

TIMELINE: WORLD HISTORY

BC

- c. 9000** : The development of agriculture.
- c. 3500** : A number of small cities, centres of the world's first civilisation, appeared in Sumer, the lower part of the Tigris-Euphrates Valley (present Iraq).
- c. 3500** : The Sumerians invented the first form of writing. It was later simplified to produce wedge-shaped *cuneiform* writing, which spread throughout the Middle East.
- c. 2500** : The Pyramids and Great Sphinx were built in Giza, Egypt.
- c. 2500** : The Indus Valley civilisation began to flourish in the cities of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa in what is now Pakistan.
- c. 2500** : The *Epic of Gilgamesh* and the *Epic of Creation*, the oldest epic poems in world literature, were written in Mesopotamia.
- c. 2500-1100**: The Minoan civilisation on the island of Crete rose and fell.
- 2300s** : Sargon of Akkad conquered the Sumerians and united all Mesopotamia under his rule, creating the world's first empire.
- c. 1792-1750** : Babylonia flourished under King Hammurabi.
- c. 1700** : Code of Hammurabi, one of the first law codes, was drawn up.
- c. 1500-1000**: The Aryans of central Asia came to India.
- c. 1400** : The making of iron began.
- 776** : The first recorded Olympic Games were held in Greece.
- c. 550** : Cyrus the Great established the Persian Empire.
- 509** : The people of Rome revolted against their Etruscan rulers and established a republic.

- 500** : The Hanging Gardens of Babylon were built.
- 400** : Hippocrates, the father of Medicine showed that diseases have natural causes.
- 399** : Socrates was forced to commit suicide by drinking hemlock, a poison.
- 44** : Julius Caesar of Rome was assassinated.
- 27** : Augustus became the first Roman emperor.
- 4** : Birth of Jesus Christ.

AD

- 1** : The Chinese invented paper.
- 250** : The Mayans developed an advanced civilization in Central America and Mexico.
- 313** : Constantine issued the Edict of Milan, which granted freedom of worship to Christians of the Roman Empire.
- 395** : The Roman Empire split into the East Roman, or Byzantine Empire and the West Roman Empire.
- 300** : The Ghana Empire, the first great black empire in Western Africa, existed as a trading state.
- 570** : Birth of Prophet Muhammad, the founder of Islam.
- 610** : Muhammad, the prophet of Islam, began preaching.
- 622** : Muhammad, prophet of Islam, fled from Mecca to Medina. His flight, called the Hijra, marks the beginning of the Islamic calendar.
- 750** : The Abbasids became the Caliphs of the Islamic world.
- 800** : Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne, ruler of the Franks, emperor of the Romans.

- 988** : Vladimir I converted the Russians to Christianity.
- 1054** : Rivalries between the church in Rome and the church in Constantinople resulted in their separation as the Roman Catholic Church and Eastern Orthodox Churches, respectively.
- 1110** : The Chinese invented the magnetic compass.
- 1279** : The Mongols gained control of all China.
- 1300s** : The Renaissance began in Italy.
- 1400-1450s** : The first book printed in Europe with movable type appeared in the mid-1400s.
- 1453** : The Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople (Istanbul) and overthrew the Byzantine Empire.
- 1492** : Columbus discovered America.
- 1498** : Vasco da Gama discovered sea route to India.
- 1500s** : The Reformation led to the birth of Protestantism.
- 1519-1521**: Ferdinand Magellan commanded the first globe-circling voyage, completed in 1522 after his death.
- 1526** : Babar, a Muslim prince, invaded India and founded the Mughal Empire.
- 1543** : Nicolas Copernicus proposed that the sun was the centre of the universe.
- 1588** : The Royal Navy of England defeated the Spanish Armada, establishing England as a great naval power.
- 1776** : The 13 American colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, establishing the United States of America.
- 1789** : The French Revolution began.
- 1815** : Napoleon Bonaparte was defeated in the Battle of Waterloo, ending his attempt to rule Europe.
- 1858** : Great Britain took over the rule of India from the East India Company after the Indian Revolt.
- 1869** : The Suez Canal opened.
- 1871** : Germany became united under the Prussian king, who ruled the new empire as Kaiser Wilhelm I.
- 1901** : Trans-Siberian Railway opened. Marconi sends first wireless message. Sweden awards first Nobel Prizes.
- 1902** : First Siamese twins Barnam and Bailey circus twins separated. Thomas Alva Edison invents a new electrical storage battery. London School of Economics and Political Science opened. 'Cedric', the world largest ship (21,000 tons) built. First Trans-Atlantic telegraph message sent.
- 1903** : Marie Curie becomes the first woman to win a Nobel Prize (Physics). Wilber and Orville Wright fly their 'Flyer' at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.
- 1904** : Henry Royce produces first motor car, a 10hp 2-cylinder model.
- 1905** : Frenchman Alfred Binet invents intelligence tests. Albert Einstein says time and speed are relative. Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen lands at Alaska and finds magnetic pole.
- 1906** : "HMS Dreadnought", world's most powerful ship, built. SOS (Save our Souls) adopted as international distress signal. First submarine, UI, enters service.
- 1907** : Finland becomes the first to elect women as MPs. Robert Baden Powell forms Boy Scout Movement. Establishment of Kuomintang by Sun Yat-sen. World's first working helicopter made.
- 1908** : Solid helium developed by Dutch scientists. Professor Albert Einstein presents

