

# GENERAL AWARENESS – FAMOUS PERSONALITIES OF INDIA AND THE WORLD

## Chapter: Famous Personalities of India and the World

<b>Subject:</b>	General Awareness – Famous Personalities
<b>Total Questions:</b>	70 MCQs
<b>Question Type:</b>	Multiple Choice (Single Correct Answer)
<b>Exam Relevance:</b>	UPSC, SSC CGL/CHSL, IBPS, RRB NTPC, State PSC, NDA, CDS, Defence Exams
<b>Topics Covered:</b>	National Leaders, Scientists, Artists, Sports, World Leaders, Nobel Laureates, Industrialists, Social Reformers & Current Affairs
<b>Based On:</b>	Static GK + Latest Current Affairs 2022–2026

### ★ ■■ NATIONAL LEADERS & FREEDOM FIGHTERS ★

**Q1. Mahatma Gandhi's birth name was Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. He was born on 2 October 1869 in which city?**

- A) Ahmedabad
- B) Porbandar, Gujarat
- C) Rajkot, Gujarat
- D) Surat, Gujarat

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Porbandar, Gujarat**

■ *Explanation: Mahatma Gandhi was born on 2 October 1869 in Porbandar (Sudamapuri), Gujarat. He is called 'Bapu' (Father) and 'Mahatma' (Great Soul — title given by Rabindranath Tagore). He developed the philosophy of Satyagraha (truth-force) and Ahimsa (non-violence). He was assassinated on 30 January 1948 by Nathuram Godse. 2 October is observed as International Day of Non-Violence.*

**Q2. Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, wrote which famous autobiographical book while in prison?**

- A) The Discovery of India
- B) Glimpses of World History
- C) An Autobiography (Toward Freedom)
- D) Letters from a Father to His Daughter

✓ **Correct Answer: C) An Autobiography (Toward Freedom)**

■ *Explanation: Jawaharlal Nehru wrote several famous books: 'An Autobiography' (1936) — his life story written in Almora Jail; 'Glimpses of World History' (1934) — world history through letters to Indira; 'The Discovery of India' (1946) — written in Ahmednagar Fort. 'Letters from a Father to His Daughter' was also written for young Indira. Nehru's birthday (14 November) is celebrated as Children's Day.*

**Q3. Subhas Chandra Bose escaped from British-controlled India in 1941 and reorganised the Indian National Army (INA). Where did he reorganise the INA?**

- A) Germany
- B) Japan
- C) Singapore
- D) Russia

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Singapore**

■ *Explanation: Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose escaped to Germany in 1941 and then went to Southeast Asia via submarine. He reorganised the Indian National Army (Azad Hind Fauj) in Singapore in 1943 after taking command from Rash Behari Bose. He gave the rallying cry 'Jai Hind' and 'Tum mujhe khoon do, main tumhe azadi dunga'. He died in a plane crash on 18 August 1945.*

**Q4. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar converted to Buddhism on 14 October 1956. In which city did this mass conversion take place?**

- A) Mumbai
- B) Pune
- C) Nagpur
- D) Aurangabad

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Nagpur**

■ *Explanation: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar embraced Buddhism on 14 October 1956 at Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur — along with approximately 6 lakh followers. This is the largest mass religious conversion in modern history. Ambedkar died just 65 days later on 6 December 1956. Deekshabhoomi is now a major pilgrimage site. Ambedkar's birthday (14 April) is observed as Ambedkar Jayanti.*

**Q5. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is called the 'Iron Man of India'. He successfully integrated 562 princely states. Which state required military intervention — the Police Action — to join India?**

- A) Junagadh
- B) Travancore
- C) Hyderabad
- D) Kashmir

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Hyderabad**

■ *Explanation: The integration of Hyderabad (ruled by Nizam Osman Ali Khan) required military action — 'Operation Polo' (Police Action) — on 13 September 1948, conducted under Sardar Patel's orders. The Nizam had refused to join India and hoped to remain independent or join Pakistan. Junagadh was settled by a plebiscite; Kashmir acceded under special circumstances.*

**Q6. Bhagat Singh was hanged on 23 March 1931. He threw a bomb in the Central Legislative Assembly in Delhi in 1929. For what purpose?**

- A) To kill British officials in the Assembly
- B) To make a political statement and be arrested — 'To make the deaf hear'
- C) To start an armed revolution against British rule
- D) In protest against the Jallianwala Bagh massacre

✓ **Correct Answer: B) To make a political statement and be arrested — 'To make the deaf hear'**

■ *Explanation: Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw smoke bombs (not to kill anyone) in the Central Legislative Assembly on 8 April 1929 in protest against the Public Safety Bill and Trade Disputes Act. They shouted 'Inquilab Zindabad' and distributed leaflets saying 'It takes a loud voice to make the deaf hear'. They deliberately allowed themselves to be arrested to use the trial as a platform.*

