

get curious about

KNOWLEDGE SERIES

the WORLD

Vol. - 2

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Welcome to an initiative by Greycaps

'get curious about' is a knowledge series aimed at igniting curiosity among our young minds and encouraging them to explore further in the world of knowledge. The book chronicles amazing facts which we do not come across in our day-to-day lives.

This second volume of the 'WORLD' edition of the book contains fifty topics ranging from interesting places to diversified culture that will enrich your knowledge of the world around us. It captures fun filled facts with colourful pictures, a great way to Discover the World.

Let's read. Let's get curious about the 'WORLD'.

PickBali

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STAMP THIS

The **Indian Postal** system is the largest postal network in the world, with more than one lakh post offices in the country.

These post offices provide services like regular mail, speed post, parcel post, and so on, for the people of India. Apart from these, they also provide financial services like money order, international money transfer, saving schemes etc.



A PIN code (Postal Index Number) is a unique six digit number, the first digit denotes the postal circle and the next two digits denote the area and the remaining digits denote the post office.

Asia's first adhesive stamp was the 'Scinde Dawk'. The term refers to a postal system which was prevalent in the Indus Valley of Sindh. After India became independent, the first stamp issued was the stamp of an Indian flag. It was valued at three and a half annas.

Apart from the standard stamps, India Post also issues commemorative stamps to celebrate and honour eminent Indians, places or occasions.

FOR A 'NOBEL' CAUSE

The **Nobel Prize** is an international annual award in recognition of scientific and cultural advancements. It is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Swedish Academy, the Karolinska Institute, the Sveriges Riksbank and the Norwegian Nobel Committee to individuals or organisations that have made outstanding contributions in various fields. The first awards were given in the year 1901.

The fields in which the awards are presented are Chemistry, Physics, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, Peace and Economics.



WHO IS ALFRED NOBEL?

Alfred Nobel was a Swedish chemist, engineer and innovator. He invented dynamite which was used for explosive purposes during war times. One day, his brother Ludvig died and a newspaper by mistake published an obituary in the name of Alfred Nobel. It stated 'the merchant of death is dead' and further went on to state 'Dr. Alfred Nobel, who became rich by finding ways to kill more people faster than ever before, died yesterday'. Alfred was disappointed with what he read and was concerned with how he would be remembered. This prompted him to start the Nobel Prizes.

Some notable Nobel Prize laureates are:-

1st Nobel Prize in Physics for his discovery of the X-ray – William Rontgen

1st Nobel Peace Prize and Founder of the Red Cross – Henry Dunant

Nobel Prize in Literature – Rudyard Kipling

Nobel Peace Prize – Former President of the USA – Theodore Roosevelt

Nobel Peace Prize – Mother Teresa

Nobel Prize in Literature – Rabindranath Tagore

Nobel Prize in Economics – Amartya Sen

Nobel Peace Prize – Muhammad Yunus

Line of Defence

Army Day is celebrated on 15 January every year in India, in recognition of Field Marshal K. M. Cariappa becoming the first Indian Commander-in-Chief in 1948. The day is celebrated in the form of parades and other military shows.

The Indian Army is the largest branch of the Armed Forces of India and has the primary responsibility of conducting land-based military operations. Its headquarters is located in New Delhi. The force is headed by the Chief of Army Staff. The highest rank in the Indian Army is Field Marshal. It is a largely ceremonial honorary rank and appointments are made by the President of India, on the advice of the Union Cabinet of Ministers, only in exceptional circumstances.

General S.H.F.J. Manekshaw and the late General K.M. Cariappa were the only two exceptional generals who attained this rank. Indian soldiers are known as Jawans.