- his 'Quantum' theory of light. Jack Jackson (USA) is the first Negro to become world heavyweight champion.
- 1909** : London's new direct 7,000 mile telegraphic link with India opened. Colour films are screened in public for the first time in Brighton. North Pole conquered by US Commander Robert E. Peary.
- 1910** : First pure sample of radium isolated by Marie Curie. Death of Leo Tolstoy.
- 1911** : First wireless messages from the air. King George V crowned "King of the United Kingdom and Emperor of India". World's first official airmail flight between Bamrauli and Naini (India). Beginning of the the Chinese Revolution that ended 1000 years of imperial rule. Sun Yat-sen becomes the first president of the Chinese Republic. Second Nobel Prize awarded to Marie Curie. Ronald Amundsen reaches South Pole.
- 1912** : Titanic, world's biggest ship sinks in North Atlantic.
- 1913** : Grand Central Station, New York, world's largest railway station, opened. Neil Bohr's quantum theory of the structure of atoms published. Thomas Edison invents a telephone recorder. Noguchi isolates the virus of rabies.
- 1914** : Cancer treated with radium successful. Heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, and his wife shot and killed in Sarajevo by a student, Garvilo Princip. It served as a catalyst for World War I.
- 1917** : Russian Revolution. Russia became a republic. Bolsheviks came to power in Russia.
- 1918** : US President Wilson enumerates his 14 points. Moscow is made the new capital of Russia. Bolsheviks become the Russian Communist Party. Tzar Nicholas II and his family massacred.
- 1919** : Atoms 'split' by artificial means for the first time by Professor Ernest Rutherford. First nonstop flight across the Atlantic by Alcock and Brown. Treaty of Versailles signed. First World War ends. Germany declared a republic (Weimar).
- 1920** : League of Nations inaugurated. The International Court of Justice set up at Hague.
- 1921** : First BCG vaccine given in France.
- 1922** : Arms conference in Washington agrees to outlaw the use of gas in warfare. BBC formed. Free state of Ireland created.
- 1923** : Turkey declared a Republic.
- 1924** : Bacillus causing rabies isolated by the Pasteur Institute, Paris. Edwin Hubble discovers the unknown boundaries of the Milky Way.
- 1925** : John Logie Baird perfects television.
- 1926** : Abdul Aziz ibn Saud proclaimed King of the Hejaz who named his country Saudi Arabia.
- 1927** : *The Jazz Singer*, the first talkie, made. First solo non-stop flight between New York and Paris made by Charles Lindbergh.
- 1928** : Germ killing mould discovered by Alexander Fleming, London. Stalin's First Five Year Plan.
- 1929** : Wall Street crash, the biggest financial crisis of the century.
- 1930** : Pluto, the 9th planet, discovered by Claude Tombaugh. First modern computer designed by Vannevar Bush and his team.
- 1931** : Thomas Alva Edison dies.
- 1932** : Chadwick discovers the neutron.
- 1933** : Adolf Hitler, Nazi leader, becomes Chancellor.

- lor of Germany.
- 1936** : Spanish Civil War begins. Germany's "People's Car" – Volkswagen – launched.
- 1938** : Walt Disney's first feature-length cartoon, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.
- 1939** : Spanish Civil War comes to an end. Pact of Steel between Italy and Germany. World War II begins.
- 1941** : Birth of modern commercial television. The Japanese attack Pearl Harbour, bringing USA into World War II.
- 1944** : DNA discovered. Bretton Woods Conference.
- 1945** : Mussolini killed by Italian partisans Hitler commits suicide. 50 nations sign the World Security Charter to establish UN. UN Charter signed by 50 countries. Postdam Conference. Little Boy, a Uranium-235 fission bomb, dropped over Japanese city Hiroshima, explodes, 570 mts. above ground, instantly killing over 70,000. A 22-kiloton plutonium 239 bomb, Fat Man, dropped over Nagasaki, explodes 510 mts above ground, killing 40,000 immediately. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank are founded.
- 1946** : Paris Peace Conference.
- 1947** : IMF begins operations.
- 1948** : GATT enters into force. New state of Israel proclaimed.
- 1952** : King George VI of UK dies and Elizabeth II becomes Queen. Artificial heart used for the first time in USA. A non-violent campaign against apartheid begins in South Africa.
- 1953** : China's five-year plan begins. Hammarskjöld sworn in as UN Secretary- General. Mount Everest conquered by Edmund Hillary and Tensing Norway.
- 1956** : Non Alignment Movement founded.
- 1957** : Agatha Christie's *Mousetrap* performs its 1,998th performance. Russia launches a man-made satellite, Sputnik-1.
- 1958** : US enters space arena, launching Explorer-1.
- 1959** : Dalai Lama, fleeing from Tibet reaches India and finds sanctuary. Pictures of the dark side of the moon sent back by Lunik III.
- 1960** : Sirimavo Bandaranaike sworn in as the world's first woman Prime Minister in Sri Lanka. John F. Kennedy elected president of USA– youngest man and first Roman Catholic to be elected.
- 1961** : Inter-planetary space station launched by USSR. Soviet Union's Yuri Gagarin, becomes the first man to fly in space. Alan Shephard Jr. becomes the first American in Space. East Germans erect a five foot wall (Berlin Wall). UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld killed in an aircrash.
- 1962** : John Glenn becomes the first American to orbit Earth in 'Mercury'.
- 1963** : Valentina Tereshkova (USSR) becomes first woman in space. Martin Luther King's immortal "I have a dream speech". US President John F.Kennedy assassinated.
- 1965** : Singapore recedes from Malaysia to become an independent state.
- 1966** : Luna 9 of USSR makes the first soft lunar landing.
- 1967** : Apollo I cabin bursts at the Kennedy Space Centre launch pad killing three.
- 1968** : Martin Luther King assassinated.
- 1969** : Arafat head of PLO. Anglo-French supersonic airline Concorde introduced. Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin become the first men to set foot on the moon.
- 1970** : Kingdom of Cambodia becomes the Khmer Republic.

- 1971** : Vietnam War comes to an end (57,000 Americans lost their lives). Mujibur Rehman declares Bangladesh independent. Mariner-9 orbits Mars (first spacecraft to do so).
- 1973** : Agreement ending Vietnam War signed.
- 1974** : U.S President Nixon resigns following the Watergate Scandal. Gerald Ford takes over.
- 1975** : Japan's Junko Tabei becomes first woman to scale Everest. Army coup in Bangladesh. Mujibur Rehman killed.
- 1977** : Coup in Pakistan; Bhutto deposed; Gen. Zia-ul-Haq takes over.
- 1978** : Louise Brown, the first test tube baby, born in UK.
- 1979** : Z.A. Bhutto executed. Margaret Thatcher becomes first woman Prime Minister of Britain. SALT II agreement signed by Jimmy Carter and the Soviet leaders.
- 1981** : The reusable Space Shuttle Columbia launched. TGV, world's fastest train, makes its inaugural run from Paris to Lyons.
- 1982** : Russia's Venus-13 lands on Venus.
- 1984** : Dorjei conquers the Everest without oxygen.
- 1985** : The Rainbow Warrior, flagship of ecological group Greenpeace, sinks after explosion in Auckland.
- 1986** : US Space Shuttle Challenger explodes after takeoff, killing seven astronaut. Soviet Union's Mir Space Station launched. Nuclear leak in Chernobyl power station. Ann Bancroft becomes first woman to reach North Pole.
- 1988** : Pakistan President General Zia-ul-Haq killed in an air crash. India quells invasion of Maldives by sea-borne group. George Bush elected President of USA.
- 1989** : Ranasinghe Premadasa becomes President of Sri Lanka. Students in Beijing demonstrate for democratic rights. Chinese troops storm Tienanmen Square and crush the pro-democracy campaign. Ayatollah Khomeini dies. Demolition of Berlin Wall. Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia.
- 1990** : New Zealander, Richard Hadlee, becomes the first cricketer to take 400 test wickets. Nelson Mandela freed after 27 years in prison. Iraq invades Kuwait. UN imposes embargo on Iraq. Unification of Germany. Formal end of Cold War.
- 1991** : Gulf War. Warsaw Pact disbanded. Kuwait fully liberated. Khaleeda Zia appointed first woman Prime Minister of Bangladesh. Formal end to the Soviet Union. Commonwealth of Independent states formed.
- 1992** : Earth Summit in Rio.
- 1993** : Bill Clinton new US President. Netherlands becomes the first country to sanction mercy killings. Allan Border betters Gavaskar's record (10,122 runs). Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa assassinated. USA's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) stopped. Maastricht Treaty on European Union comes into effect.
- 1994** : End of Apartheid in South Africa. The comet Shoemaker Levy 9 smashes into Jupiter.
- 1995** : WTO comes into effect. Austria, Finland and Sweden become new members of EU. Kobe earthquake in Japan kills 4,700 people. DNA code of living organisms deciphered.
- 1996** : Gary Kasparov wins chess series against IBM computer *Deep Blue*. Arafat becomes President of Palestinian Authority.
- 1997** : British scientists clone a sheep (Polly). Hale Bopp comet comes closest to earth (200