**Q7. Lal Bahadur Shastri gave which famous slogan during the 1965 Indo-Pakistan War?**

- A) Do or Die
- B) Jai Jawan Jai Kisan
- C) Saare Jahan Se Accha
- D) Jai Hind

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Jai Jawan Jai Kisan**

■ *Explanation: Lal Bahadur Shastri (India's 2nd PM) gave the rallying slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' (Hail the soldier, Hail the farmer) during the 1965 Indo-Pakistan War. He died in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) on 11 January 1966 after signing the Tashkent Declaration with Pakistan's Ayub Khan. He is the only Indian leader to die in a foreign land while in office. He was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna.*

**Q8. APJ Abdul Kalam is called the 'Missile Man of India'. He served as India's President from which years?**

- A) 1997–2002
- B) 2002–2007
- C) 2007–2012
- D) 2012–2017

✓ **Correct Answer: B) 2002–2007**

■ *Explanation: Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam served as India's 11th President from 2002 to 2007. He was a renowned aerospace scientist who led the development of India's ballistic missiles (Agni, Prithvi) and the SLV-3 rocket. He wrote 'Wings of Fire' (autobiography) and 'Ignited Minds'. He died on 27 July 2015 while delivering a lecture at IIM Shillong. His birthday (15 October) is observed as World Students' Day.*

## ★ ■ SCIENTISTS & INVENTORS (INDIA) ★

**Q9. C.V. Raman was the first Asian to win the Nobel Prize in Physics (1930). What is the 'Raman Effect'?**

- A) Photoelectric effect in metals
- B) Inelastic scattering of photons by molecules, resulting in a change in wavelength
- C) Diffraction of X-rays by crystals
- D) Radioactive decay of heavy elements

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Inelastic scattering of photons by molecules, resulting in a change in wavelength**

■ *Explanation: Sir C.V. Raman (Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman) discovered the Raman Effect on 28 February 1928 — the inelastic scattering of photons by molecules, causing a change in the photon's energy and wavelength. He won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930 and was the first Asian scientist to receive a Nobel Prize in Science. National Science Day is celebrated on 28 February.*

**Q10. Srinivasa Ramanujan is celebrated as one of history's greatest mathematicians. He was a self-taught genius who was invited to work with which British mathematician at Cambridge University?**

- A) Bertrand Russell
- B) Alfred Whitehead
- C) G.H. Hardy
- D) Alan Turing

✓ **Correct Answer: C) G.H. Hardy**

■ *Explanation: Srinivasa Ramanujan (1887–1920) wrote a letter to G.H. Hardy at Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1913, presenting his mathematical theorems. Hardy recognized his genius and invited him to Cambridge. The famous 'Hardy-Ramanujan number' is 1729 — the smallest number expressible as the sum of two cubes in two ways ( $1^3+12^3=9^3+10^3$ ). Ramanujan died aged just 32.*

**Q11. Homi J. Bhabha is called the 'Father of India's Nuclear Programme'. He also founded which institute in 1945?**

- A) IIT Bombay
- B) BARC (Bhabha Atomic Research Centre)
- C) TIFR (Tata Institute of Fundamental Research)
- D) ISRO

✓ **Correct Answer: C) TIFR (Tata Institute of Fundamental Research)**

■ *Explanation: Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha founded TIFR (Tata Institute of Fundamental Research) in Mumbai in 1945 with Tata's financial support. He also established AEET (Atomic Energy Establishment Trombay, 1954) which was renamed BARC after his death in 1966. He chaired the Atomic Energy Commission and designed India's 3-stage nuclear programme. He died in the Air India 'Kanchenjunga' crash on Mont Blanc.*

**Q12. Vikram Sarabhai is called the 'Father of the Indian Space Programme'. He founded ISRO and also established which premier management institute?**

- A) IIM Ahmedabad
- B) IIM Bengaluru
- C) IIM Kolkata
- D) IIM Lucknow

✓ **Correct Answer: A) IIM Ahmedabad**

■ *Explanation: Dr. Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai (1919–1971) was the founder of ISRO (1969) and the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL, 1947) in Ahmedabad. He also co-founded IIM Ahmedabad (1961) — one of India's premier business schools. Under his guidance, India's first rocket (Nike Apache) was launched from Thumba in 1963. ISRO's launch centre in Thiruvananthapuram is named Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).*

**Q13. M.S. Swaminathan is called the 'Father of the Green Revolution in India'. He received the World Food Prize and the Bharat Ratna (posthumously in 2024) for his work in:**

- A) Developing drought-resistant cotton varieties
- B) Introducing HYV (High Yielding Variety) seeds of wheat and rice in India
- C) Pioneering organic farming in India
- D) Developing GM (Genetically Modified) crops

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Introducing HYV (High Yielding Variety) seeds of wheat and rice in India**

■ *Explanation: Dr. M.S. Swaminathan (1925–2023) worked with Norman Borlaug to introduce HYV (High Yielding Variety) seeds of wheat and rice in India in the mid-1960s, launching the Green Revolution that transformed India from a food-deficit to a food-surplus nation. He received the World Food Prize (1987), Padma Vibhushan, and posthumous Bharat Ratna (2024).*

★ ■ ARTISTS, WRITERS & CULTURAL ICONS ★

**Q14. Rabindranath Tagore won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913 for Gitanjali. He was the first non-European Nobel Laureate. Which two national anthems did he compose?**

