindranath Tagore, the National Anthem is its Hindi version.

The complete song consists of five stanzas. The first stanza contains the full version of the National Anthem.

The playing time for full version of the song is 52 seconds.

National Song

The national song Vande Mataram has been taken from Bankim Chandra Chatterji's Anand Math.

It was first sung at 1896 session of INC.

Its English rendering has been given by Shri Aurobindo.

National Calendar

The national calendar based on the Saka Era was adopted on 22 Mar 1957.

Chaitra is the first month of the year whose 1st day falls on 22 March normally and on 21 March in a leap year.

The national calendar also has 365/366 days

Chaitra has 30 days normally and 31 days in a leap year.

National Flag

The design of the national flag was adopted on 22 July 1947.

The ratio of width of the flag to its length is two to three.

The design of the wheel at the centre is taken from the abacus of the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka.

The 'Dharmachakra' (wheel) at the centre has 24 spokes.

The display of the National Flag is governed by Flag Code of India, 2002, which took effect on 26 Jan 2002.

As per the provisions of the Flag Code of India, 2002, there shall be no restriction on the display of the National Flag by members of general public, private organisations, educational institutions, etc., except to the extent provided in the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 and any other law enacted on the subject.

Other National Symbols

The national bird is Peacock (*Pavo cristatus*)

The national fruit is Mango (*Magnifera indica*)

The national flower is Lotus (*Nelumbo Nucifera*)

The national tree is Banyan (*Ficus benghalensis*)

The national animal is Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)

The national aquatic animal is River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*)

The national river is the Ganges

Comparison - National Anthem and National Song

	NATIONAL ANTHEM	NATIONAL SONG
NAME	Jana Gana Mana	Vande Mataram
AUTHOR	Rabindranath Tagore	Bankim Chandra Chatterji
ORIGINALLY WRITTEN IN	Bengali	Sanskrit
1ST SUNG IN	1911, Kolkata	1896, Kolkata
ENGLISH RENDERING BY	Tagore	Shri Aurobindo