- m.km). Labour Party wins polls in Britain; Tony Blair becomes Prime Minister. Chemical weapons convention takes effect. Britain hands back Hong Kong to China. Mars Pathfinder sends pictures of Mars. Diana, Princess of Wales killed in a car accident.
- 1998** :
- : Myanmar celebrates its 50th anniversary of independence. Pope John Paul II visits Cuba.
 - : Sri Lanka celebrates its 50th anniversary of independence. Communist Manifesto completes 150 years of publication. US scientists produce the world's first cloned Calf named Mr. Jefferson.
 - : James Cameron's *Titanic* wins 11 Oscar awards.
 - : India conducts five nuclear tests (three on 11th May and two on 13th May 1998). Pakistan conducts six nuclear test (5 on 28th May and one on 30th May 1998).
 - : France win World Cup Football.
 - : Jose Saramago, the Portuguese novelist win 1998 Nobel prize for literature. Amartya Sen of India wins 1998 Nobel Prize for Economics. John Glenn, 77, the oldest man in space.
- 1999** :
- : Twelve European countries launch single currency, the Euro.
 - : The South African Parliament elects Thabo Mbeki, the country's new President.
 - : The US space shuttle, Columbia, blasts off under the first woman commander Eileen Collins, after two failed attempts.
 - : The former New Zealand Prime Minister, Mike Moore, takes over as the head of the World Trade Organisation.
 - : S.R. Nathan, sworn in as Singapore's sixth president.
 - : The 1999 Nobel Prize for Literature goes to the German Novelist, Günter Grass.
- 2000** :
- : China celebrates the 50th anniversary of Communist rule
 - : Army takes over in Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif sacked and confined to House.
 - : World population turns 6 billion.
 - : The US formally transfers the control over the Panama Canal to Panama.
 - : Ananova, the world's first virtual news-reader, makes her debut on the internet at www.ananova.com.
 - : At the NPT conference in the United Nations, USA, Russia, France, Britain and China pledge to eliminate atomic weapons, without setting a time table.
 - : An e-mail virus *I Love You* created by a Filipino creates wide spread damage to computer systems across the world.
 - : Fiji's President declares a state of emergency after a group of gunmen led by George Speight seize the nation's first ethnic Indian Prime Minister, Mahendra Pal Chaudhry and his Cabinet colleagues and MPs as hostages.
 - : The North Korean leader, Kim Jong Il and the South Korean President, Kim Dae Jung meet at the North Korean capital Pyongyang. They decide to work for the unification of the Korean Peninsula.
 - : The two-day G-15 summit begins in Cairo (Egypt). It has now 19 members with the inclusion of Columbia and Iran.
 - : The International Space Station linked up smoothly with the Russian-made *Zvezda* control module. *Zvezda* is the first module built solely by Russians.
 - : George Speight, the leader of the coup in Fiji, is arrested.
 - : The US astronomers announce that they have detected 10 new planets outside the

solar system. It brings the total number of planets circling other stars, so-called exoplanets, to 50.

- : British Airways suspends Concorde operations.
- : Carl Banks, the Disney Illustrator and creator of Donald Duck passes away.
- : Tuvalu, a Pacific island state admitted to the United Nations as its 189th member in its first session of the New Millennium in New York (USA).
- : French voters approve a referendum on shortening the Presidential term to five years.
- : Russia recognises Yugoslav opposition leader, Vojislav Kostunica's, historic presidential election victory over Slobodan Milosevic.
- : Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the world's first elected woman Prime Minister, passes away.
- : Gao Xingjian, a dissident Chinese novelist and playwright settled in France who left China in 1987 to settle in France, wins the Nobel Prize for Literature for 2000 for his work that has opened new paths for the Chinese novel and drama.
- : Kim Dae Jung, South Korean President, selected for the 2000 Nobel Peace Prize for his work towards peace and reconciliation with North Korea that led to a ground breaking summit with his North Korean counterpart.
- : *The Guinness Book of World Records*, sets a new record of its own selling seven million copies of its first edition of the new century.
- : Hillary Clinton, wife of US President Bill Clinton, wins the US Senate seat from New York. Thus, she becomes the first wife of a President in American history to be

elected to the Senate.

- : Margaret Atwood of Canada wins the coveted Booker Prize 2000 for her novel, *The Blind Assassin*.
- : Netherlands becomes the first country to legalise euthanasia, (the mercy killing).
- : Nawaz Sharif pardoned off and exiled to Saudi Arabia.
- : George W. Bush declared elected as the 43rd President of United States.

- 2001**
- : The 15-year-old Mir Space Station abandoned
 - : ANDi the world's first genetically modified monkey, created.
 - : The radical Islamic Taliban regime in Afghanistan demolishes two huge statues of the Buddha at Bamiyan.
 - : Dennis Tito of the United States becomes the first person to tour the space.
 - : Denise Quinones August chosen as the 50th Miss Universe at a function in Bayamon in Puerto Rico.
 - : The Organisation of African Union (OAU) becomes African Union (AU).
 - : Gen. Pervez Musharraf takes over as the President of Pakistan.
 - : United Nations (UN) Secretary General and V.S. Naipaul win the Nobel Prize For peace and Literature respectively for 2001.