- A) India's Jana Gana Mana and Sri Lanka's national anthem
- B) India's Jana Gana Mana and Bangladesh's Amar Shonar Bangla
- C) India and Pakistan's national anthems
- D) Bangladesh and Myanmar's national anthems

✓ **Correct Answer: B) India's Jana Gana Mana and Bangladesh's Amar Shonar Bangla**

■ *Explanation: Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941) composed both India's national anthem 'Jana Gana Mana' (originally written in Bengali in 1911) and Bangladesh's national anthem 'Amar Shonar Bangla' (composed 1906). He is the only person to have composed the national anthems of two different countries. He also founded Visva-Bharati University at Shantiniketan.*

**Q15. M.F. Husain is called the 'Picasso of India'. He was known for his vibrant paintings featuring which iconic subject as a recurring motif?**

- A) Tigers and lions of India
- B) Barefoot horses painted with bold colours
- C) Indian rural landscapes in watercolours
- D) Portraits of political leaders

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Barefoot horses painted with bold colours**

■ *Explanation: Maqbool Fida Husain (1915–2011) — known as the 'Picasso of India' — was one of India's greatest modern painters, celebrated for his vibrant, large canvases featuring bold-coloured horses. He walked barefoot throughout his life as a personal statement. He received the Padma Vibhushan (1991) but spent his later years in exile and died in London as a Qatari citizen.*

**Q16. Pandit Ravi Shankar was a legendary sitar maestro who brought Indian classical music to the world stage. He collaborated with which famous Western musician/group?**

- A) The Rolling Stones
- B) The Beatles (especially George Harrison)
- C) Bob Dylan
- D) Eric Clapton

✓ **Correct Answer: B) The Beatles (especially George Harrison)**

■ *Explanation: Pandit Ravi Shankar (1920–2012) collaborated extensively with The Beatles — particularly George Harrison, who studied sitar under Ravi Shankar. This collaboration introduced Indian classical music and the sitar to millions of Western listeners in the 1960s. Ravi Shankar received the Bharat Ratna in 1999. His daughter Anoushka Shankar is also a noted sitarist.*

**Q17. Satyajit Ray, the legendary filmmaker, was best known for which trilogy of films that depicted rural Bengal?**

- A) Apu Trilogy (Pather Panchali, Aparajito, Apur Sansar)
- B) Calcutta Trilogy (Pratidwandi, Seemabaddha, Jana Aranya)
- C) Devi Trilogy (Devi, Charulata, Mahanagar)
- D) Feluda Trilogy (Sonar Kella, Joy Baba, Joi Baba)

✓ **Correct Answer: A) Apu Trilogy (Pather Panchali, Aparajito, Apur Sansar)**

■ *Explanation: Satyajit Ray's Apu Trilogy — Pather Panchali (1955), Aparajito (1956), and Apur Sansar (1959) — depicted the life of Apu (Apu Kumar Roy) from boyhood in rural Bengal to adulthood. These films earned international acclaim and revolutionised Indian cinema. Ray received the Academy Honorary Award in 1992 and the Bharat Ratna posthumously in 1992.*

## ★ ■ SPORTS PERSONALITIES ★

**Q18. Sachin Tendulkar is called the 'God of Cricket' and 'Master Blaster'. Which record does he uniquely hold in international cricket?**

- A) Most wickets in Test cricket
- B) First batsman to score 100 international centuries (ODI + Test)
- C) Highest individual score in a Test innings
- D) Most catches in international cricket

✓ **Correct Answer: B) First batsman to score 100 international centuries (ODI + Test)**

■ *Explanation: Sachin Tendulkar is the only cricketer to score 100 international centuries (51 in Tests + 49 in ODIs). He is also the highest international run-scorer (34,357 runs). He received the Bharat Ratna in 2014 — the youngest and first sports person to receive it. He played his 200th and final Test match against West Indies in Mumbai in November 2013.*

**Q19. P.T. Usha is called the 'Payyoli Express' or 'Queen of Indian Track and Field'. She narrowly missed winning a medal at which Olympics, finishing 4th in 400m hurdles?**

- A) Moscow 1980
- B) Los Angeles 1984
- C) Seoul 1988
- D) Barcelona 1992

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Los Angeles 1984**

■ *Explanation: P.T. Usha (Pilavullakandi Thekkeparambil Usha) came agonisingly close to a bronze medal at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, finishing 4th in the 400m hurdles by 1/100th of a second. She won 4 gold medals at the 1985 Asian Track and Field Championship and dominated Indian athletics for over a decade. She was recently appointed to the Rajya Sabha and elected President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).*

**Q20. Viswanathan Anand is a five-time World Chess Champion. He was the World Chess Champion continuously from 2007 to which year?**

- A) 2010
- B) 2012
- C) 2013
- D) 2015

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 2013**

■ *Explanation: Viswanathan Anand (Vishy Anand) of India held the World Chess Championship from 2007 to 2013, successfully defending his title against Vladimir Kramnik (2008), Veselin Topalov (2010), and Boris Gelfand (2012). He lost the championship to Magnus Carlsen (Norway) in 2013. Anand was the first Indian and first Asian to become the undisputed World Chess Champion.*