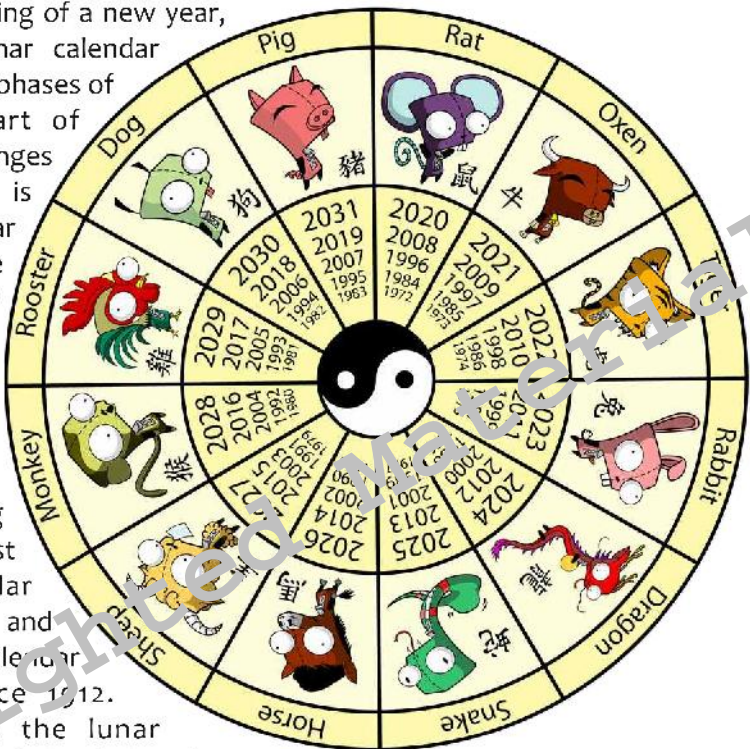
Indian Army: Rank Structure

General (Chief of Army Staff holds this rank), Lieutenant-General, Major-General, Brigadier, Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel, Major, Captain, Lieutenant, Officer Cadet.

The Military of India, officially known as the Indian Armed forces, is the primary military organisation responsible for the territorial security and defence of India. The President of India serves as the supreme commander of the armed forces. The armed forces include the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.

The Animal in Us

The **Chinese New Year** is a holiday that celebrates the beginning of a new year, according to the lunar calendar which is based on the phases of the moon. The start of Chinese New Year changes every year, since it is dictated by the lunar calendar. The Gregorian or solar calendar-which is based on the Earth's movement around the sun and has a fixed number of 365 days a year (366 during a leap year) is the most widely used calendar system in the world and has been the official calendar used in China since 1912. However in China, the lunar calendar is still used to determine traditional holidays like Chinese New Year.



The Chinese Zodiac

Each Chinese New Year is linked to one of the twelve animals of the Chinese zodiac. The zodiac traditionally begins with the sign of the Rat. The 12 animals are in this order: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Pig (boar). According to legend, those born in a particular year of an animal are said to possess particular character traits associated with that animal. The animals repeat every 12 years. Ex: If you were born in 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008 then you are a Rat. If you were born in 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009 you are an Ox.

The Tree of Life

Coconuts are the fruit of the coconut palm tree. The Coconut tree is called 'The Tree of Life', because of the endless list of products and by-products derived from its various parts. The botanical name for the coconut is *Cocos nucifera*, with *cocos* believed to come from Spanish, meaning 'monkey-faced' or 'eerie-faced' (as the three indentations (eyes) on the hairy nut resembles the head and face of a monkey) and *nucifera* from Latin, meaning nut-bearing plant. The name for the coconut palm in Sanskrit is 'kalpa vriksha', which translates as 'the tree which provides all the necessities of life'. The coconut palm thrives on sandy soils and is highly tolerant of salinity and prefers areas with abundant sunlight and regular rainfall.

Some uses of the various parts of the palm

The white, fleshy part of the seed is edible and is used fresh or dried in cooking. The cavity is filled with 'coconut water' containing sugars, fibre, proteins, anti-oxidants, vitamins and minerals, which provide an exceptional nutritional food source. It is, therefore, used as a refreshing drink throughout the humid tropics.

Coconut has many uses and is utilised in many ways, some of which are:

- Coconut milk
- Copra
- Coconut oil
- Coconut shell
- Coconut husk
- Coconut leaves
- Coconut trunk
- Roots



Crystal Toilet

A Japanese toilet manufacturer **Lixil** unveiled their new toilet under their INAX brand, then teamed up with Swarovski to create this shiny masterpiece, a \$130,000 toilet – studded with more than 72,000 pieces of Swarovski cut crystals. The Crystal toilet was developed as a publicity piece for a Japanese furnishing company as well as to pay tribute to Kawayama Kami, the ancient Japanese toilet god. Named Satis, the toilet is just a display model and is not for sale. The Swarovski crystals for the luxury commode are from Austria. 2011 was a really tough year for Japan, with the earthquake and tsunami disasters. This was created in an effort to draw more customers in a year fraught with economic gloom and natural disaster. Japan's toilets are renowned for high-tech functions such as automatic lid opening, adjustable sprays and remote controls. Satis's models come with standard spray functions and can operate as little as 1 gallon per flush.

WHY A TOILET?

In Japan, they believe a deity exists in the toilet. It is Japanese custom to keep their toilets clean and take care of them. This dazzling toilet was created to please the 'gods of toilets'. They believe a shining toilet will help make the coming year one that shines brightly.