- 2002**
- : *Euthanasia* or mercy killing comes into force in Netherlands.
 - : Robert Mugabe elected President of Zimbabwe.
 - : Xanana Gusmao, the independence leader of East Timor, elected President of the island nation.
 - : Mark Shuttleworth of South Africa becomes the second space tourist.

- : Switzerland becomes the 190th member of UNO.
- : Hamid Karzai elected President of Afghanistan.
- : The International criminal Court (ICC) starts functioning in the Hague (Netherlands)
- : The UN Earth Summit held in Johannesburg (South Africa)
- : East Timor joins as the 191st member of the United Nations.
- : The 17th Commonwealth Games held in Manchester (U.K)
- : The 14th Asian Games held in Busan (South Korea)
- : Miss Asra Akin crowned as Miss World.
- : SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) outbreak in China and spreads all over world killing thousands.
- 2003** : The space shuttle Columbia perished in space. Seven astronauts including Dr. Kalpana Chawla died (February).
- : The USA and Britain jointly launch **Operation Iraqi Freedom** to liberate Iraq from Saddam Hussain, who build up weapons of mass destruction.
- 2004** : **Spirit and Opportunity** land on Mars.
- : 28th Summer Olympics was held in Athens in Greece. The USA secured first place, China stood at second. India won only one silver.
- : Bomb attacks on four Madrid commuter trains kill 191 and injure hundreds more
- : Photos of US soldiers allegedly abusing Iraqi detainees in Abu Gharaib prison emerge.
- : A team of Russian scientists and another of US scientists report the discovery of two new chemical elements. These are elements 113, given the temporary name Ununtrium (Uut) and element 115 designated Ununpentium (Uup)
- : The Iraqi special Tribunal holds the first hearing in the trial of Saddam Hussain.
- : Afghanistan holds its first ever presidential election.
- : Scientists discover a new tiny species of human that lived in Indonesia.
- : Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat dies in Paris.
- 2005** : **NASA's** unmanned. Probe Deep Impact collided with the comet Tempel-1 on June 3, 2005.
- G-8 Summit was held at Gleneagles, Resort, Scotland on July 6-8, 2005
- : Muhammed Abbas is sworn in as Palestinian Authority President.
- : Taiwan and China agree Temporarily lift Taipei's five - decade ban on direct flights between the two rivals.
- : Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafikal-Hariri is assassinated in a car bombing in central Beirut close to the harbour.
- : The trial of pop star Michael Joseph Jackson gets underway in Santa Maria over a year since his arrest on charges of child molestation.
- : American aviator Steve Fosset completes the first solo flight around the world without refuelling and lands his jet plane in Salina Kansas.
- : Israel open the world's largest Holocaust museum on Mount Herzi in Jerusalem to commemorate the six million Jews exterminated by the Nazis.
- : Jalal Talabani is sworn in Iraqi President making him the first non-Arab head of an Arab nation. Shia leader Irabhim Jaafari is nominated as the Prime Minister.
- : Pope John Paul II, the "Peoples Pope" or the "Travelling Pope" is laid to rest in the cryst of St. Peters Baslica in Vatican.
- : Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Germany is elected 265 th Pope and is to be known as Benedict XVI.

- : Albanian poet and novelist Ismail Kadare is named the winner of the Man Booker International Prize, a brand new laurel for the world's finest writers.
- : Kuwaits first woman Prime Minister Maasuma al Mubarak, takes out in Parliament.
- : Junichiro Koizumi is re-elected as Japanese Premier by the new House of Representatives at a special session in Tokyo.
- : The IAEA and its chief Muhammed El Baradei get the Nobel Peace Prize for their work in Stopping the spread of nuclear weapons.
- : The Dhaka Declaration decides to set up a SAARC Poverty Alleviation Fund and to declare 2006 - 2015 the SAARC decade of Poverty Alleviation.
- : The world's first facial transplantation is done on a French woman Isabella Dinoire in Amiens.
- 2006 : US space probe 'Stardust' returns to earth carrying precious samples of dust from stars and comets.
- : Chile elects Michaelle Bachelet to be its first woman President.
- : NASA launches the first space mission to Pluto, as the **New Horizons** spacecraft is hurled on a 9-year 4.5 b - KM journey.
- : 35th summit of World Economic Forum opens, in Davos, Switzerland.
- : French actress Eva Green chosen as the new James Bond girl.
- : Jamaica to have Portia Simpson Miller as Prime Minister, the first woman head of the state.
- : Oscar award announced : 'Crush' is the best film, Philip Seymour Hoffman - best actor, Reese Witherspoon - best actress and Ang Lee - Best Director.
- : Lakshmi Mittal's 18.6 billion euro takeover bid for Arcelor is blocked by a change in Luxemburg corporate law.
- : Solar eclipse observe in Turkey.
- : Kavya Vishwanathan's novel 'How Opal Mehta Got kissed, Got wild and got a Life' being recalled from store shelves, after she admits copying passages from another book.
- : Britain replaces US as the publisher of most new books in English.
- : Earthquake measuring 6.2 rocks Yogyakarta in Java killing about three thousand as per first reports.
- : J.K. Rowling voted the greatest living British writer in a survey, followed by Terry Pratchett, Ian McEwan, Salman Rushdie, Kazuo Ishiguro and Philip Pullman.
- : World's oldest tortoise Harriet dies at 176 years in Australia.
- : Montenegro becomes the 192th member of United Nations
- : Qinghai - Tibet railway the world's highest and longest highland railway becomes operational.
- : First world summit of religious leaders in Moscow is attended by 200 representatives from 40 countries.
- : Italy beats France 5-3 to win World Cup Football.
- : Kiran Desai wins the Booker Prize.
- : Bhutan's king Jigme Singye Wangchuk abdicates the throne after a 34 year reign in favour of his son crown prince Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk.
- : The former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is hanged to death in Baghdad for the 1982 killing of 148 persons of Dujail town, three years after being captured by the US forces.