**Q21. Neeraj Chopra became the first Indian to win an Olympic gold in Athletics. In which event and at which Olympics did he win?**

- A) Long Jump – Tokyo 2020
- B) Javelin Throw – Tokyo 2020
- C) Discus Throw – Rio 2016
- D) Javelin Throw – Paris 2024

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Javelin Throw – Tokyo 2020**

■ *Explanation: Neeraj Chopra won India's first-ever Olympic gold in Athletics at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics (held in 2021), throwing the javelin 87.58 metres. He also won silver at the Paris 2024 Olympics with 89.45m. He is the first Indian to win a gold medal in track and field at the Olympics. He also holds the national record of 89.94m (set at Lausanne, 2022).*

**Q22. Mary Kom is a celebrated Indian boxer known as 'Magnificent Mary'. She is a \_\_\_-time World Amateur Boxing Champion.**

- A) 4
- B) 5
- C) 6
- D) 8

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 6**

■ *Explanation: MC Mary Kom (Mangte Chungneijang Mary Kom) from Manipur is a 6-time World Amateur Boxing Champion (2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2018) — the most by any boxer in the sport's history. She won a bronze medal at the London 2012 Olympics in 51 kg flyweight. She has also been a Rajya Sabha MP and received the Padma Vibhushan.*

★ ■ **WORLD LEADERS & STATESMEN** ★

**Q23. Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in prison before becoming South Africa's first Black President. In which prison was he incarcerated for 18 of those years?**

- A) Pollsmoor Prison
- B) Robben Island
- C) Victor Verster Prison
- D) Pretoria Central Prison

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Robben Island**

■ *Explanation: Nelson Mandela (1918–2013) was imprisoned for 27 years (1964–1990). He spent 18 of those years (1964–1982) in Robben Island prison off Cape Town, South Africa. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 (shared with F.W. de Klerk) and became South Africa's first Black President (1994–1999). His autobiography 'Long Walk to Freedom' is a classic. 18 July is observed as Nelson Mandela International Day.*

**Q24. Abraham Lincoln is remembered for abolishing slavery in the USA. The Emancipation Proclamation was issued in which year?**

- A) 1860
- B) 1863
- C) 1865
- D) 1868

✓ **Correct Answer: B) 1863**

■ *Explanation: President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on 1 January 1863, declaring that enslaved people in Confederate states 'shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free'. Lincoln was the 16th US President (1861–65) and was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth on 14 April 1865 at Ford's Theatre, Washington D.C. — just days after the Civil War ended.*

**Q25. Winston Churchill served as UK's Prime Minister during World War II. He received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1953. For which work?**

- A) The Second World War (six-volume history)
- B) My Early Life
- C) The Gathering Storm
- D) Blood, Sweat and Tears

✓ **Correct Answer: A) The Second World War (six-volume history)**

■ *Explanation: Winston Churchill won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1953 for his six-volume history 'The Second World War' and for his brilliant oratory and historical writing. Churchill served as UK PM from 1940–45 (WWII) and again 1951–55. His famous wartime speech 'We shall fight on the beaches' inspired British resistance. He is also remembered controversially for the 1943 Bengal Famine.*

**Q26. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous 'I Have a Dream' speech during which march in 1963?**

- A) March on Selma
- B) March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom
- C) Freedom Riders March
- D) Montgomery Bus Boycott March

✓ **Correct Answer: B) March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom**

■ *Explanation: Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his iconic 'I Have a Dream' speech on 28 August 1963 during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom at the Lincoln Memorial. He was the primary leader of the American civil rights movement and was assassinated on 4 April 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.*

**Q27. Malala Yousafzai became the youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate (2014). She is known for championing which cause?**

- A) Climate change awareness for children
- B) Girls' education rights in Pakistan (especially under Taliban rule)
- C) Child labour abolition globally
- D) Nuclear disarmament for youth

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Girls' education rights in Pakistan (especially under Taliban rule)**

■ *Explanation: Malala Yousafzai (born 1997, Pakistan) survived a Taliban assassination attempt in 2012 (shot on a school bus) for advocating girls' education in Swat Valley. She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 at age 17, becoming its youngest laureate. She wrote 'I Am Malala' and founded the Malala Fund for girls' education globally.*

★ ■ **NOBEL LAUREATES (INDIA-BORN/CONNECTED)** ★

**Q28. Mother Teresa, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, was born in which country?**

- A) Ireland
- B) India
- C) Albania (present-day North Macedonia)
- D) Italy

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Albania (present-day North Macedonia)**

■ *Explanation: Mother Teresa (born Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu, 1910–1997) was born in Skopje (in present-day North Macedonia, then part of the Ottoman Empire), of Albanian ethnicity. She came to India in 1929 and founded the Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata in 1950. She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 and was canonised as Saint Teresa of Calcutta by Pope Francis in 2016.*

**Q29. Amartya Sen won the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1998. He is known for his work on which concepts?**

- A) Monetary policy and inflation control
- B) Welfare economics, social choice theory, and the economics of famines
- C) International trade and comparative advantage
- D) Game theory and behavioural economics

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Welfare economics, social choice theory, and the economics of famines**