World History

Pre-Historic Period

- The Pre-historic period is divided into four distinct periods.
 - Paleolithic Period (Old Stone Age)** 5,000,000 - 10,000 BC
 - Mesolithic Period (Late Stone Age)** 10,000 – 4000 BC
 - Neolithic period (New stone Age)** 6000 – 1000 BC
 - Chalcolithic Period** (Metal Age)
- The earliest known primate (*Plesiadapis*) appeared on the earth towards 70,000,000 BC.
- The possible ancestor of hominids (*Proconsul*) appeared in East Africa towards 20,000,000 BC
- **Australopithecus** was the first hominids on the earth, which appeared in East Africa towards 3,700,000 BC.
- **Homohabilis** was the first hominid tool maker, which appeared in Africa towards 2,100,000 BC.
- **Zinjanthropus**, which was found in the **Great Rift Valley of Central Africa**, is considered to be the earliest in the human species.
- ‘**Java Man**’ existed some seven lakh years ago in Java and ‘**Peking Man**’ who existed some three lakh years ago excavated from Peking in China are some humans of the Paleolithic Period.
- Most famous Paleolithic man was the *Neanderthal Man* who was discovered from *Germany*.
- *Cromagnan* (France) and *Grimaldi* (Italy) men belonged to the Middle Stone Age.
- Paleolithic people used tools and implements made of rough stone.
- They ate raw flesh and wild fruits and vegetables. They had no idea of agriculture. They belonged to the Negrito race.
- Paleolithic men led a *nomadic* life, ie, wandering from one place to another.
- *Neolithic Age* means the *New Stone Age*.
- People learnt the art of cultivation and the Neolithic Age was the food producing stage.
- They started using polished and sharp stone implements.
- Man began to domesticate animals during the Neolithic Age. Dog was the first animal domesticated by man.
- Wheat and Barley were the earliest cereals grown by man.
- ‘*Potters Wheel*’ was invented in the Neolithic Age.
- Paleolithic Age is known as the ‘Age of Hunters’ while the Neolithic Age is known as the ‘Age of Farmers’.
- Most polished weapon of the Neolithic Age was the ‘*Stone axe*’.
- Man discovered the use of jute and began to use cloth made of jute during the Neolithic period.
- Early men started the settled life in the Neolithic period.
- Earliest human villages appeared towards 6000BC in Egypt and Mesopotamia.
- The **Barter system of exchange** came into practice during the Neolithic period.
- Family life also began during the Neolithic Age.
- The concept of ‘**State**’ also originated during the Neolithic period.
- **Chalcolithic Age** is known as the **Metal Age**.
- First metal used by man was **copper**

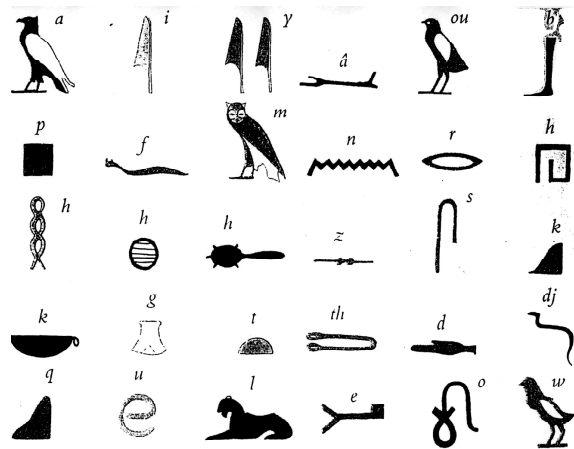
- Copper was first used to make ornaments and tools.
- The period when man began to use Bronze tools and weapons is known as **Bronze Age**.
- The period when man began to use iron is known as **Iron Age**.

MAJOR HUMAN RACES OF THE WORLD

- People living in Africa, Arabia, India, Malaysia, Australia and Tansania belonged to the **Negroid Race**.
- 'Pigmies' seen in Africa, South East Asia and Indonesia is a subgroup of the Negroids.
- Majority of modern Human race belonged to the **Mongloid race**.
- People living in Japan, China, Indonesia, Formosa Tibet etc belonged to the Mongloid race.
- People lived in Ancient Egypt belonged to the **Hemitic race**.
- Ancient Babilonians, Hebrews, Phoenesians, Arabs etc belonged to the **Semitic race**.
- Semitic, Hemitic and Indo-Europeans are the sub-groups of the **Caucasoid race**.

ORIGIN OF LANGUAGES AND WRITING

- Man began to speak meaningfully during the Neolithic Period.
- English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Greek, Russian, Persian, Sanskrit and American languages belonged to the **Indo-European** or **Aryan** language group
- Hebrew, Arabic, Abyssenian early Assirian and Phoenesian languages belonged to the **Semitic group of languages**.
- Languages spoken by the people lived around **Mediterranean sea were of the Hemitic group**.
- Lapis, Finnish, Magyar, Tartar, Manchu, Mongol etc, belonged to the **Turanean group of languages**.
- Egyptians were the first to use **Phonetic writing**.
- The early writing of the Egyptians were known as **Hieroglyphics**.



Hieroglyphics

- Phoeniseans were considered as the originators of the modern pattern of writing.

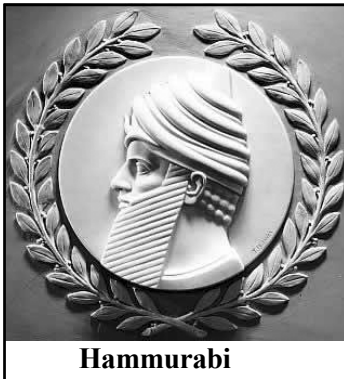
SUMERIAN OR MESOPOTAMIAN CIVILIZATION (3000 -1600 BC)

- Sumerian civilisation flourished on the banks of rivers **Euphrates** and **Tigris** later came to be known as Mesopotamian civilisation
- The word Mesopotamia means **land between rivers**.
- The name Mesopotamia was given by the Greeks.
- The area where Mesopotamian civilisation existed belonged to modern **Iraq**.
- The northern part of Mesopotamia was known as **Assiria** and southern part was known as **Babilonia**.
- The first dynasty in the world was established at Ur in Sumeria in 3000 BC.

CUNIEFORM WRITING

The Sumerians are credited with the invention of a distinctive system of writing known as Cunieform. They wrote on clay tablets using wedge shaped letters. The name Cunieform was originated from the Latin word '*cuneus*' which means wedge. The Cunieform script was desciphered by Henry Rawlinson.

- Ur, Uruk, Lagash, Uma, Nippur were the major cities of the Sumerians.
- The Sumerian Empire declined towards BC 2650 due to the attack of the **Accadians**.
- The chief architect of the Acadian empire was **Sargon**.
- **Dungi** was the most important ruler of the Sumerians.
- The writing system of the Sumerians was known as **Cunieforn**.
- Mesopotamian seals throw light on the trade relation between the Indus people and the **Sumerians**.
- The Mesopotamians invented wheel and glass-ware.
- Mesopotamian civilization is considered to be the world's **first urban civilisation**.
- Mesopotamians discovered the system of Geometry. It was later called "**Pythagorus Theorem**".
- A **Lunar Calendar** based on the Moon was one of the major achievements of the Sumerians.
- Mesopotamians were worshippers of multi Gods.
- Their major God was the Sky God '**Anu**'.
- Mesopotamians were the first to invent the system of Multiplication.
- Empires, water supply system, use of gold and silver for transaction, code of laws, libraries, educational centres, poetry, literature, sculpture, palaces, arches, pillars, domes, slavery, autocracy imperialism etc first originated in Sumeria.
- **Hammurabi** is known as the founder of **Early Babilonian Empire**.
- Hammurabi was responsible for the introduction of a **code of conduct** to the Mesopotamians. It was based on the prin-



Hammurabi

ciple of "**an eye for eye and tooth for a tooth**".