■ *Explanation: Amartya Sen (born 1933, Santiniketan) received the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 1998 for his contributions to welfare economics, including work on social choice theory, development economics, and the economics of famines (his book 'Poverty and Famines' argued famines result from distribution failures, not food shortage). He also developed the Human Development Index with Mahub ul Haq.*

**Q30. Kailash Satyarthi received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 for his work on which cause?**

- A) Tribal land rights in India
- B) Child labour abolition and the right of all children to education
- C) Women's rights in rural India
- D) Nuclear disarmament in South Asia

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Child labour abolition and the right of all children to education**

■ *Explanation: Kailash Satyarthi (born 1954, Vidisha, MP) shared the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize with Malala Yousafzai for their struggle against the suppression of children and for children's rights. He founded the Bachpan Bachao Andolan (Save the Childhood Movement) in 1980 and has rescued over 90,000 children from bondage and child labour through the Rugmark/GoodWeave initiative.*

## ★ ■ SCIENTISTS & PHILOSOPHERS (WORLD) ★

**Q31. Albert Einstein's special theory of relativity introduced the famous equation  $E = mc^2$ . In which year was the Special Theory of Relativity published?**

- A) 1900
- B) 1905 (Einstein's Annus Mirabilis)
- C) 1915
- D) 1919

✓ **Correct Answer: B) 1905 (Einstein's Annus Mirabilis)**

■ *Explanation: Albert Einstein published the Special Theory of Relativity in 1905 — his 'Annus Mirabilis' (miracle year) in which he published four groundbreaking papers including photoelectric effect, Brownian motion, special relativity, and mass-energy equivalence ( $E=mc^2$ ). He received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1921 for the photoelectric effect, not relativity. He published the General Theory of Relativity in 1915.*

**Q32. Marie Curie was the first woman to win the Nobel Prize and the only person to win Nobel Prizes in two different sciences. Which two prizes did she win?**

- A) Physics (1903) and Chemistry (1911)
- B) Physics (1897) and Medicine (1906)
- C) Chemistry (1911) and Peace (1919)
- D) Physics and Literature

✓ **Correct Answer: A) Physics (1903) and Chemistry (1911)**

■ *Explanation: Marie Curie (1867–1934, born Maria Skłodowska in Poland) won the Nobel Prize in Physics (1903, shared with Pierre Curie and Henri Becquerel) for work on radioactivity, and Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1911) for discovering Polonium and Radium. She was the first woman Nobel laureate and the first person to win two Nobel Prizes. She died of aplastic anaemia caused by radiation exposure.*

**Q33. Stephen Hawking made groundbreaking contributions to cosmology and theoretical physics. His most popular science book, explaining the universe in accessible terms, is:**

- A) The Universe in a Nutshell
- B) A Brief History of Time
- C) The Grand Design
- D) Black Holes and Baby Universes

✓ **Correct Answer: B) A Brief History of Time**

■ *Explanation: Stephen Hawking's 'A Brief History of Time' (1988) — explaining cosmology, the Big Bang, black holes, and the nature of time — became an international bestseller, remaining on the Sunday Times bestseller list for 237 weeks. Hawking (1942–2018) worked on black hole thermodynamics, Hawking Radiation, and singularity theorems. He was diagnosed with ALS at 21 but continued working for 55 years.*

## ★ ■ INDIAN INDUSTRIALISTS & INNOVATORS ★

**Q34. JRD Tata founded Tata Airlines in 1932, which later became Air India. He was also the first Indian to obtain a Commercial Pilot's Licence. Tata Group's founding is traced to which industrialist?**

- A) Dorabji Tata
- B) Jamsetji Tata
- C) Ratan Tata
- D) Naval Tata

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Jamsetji Tata**

■ *Explanation: Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata (1839–1904) founded the Tata Group and is considered the 'Father of Indian Industry'. He established Empress Mills (1877), founded IISc (Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru), built the Taj Mahal Hotel (Mumbai), and conceptualised Tisco (Tata Iron and Steel Company, Jamshedpur). JRD Tata (Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhoy Tata, 1904–1993) — his nephew — led the Tata Group from 1938 to 1991.*

**Q35. Narayana Murthy co-founded Infosys in 1981. He is known for which corporate philosophy that transformed Indian IT?**

- A) 'Jugaad' innovation for cost reduction
- B) Benchmarking Indian IT against global standards and promoting ethical business practices
- C) Outsourcing all R&D; to foreign entities
- D) Focusing only on domestic Indian clients

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Benchmarking Indian IT against global standards and promoting ethical business practices**

■ *Explanation: N.R. Narayana Murthy co-founded Infosys in 1981 with 6 colleagues and ₹10,000 (borrowed from his wife Sudha Murthy). He is known for setting global benchmarks for Indian IT, emphasising corporate governance, transparency, and ethical business practices. Infosys pioneered the 'Global Delivery Model' of offshore software services. He received the Padma Vibhushan (2008).*

**Q36. Ratan Tata led the Tata Group from 1991 to 2012. Under his leadership, which major international acquisitions did Tata make?**

- A) Purchased Microsoft and Nokia
- B) Acquired Jaguar Land Rover (2008) and Corus Steel (2007)
- C) Bought Facebook and WhatsApp
- D) Acquired Samsung and LG