- Babilonian people invented **water clock and sundial** to know the time.
- Assirians were credited for the invention of the system of dividing a circle into 360 degrees.
- Mesopotamian civilisation is also known as the '**melting pot of civilisation**'.

Egyptian Civilisation (3000 BC - 1750 BC)

- Egyptian civilisation flourished on the banks of **Nile** river.
- Egyptian kings were known as '**Pharoh**'
- '**Pharoh**' means one who lives in a mansion.
- '**Hyksus**' were a semetic group of people who captured Egypt towards BC 1750.
- Egyptian Queen **Hatsheput** is considered as the first women ruler of the world.
- **Ramses III** is considered as the last of great Pharohs of Egypt.
- Egyptians were the first to invent a **solar calendar** having 365 days with 12 months of 30 days each.
- Egyptian **Sun God** was known as '**Ra**' or '**Re**'.
- **Osiris** was the Goddess of truth worshipped by the Egyptians.
- Preserved dead bodies of the Egyptians were known as '**mummies**'. Mummification shows their belief in life after death.
- Egyptians were responsible for the invention of Addition, Subtraction and Division.
- The word '**Chemistry**' was originated from the Egyptian language.
- Egyptian script was pictographic in nature. It was known as **Hieroglyphics**.



Mummies

- The word Hieroglyphic means **sacred writing**. It consisted of 24 signs. Vowels were not used. The Egyptian alphabets were deciphered by **Champollion**.
- “**The Great Temple of Abu Simbel**” is known as the “**Temple of the Rising Sun**”, since the rays of the rising sun get into the temple.
- Pyramids were the Tombs of Egyptian Pharaohs.
- First Pyramid was built about 2700 BC.
- Greatest of the Pyramids was the Great Pyramid at **Giza** built by **Pharaoh Khufu**.
- Biggest of the temples built by the Egyptians was the temple at **Karnak**.
- Great Pyramid at Giza is the only survivor of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World
- Earliest coins were believed to have used by the Egyptians.

Indus Valley Civilisation

- Indus Valley Civilisation was discovered as a result of the archaeological excavations carried out in 1920-22 at Mohenjodaro and Harappa (Both in Pakistan) by R D Banarjee and Dayaram Sahni. John Marshall was the Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India at that time (more details are given in the Indian History part).

Chinese Civilisation

- Chinese Civilisation originated on the banks of river **Hwang Ho**.
- **Shang dynasty** was the first dynasty to rule China from BC 1750-1125.
- The **Qin dynasty** established China's first strong central government.
- Chin ruler **Shih Hwangti** was responsible for the construction of the **Great Wall of China** to prevent the Huna invasion.
- Shih Hwangti was the founder of Chin dynasty.
- The Great Wall is 1500 mile long and having 20 feet breadth and 20 feet height.
- Early communication of the Chinese was done by

knots made in strings.

- Paper was invented by the Chinese.
- **Lao-Tse, Confucious** and **Mencious** were the three major Philosophers of ancient China.
- Lao-Tse was the founder of the most important religion of China known as **Taoism**.
- Lao-Tse is considered as the “**Chinese Buddha**”
- Confucianism was the new religion founded by Confucious.
- **Siesmograph** and **Gun Powder** were also invented by the Chinese.
- Tea was invented by the Chinese.

Persian Civilisation

- Persian Civilisation existed in modern Iran
- Persians belonged to the **Indo-European race**.
- **Cyrus** was the strongest of the Persian rulers.
- Cyrus is considered as the founder of the Persian Empire.
- Greatest of the Persian rulers was **Darius I**.
- Darius I was responsible for the foundation of the ever largest empires of the world.
- The Greeco- Persian conflict began during the period of Darius I.
- The **Battle of Marathon** (BC 490) between the Persians and Athenians was led by Darius I.
- The writing of the Persians was Cuneiform, adopted from the Mesopotamians.
- The Persian priests were known as ‘**Maji**’.
- The English word ‘**Magician**’ was originated from the Persian word ‘**Maji**’.

Sphinx

Sphinx was a mythological animal of the ancient Egyptians. It was the largest of the Egyptian statues. It has a human head and the body of a lion. It has 100 feet length and 70 feet height.

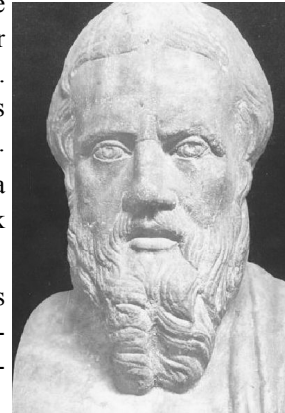


- **Zoroastrianism** (Persian religion) was founded by Zorathushtrar.
- The **Parsies** of India believe in Zoroastrianism.
- **Ahuramazda** is the God of the Zoroastrian religion.
- ‘**Ahriman**’ was considered as the evil spirit by the Persians.
- ‘**Avesta**’ (**Zend Avesta**) is the sacred book of Zoroastrianism.
- ‘**Avesta**’ is known as ‘**Persian Bible**’

Greek Civilisation

- Greek Civilisation dates back to 800 BC
- Greece is in the European continent.
- Greece is on the coast of **Mediterranean sea**.
- The civilisation existed in Greece, before the Greeks was known as **Aegean Civilization**.
- Early Greek immigrants were known as **Ionians**.
- Greeks were collectively known as **Hellenes**. Hence their civilization was known as **Hellenistic Civilization**.
- **Homer**, a blind poet, composed Greek epics ‘**Illiad**’ and ‘**Odyssey**’.
- Homer lived in the 9th century BC.
- Democracy was originated in Greece. Greek Democracy was direct democracy.
- Greek Civilisation reached the Zenith of its progress during the period of **Pericles**, a ruler of Athens. His Age is considered as the ‘**Golden Age of Athens**’. Under Pericles the city of Athens got the name “**the School of Hellas**”.
- The civilisation of Greek city states is known as ‘**Classical Civilisation**’.
- Athens, Sparta, Corinth, Thebes, Mascedonia etc were the major city states in Greece.
- **Pindar** was a famous Greek Lyric Poet.
- **Aesceles** was the greatest of the Greek dramatists, who wrote famous tragedies.
- Greeks were the first to introduce Vowels in the alphabet.
- **Euripides** and **Aristophenes** were the other famous Greek dramatists.

- **Herodotus** who, wrote about the Persian war was a Greek historian. He is considered as the **Father of History**.
- **Demosthenese** was a world famous Greek orator
- **Thales of Meletus** is considered as the father of Greek Mathematics



Herodotus

- **Pythagoras** who made great contributions in Geometry was a Greek.
- **Anaxagoras, Euclid** etc were famous Greek Mathematicians.
- **Hippocrates**, who is considered as the father of Medical Science was a Greek.
- **Leopold Van Ranke**, a German historian is considered as the father of Modern History.
- **Thucydides** another great Greek historian wrote the history of the Peloponnesian war between Athens and Sparta.
- **Socrates** the Greatest of the Greek philosophers was forced to commit suicide by drinking **Hemlock** a poison, in 399 BC.
- **Zantippe** was the wife of Socrates.
- **Plato** was the student of Socrates.
- Plato’s original name was **Aristocles**.
- Plato founded a university named ‘**Academy**’ in Athens.
- **Republic** was the famous work of Plato.
- **Aristotle** was the famous student of Plato.
- Aristotle was the tutor of **Alexander the Great**.
- Aristotle founded a school named **Lycium** in Athens.
- Aristotle is considered as the father of Biology, Politics and the Science of Reasoning.
- Aristotle was considered as a ‘**Walking University**’.

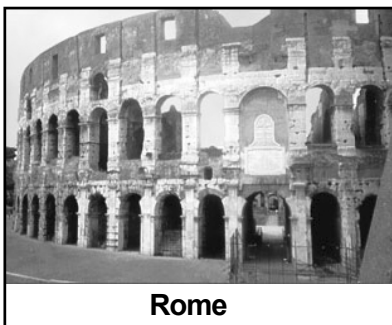
- **Hipparchus** calculated the diameter of the Moon.
- **Erathosthenes** calculated the circumference of the Earth.
- The first Olympic Games were held at Olympia in Greece in 776 BC.
- The Roman Emperor **Theo-dosius** banned Olympics in 394 BC. (more details about Olympics could be seen in sports and games portion)

Macedonian Empire

- Macedonia was a Greek city state. It became a prominent empire under its king **Philip II** (359 - 336 BC)
- **Alexander the Great**, the son and successor of Philip II, was born in 350 BC and became the ruler in 337 BC.
- Alexander defeated the Persian ruler Darius III.
- Alexander captured Egypt and founded the city of **Alexandria** there.
- Alexander invaded India in 326 BC and defeated Porus, the ruler of **Taxila**.
- He died at the age of 33 in 323 BC at Babilonia.
- **Ptolemy**, a commander of Alexander is considered as the Father of Cartography.
- **Archimedes** the originator of the law of specific gravity lived in the Hellenistic Age.

Roman Civilisation

- Roman Civilisation developed on the banks of river Tiber in Italy.
- City of Rome was known as “**City of Seven Hills**”.
- City of Rome was founded in BC 753 by two brothers **Romulus** and **Romus**.
- The idea of **Republic** originated in Rome.
- ‘**Senate**’ was the Roman Assembly of Elders



Rome

- **Punic Wars** were fought between Rome and Carthage.
- **Julius Caesar** one of the prominent rulers of Rome was born in 102BC.
- Julius Caesar was assassinated in 44BC by Casius, Brutus and other senators.
- “**I came, I saw, I conquered**” His famous saying
- Caesar modified the Old Calendar which had only 355 days, New Calendar came to be known as **Julian Calendar**.
- Later this calendar was modified by Pope Grigory XIII and came to be known as **Grigorian Calendar**.
- ‘**Caesarism**’ means autocracy or imperial supremacy.
- **Constantine** was the first Roman king who accepted Christianity.
- The city of **Constantinople** was founded by Constantine.
- Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople in 1453.
- The Greatest contribution of Romans to the world is their **code laws**.
- **Vergil** the author of ‘**Aenid**’ was famous Roman poet.
- **Lucricius** the author of “**On the Nature of Things**” was famous Epicurian Philosopher.
- Pliny wrote the famous book ‘**Historia Naturalis**’
- Romans were the inventors of concrete and the technique of binding stone and bricks.
- “**The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire**” is a famous book written by Edward Gibbon.

Major Religions of the World

Judaism- Christianity - Islam

- Judaism is one of the oldest religions of the world.
- **Abraham** is considered as the father of the Jews.
- Jews are the believers of one God, **Jehovah**.
- Jews are the selected people of Jehovah
- **Mosses** is considered as the founder of Judaism.
- Mosses freed Egypt from slavery and gave the “**Ten Commandments**” at the Mount of Senai.

- Judaism is considered as the mother religion of Christianity and Islam.
- ‘**Thorah**’ is the Sacred text of the Jews
- Thorah is included in the Old Testament of Bible.
- The Hebrew word ‘Thorah’ means ‘*to lead*’.
- **Synagogue** is the worshipping centre of the Jews.
- The **White Jews Synagogue** at Mattanchery in Cochin is a worshipping centre of Jews in Kerala.
- **Jarusalem** was the famous pilgrim centre of the Jews.
- The worshipping centre in Jerusalem was constructed by **King Solomon** in BC 1000.
- It was destructed by the Babilonian king **Nebukanisar** in 587 BC.
- Jarusalem is an equally holy place for the Jews, the Christians and the Muslims.

Christianity

- Christianity was originated from Judaism.
- **Jesus Christ** was born in 4 BC at Bethlahem in the small town of Nasreth in Galeleo.
- King Herodos of Yuda was a contemporary of Jesus Christ.
- Roman emperors **Augustus** and **Thiberius Caesar** had direct contact to Jesus Christ.
- Those who believe in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ came to be known as Christians.
- Christianity was spread to Kerala by **St. Thomas Aposthel** in 52 AD (Crangannore).
- Bible has four Gospels. They are the Gospels of Mathews, Markose, Yohannan and Luckose.
- Christ was crusified by the Jews in 29 AD.
- Christ spoke in the **Aramic Language** which was a mixture of Cyriac and Hebrew.
- Roman Emperor Constantine gave freedom to the Roman Christians through his Milan Proclamation (AD 313)
- Theodosius proclaimed Christianity as state religion.
- The word ‘**Bible**’ means book.
- Bible is divided into two - Old Testament and New

testament.