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Acquired Jaguar Land Rover (2008) and Corus Steel (2007)**

■ *Explanation: Under Ratan Tata (1937–2024), the Tata Group made landmark global acquisitions: Tetley Tea (UK, 2000), Corus Steel (UK/Netherlands, \$13.7 billion, 2007), and Jaguar Land Rover (UK, \$2.3 billion, 2008). Ratan Tata also launched the Tata Nano (world's cheapest car) in 2008. He received the Padma Vibhushan in 2008 and passed away in October 2024.*

★ ■ **CURRENT AFFAIRS – PERSONALITIES 2022–26** ★

**Q37. Droupadi Murmu became India's 15th President in July 2022. She is significant as:**

- A) India's first woman President
- B) India's first President from a tribal (Scheduled Tribe) community and the youngest President
- C) First President elected from Northeast India
- D) First non-INC affiliated person elected as President

✓ **Correct Answer: B) India's first President from a tribal (Scheduled Tribe) community and the youngest President**

■ *Explanation: Droupadi Murmu (born 1958, Odisha) became India's 15th President on 25 July 2022 — the first person from a Scheduled Tribe (Santali tribe) community and the youngest person to become President of India. She is also the second woman President after Pratibha Patil (2007–2012). Before becoming President, she served as Governor of Jharkhand.*

**Q38. Who was appointed as India's 52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI) in May 2025, becoming the first CJI from the Scheduled Caste community?**

- A) Justice Sanjiv Khanna
- B) Justice B.R. Gavai
- C) Justice D.Y. Chandrachud
- D) Justice Surya Kant

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Justice B.R. Gavai**

■ *Explanation: Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai was sworn in as India's 52nd Chief Justice of India in May 2025, succeeding Justice Sanjiv Khanna. Justice Gavai is the first CJI from the Scheduled Caste (SC) community — a historic milestone. He had been part of the Supreme Court Constitution Bench that upheld the abrogation of Article 370 in 2023.*

**Q39. Sunita Williams, an Indian-American NASA astronaut who was stranded on the ISS for over 9 months (2024–25), is of Indian heritage. Her father is from which state of India?**

- A) Punjab
- B) Gujarat
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Rajasthan

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Gujarat**

■ *Explanation: Sunita Williams (born 1965) is a NASA astronaut whose father Deepak Pandya is from Mehsana, Gujarat. She went to the ISS on Boeing Starliner in June 2024 but had to remain stranded for about 9 months when Starliner was deemed unsafe for return. She finally returned to Earth on SpaceX Crew Dragon in March 2025. She holds the world record for most spacewalk time by a woman (50+ hours).*

**Q40. Narendra Modi became India's Prime Minister for the third consecutive time in June 2024, which is a rare achievement in Indian politics. Who was the first PM to serve three consecutive terms?**

- A) Jawaharlal Nehru
- B) Indira Gandhi
- C) Manmohan Singh
- D) Narendra Modi is the first to achieve this

✓ **Correct Answer: A) Jawaharlal Nehru**

■ *Explanation: Jawaharlal Nehru was India's PM for three consecutive terms (1947–1964) until his death. Narendra Modi became PM for a third consecutive term in June 2024 after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections (NDA won majority with BJP winning 240 seats). Modi is the first PM after Nehru to win three consecutive terms. The third term runs the coalition as NDA with TDP and JDU as key allies.*

**Q41. Ursula von der Leyen was re-elected as President of the European Commission for a second term in 2024. She is from which country?**

- A) France
- B) Netherlands
- C) Germany
- D) Belgium

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Germany**

■ *Explanation: Ursula von der Leyen (born 1958) of Germany was re-elected as President of the European Commission for a second 5-year term in July 2024 (confirmed by the European Parliament). She previously served as Germany's Federal Minister of Defence (2013–2019). She is the first woman to serve as European Commission President (first term 2019–2024).*

**Q42. Pope Francis, who is the 266th Pope of the Catholic Church, died in April 2025. He was born in which country?**

- A) Italy
- B) Spain
- C) Argentina
- D) Brazil

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Argentina**

■ *Explanation: Pope Francis (born Jorge Mario Bergoglio, 1936–April 2025) was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina — the first Latin American and first Jesuit to become Pope. He was elected Pope on 13 March 2013, succeeding Pope Benedict XVI. Pope Francis was known for his progressive social views, climate advocacy, interfaith dialogue, and simplicity of lifestyle. His passing triggered a Conclave to elect the new Pope in May 2025.*

**Q43. Elon Musk became the world's richest person. He is associated with which Indian connection through his parents?**

- A) His mother is of Indian origin
- B) His father was born in India
- C) He has no direct Indian connection but owns companies with large Indian workforces
- D) He was born in India

✓ **Correct Answer: C) He has no direct Indian connection but owns companies with large Indian workforces**

■ *Explanation: Elon Musk (born 1971, South Africa) has no direct Indian heritage. He founded/leads Tesla, SpaceX, X (Twitter), Neuralink, and The Boring Company. Musk's companies have large Indian employee bases, and Starlink (SpaceX) received approval to operate in India in 2025. He was appointed head of DOGE (Department of Government Efficiency) under US President Trump in 2025.*

**Q44. Priya Jaiswal (Priya Misra) became India's first woman to win the Miss World title in 2024. Where was the Miss World 2024 pageant held?**

- A) Mumbai, India
- B) Bangkok, Thailand
- C) Hyderabad, India
- D) Dubai, UAE

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Hyderabad, India**

■ *Explanation: Sini Shetty represented India at Miss World 2022 but did not win. In 2024, India hosted the Miss World pageant in Hyderabad. The 2024 Miss World title was won by Krystyna Pyszková (Czech Republic) in 2024. Note: India has produced 6 Miss World winners (Reita Faria 1966, Aishwarya Rai 1994, Diana Hayden 1997, Yukta Mookhey 1999, Priyanka Chopra 2000, Manushi Chhillar 2017).*

**Q45. Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI (maker of ChatGPT), visited India in 2023 to meet PM Modi. OpenAI was founded in which year and city?**

- A) 2015, San Francisco
- B) 2017, New York
- C) 2019, Seattle
- D) 2012, Silicon Valley

✓ **Correct Answer: A) 2015, San Francisco**

■ *Explanation: OpenAI was founded in December 2015 in San Francisco, California, by Elon Musk, Sam Altman, Greg Brockman, Ilya Sutskever, and others. It launched ChatGPT in November 2022, which became the fastest-growing consumer application in history. Sam Altman was briefly removed as CEO in November 2023 but reinstated within days after employee revolt. OpenAI is now valued at over \$150 billion.*

**Q46. Which Indian-American became the first person of Indian origin to be sworn in as the Vice President of the USA in January 2021?**

- A) Nikki Haley
- B) Kamala Harris
- C) Vivek Ramaswamy
- D) Bobby Jindal

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Kamala Harris**

■ *Explanation: Kamala Devi Harris (born 1964) became the 49th Vice President of the USA on 20 January 2021 under President Joe Biden — the first woman, first Black American, and first person of South Asian (Indian) origin to serve as VP. Her mother Shyamala Gopalan was from Tamil Nadu, India. Kamala Harris was the Democratic Presidential nominee in 2024 but lost to Donald Trump.*

★ ■ SOCIAL REFORMERS & HUMANITARIANS ★

**Q47. Raja Ram Mohan Roy is called the 'Father of the Indian Renaissance' and 'Father of Modern India'. His most significant social reform campaign led to the abolition of which practice?**

- A) Child marriage
- B) Sati (widow immolation)
- C) Caste discrimination
- D) Devadasi system

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Sati (widow immolation)**

■ *Explanation: Raja Ram Mohan Roy (1772–1833) campaigned relentlessly against Sati (the practice of widow self-immolation on husband's funeral pyre), leading to Governor-General William Bentinck passing the Bengal Sati Regulation (Regulation XVII of 1829) abolishing it. He founded the Brahma Samaj in 1828, promoted women's education, and advocated for press freedom and English education.*

**Q48. Florence Nightingale is called the 'Lady with the Lamp'. She is known for pioneering which field?**

- A) Medical surgery techniques
- B) Modern nursing and hospital sanitation
- C) Vaccination and immunology
- D) Women's suffrage movement

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Modern nursing and hospital sanitation**

■ *Explanation: Florence Nightingale (1820–1910) is the founder of modern nursing. During the Crimean War (1853–56), she worked at Scutari hospital (Turkey) with 38 nurses, dramatically reducing mortality rates through improved sanitation and hospital hygiene. She is also a pioneer of data visualisation (polar area diagrams). 12 May (her birthday) is observed as International Nurses Day.*

**Q49. Swami Vivekananda delivered the famous speech beginning 'Sisters and Brothers of America' at which conference in 1893?**

- A) The World Peace Conference, Geneva
- B) Parliament of World's Religions, Chicago
- C) Theosophical Society, London
- D) Harvard University Lecture, Boston

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Parliament of World's Religions, Chicago**

■ *Explanation: Swami Vivekananda (1863–1902) gave his historic speech at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago on 11 September 1893, beginning 'Sisters and Brothers of America' — receiving a standing ovation. He introduced Hinduism and Vedanta philosophy to the Western world and founded the Ramakrishna Mission and Ramakrishna Math. His birthday (12 January) is observed as National Youth Day.*

★ ■ LITERARY GIANTS (INDIA) ★

**Q50. Munshi Premchand is called the 'Upanyas Samrat' (Emperor of Novels). Which language did he primarily write in?**

- A) Sanskrit
- B) Urdu only
- C) Hindi and Urdu
- D) Braj Bhasha

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Hindi and Urdu**

■ *Explanation: Munshi Premchand (Dhanpat Rai Srivastava, 1880–1936) wrote in both Hindi and Urdu — initially writing under the pen name 'Nawab Rai' in Urdu before switching to 'Premchand' in Hindi. His major novels include Godan, Gaban, Nirmala, and Rangbhoomi. His short stories like Kafan, Poos Ki Raat, and Idgah are classics of Indian literature.*

**Q51. Mirza Ghalib (1797–1869) is the greatest Urdu poet. Which Mughal Emperor's court poet was he associated with?**

- A) Shah Jahan
- B) Aurangzeb
- C) Bahadur Shah Zafar II (last Mughal Emperor)
- D) Muhammad Shah Rangila

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Bahadur Shah Zafar II (last Mughal Emperor)**

■ *Explanation: Mirza Asadullah Khan 'Ghalib' was the court poet (Poet Laureate/Malik-us-Shu'ara) of Bahadur Shah Zafar II, the last Mughal Emperor of India. Ghalib wrote ghazals in both Urdu and Persian. His Urdu Diwan (collection) contains immortal ghazals. He was an eyewitness to the 1857 revolt and documented it in 'Dastanbu'. He is buried in Hazrat Nizamuddin's dargah area, Delhi.*

**Q52. Kamala Das (Madhavikutty) is a celebrated Indian writer who wrote under different names in different languages. She wrote in English under 'Kamala Das' and in Malayalam under which name?**

- A) Amrita Pritam
- B) Madhavikutty (Kamala Surayya)
- C) Sarah Joseph
- D) O.V. Vijayan

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Madhavikutty (Kamala Surayya)**

■ *Explanation: Kamala Das (1934–2009) from Kerala was a pioneering bilingual writer. She wrote frank, confessional English poetry and prose under 'Kamala Das' (My Story, The Descendants) and Malayalam fiction and short stories under 'Madhavikutty'. She later converted to Islam and took the name 'Kamala Surayya'. She was shortlisted for the Nobel Prize in Literature.*

★ ■■ MILITARY PERSONALITIES ★

**Q53. Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw led India's military to victory in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. He was the first Chief of Army Staff to be promoted to the rank of Field Marshal (five-star). He was popularly called:**

- A) Sam Sahib
- B) Sam Bahadur
- C) Sam the Tiger
- D) General Sam

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Sam Bahadur**

■ *Explanation: Field Marshal Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw (1914–2008) was India's first five-star military officer. He was affectionately called 'Sam Bahadur' (Brave Sam) — the title of a 2023 biographical film starring Vicky Kaushal. Under his command, Indian forces achieved a decisive military victory in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, resulting in Pakistan's surrender and the creation of Bangladesh in 13 days.*

**Q54. Param Vir Chakra, India's highest military honour, was first awarded to which officer during the 1947–48 Kashmir War?**

- A) Major Som Nath Sharma
- B) Brigadier Mohammad Usman
- C) Captain Vikram Batra
- D) Rifleman Sanjay Kumar

✓ **Correct Answer: A) Major Som Nath Sharma**

■ *Explanation: Major Som Nath Sharma was the first recipient of the Param Vir Chakra (PVC) — India's highest military honour for valour in the face of the enemy. He was awarded PVC posthumously for his gallantry at the Battle of Badgam, Kashmir, on 3 November 1947. He died repulsing a Pakistani tribal attack on the Badgam airstrip while covering the evacuation of civilians.*

#### ★ ■ MISCELLANEOUS FAMOUS PERSONALITIES ★

**Q55. Verghese Kurien is called the 'Milkman of India'. He founded which cooperative that made Amul a household name?**

- A) National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)
- B) Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) – under which AMUL operates
- C) Both NDDB and GCMMF
- D) Kaira District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union (KDCMPUL – Amul)

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Both NDDB and GCMMF**

■ *Explanation: Dr. Verghese Kurien (1921–2012) — the 'Milkman of India' — set up the Kaira District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union (which markets under the AMUL brand) in Anand, Gujarat, and founded the NDDB (National Dairy Development Board) in 1965. He designed the Operation Flood programme, which made India the world's largest milk producer through the Anand Model of cooperative dairying.*

**Q56. Ela Bhatt founded the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in 1972 in Ahmedabad. SEWA is significant as:**

- A) India's first IT training institute for women
- B) World's first trade union for self-employed and informal sector women workers
- C) India's largest NGO working on female foeticide
- D) A cooperative bank exclusively for rural women

✓ **Correct Answer: B) World's first trade union for self-employed and informal sector women workers**

■ *Explanation: Ela Bhatt (1933–2022) founded SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association) in 1972 in Ahmedabad — the world's first trade union for self-employed women in the informal economy (vendors, domestic workers, home-based workers). She was called the 'Gentle Revolutionary' and received the Padma Bhushan, Magsaysay Award, and other international honours. SEWA has over 2 million members.*

**Q57. Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google (Alphabet), and Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft, are both of Indian origin. Sundar Pichai is from which city in Tamil Nadu?**

- A) Chennai
- B) Coimbatore
- C) Madurai
- D) Salem

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Madurai**

■ *Explanation: Sundar Pichai (born Pichai Sundararajan, 1972) is from Madurai, Tamil Nadu. He studied at IIT Kharagpur and Stanford/Wharton before joining Google in 2004. He became CEO of Google in 2015 and CEO of Alphabet Inc. in 2019. Satya Nadella, Microsoft CEO, is from Hyderabad, Telangana, and studied at Manipal Institute of Technology. Both are prominent members of the Indian diaspora who have led global technology corporations.*

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