- ‘**Revelation**’ is the last book of Bible.
- Tamil was the first Asian language in which Bible was printed (1715)
- **Ponthios Pelathos** was the Roman Governor who tried Jesus Christ.
- Crusification of Christ was on a Friday, now it is observed as ‘**Good Friday**’.

Islam

- **Hijas** is known as the birthplace of Islam. The Island which includes Hijas is known as the **Island of Arabs**.
- **Ka aba** was the ancient worshipping centre in Mecca.
- **Muhammed Nabi** was born in AD 570 in the Khuraisi tribe in Mecca. His father was **Abdulla** and mother was **Amina**.
- The Word Islam was originated from the root of **Aslama**.
- Invisible forces which acts as per the directions of the god are known as **Malakku**.
- **Khadeeja** was the first to receive the message of Muhammed.
- Muhammed Nabi fled from the Mecca to Medina to escape from the Khuraisis on 24th September AD 622. This day is known as **Hijra**.
- The followers who accompanied Muhammed to Medina are known as **Muhajirs**.
- He died on 8th June 632 AD at Medina.
- Ka’ aba was the first centre established in the world worship Allah.
- **Koran, Hadis** and **Ijmah** are the basis of Islamic law.
- **Khalifa** became the head of Islam after the death of Muhammed.
- **Abu Beker, Umar, Usman and Ali** were the Khalifas.
- In 1924 **Mustafa Kamal Pasha** of Turkey abolished the title of Khalifa.

- Koran is the codification of revelations given through the **Gabriel Angel** to Muhammed.
- It contains 114 chapters. It took 22 years to have the complete revelations to Nabi.
- Koran was codified in AD 633 during the period of Khalifa Abu Beker.
- There are two divisions in Islam - **Shias and Sunnis**.
- Shias are the followers of Ali.
- Iran is the only Shia majority nation in the world.

American Civilisation

- **Mayan, Inca and Aztec** are the main native American civilisations flourished before the European colonization of America.
- First American Civilisation developed between 1000BC and 1000 AD.
- Mayan books written on the bark of trees were known as **Codid**.
- Mayan Civilisation declined in the 15th century due to Spanish invasion.
- **Toltecs** were another Amarindian people who developed their civilisation to the south of Mexican plateau. They constructed pyramids like the Egyptians.
- Floating Gardens built by the Aztecs were known as **Chinambus**.
- Aztecs believed in the worships of serpents (Snakes)
- The capital of Aztec was **Tinochtillans** it was captured by Spanish conquerors in 1519 AD, thus ended the Aztec Civilisation.
- Most civilised of the Amarindian civilizations was the Inca, which developed in Peru (South America)
- Inca was politically the most developed Amarindian tribes.
- Maize, Potato, Tomato, Pumpkin, Pineapple, Ground nuts, Guava, Tobacco, Cocaine etc were made to use for the first time by the Inca people of Peru.

- The Sun Temple at **Cusco** was a contribution of the Inca Civilization.
- Red Indians were the aboriginals of America. They were named so by **Columbus**.
- Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492.
- America derived its name from **Americo Vespucci**, an Italian explorer.
- Copper was the first metal used by Americans.
- Maize cultivation was the base of American Civilisation.

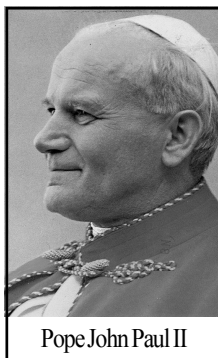
African Civilisation

- It is believed that human beings evolved in Africa.
- The Portuguese were the first Europeans to reach Africa.
- **City of Moro** in Central Africa is known as **Berminhatam** of Central Africa.
- First country formed in the western part of Africa is Ghana. Ghana is also known as the '**Gold Coast**'.
- Islam spread to Africa in the 8th Century.
- Vasco-da-Gama was the first European to reach the **Cape of Good Hope**, the southern most tip of Africa.
- Bandus are the Negroes of Central and South Africa. Bandu means humans.
- The dark skinned race of Africa are called Negroes.
- **Swahilis** are the people living in the parts of **Kenya** and **Tanzania**. Zulus are the people living in South Africa, belonging to the Bandu family.

Middle Ages

- The attack of Roman Empire and its destruction by the Barbarians in 455 AD marks the end of the ancient world and the beginning of Middle Ages.
- The word Barbarian means uncultured.
- Early Middle Ages is known as '**Dark Ages**'. It ended up to the 11th century.

- **Monasticism** originated in Europe in the Middle Ages.
- In the 12th and 13th centuries there occurred several wars between Christians and Muslims in Palestine. These battles are known as Crusades.
- Muslims became religiously intolerant due to the Crusades.
- Crusades resulted in the spread of Islam to Europe.
- **Feudal System** was first emerged in Europe.
- The early name of feudalism was **Clientage**.
- The word feudalism was originated from the word 'fief' or 'fued' which means land given to peasant.
- The structure of feudal relationship was like a pyramid. King was on top of the pyramid and slaves were at the bottom.
- Feudalism came to an end towards AD 1000 by the influence of christianity.
- Feudalism helped to control the autocratic rule of kings in the Middle Ages
- **Guilds** were th merchant organisations of Europe in the Middle Ages.
- The University of Italy founded in 825 was the first University in Europe.
- Paris University was the first University in France.
- Oxford University was founded in 1163 AD and Cambridge in 1284.
- **Aleson Richard** was the first woman to become the Vice Chancellor of Cambridge University.
- Christianity was responsible for making the Barbarians a civilised people.
- The **Monastry of Monte Casino** was founded by St. Benedict.
- The word Catholic means '**Omnipresent**'.
- Pope was the head of Medieval Christian Church.
- The silver jubilee celebrations of the **Pope John Paul II's** Pontification has been one of the longest in the history of the Papacy celebrated in 2003.



Pope John Paul II

- Pope John Paul II died on 2 April 2005.
- He belonged to Poland.
- Pope Pius IX was the Pope who ruled the longest term (31 years)
- John Paul II is the Pope with second longest term (26 years).
- John Paul II was the first Pope to accept the Theory of Evolution by Charles Darwin.
- John Paul II visited India twice (1986, 1999)
- "**Crossing the Threshold of Hope**" "**Gift and Mystery**" "**Roman Tryptych Meditations**" "**Rise up Let us Go**", "**Memory and Identity**" are the books written by Pope John Paul II.
- **Joseph Ratzinger** of Germany who came to be known as Benedict XVI became the 265th Pope after the death of John Paul II.
- Benedict XVI is the second oldest person (78) to become the Pope.
- Oldest person to become the Pope was Clement XII.
- Benedict XVI was the Second German to become the Pope.
- Latin Language is considered as the Vehicle of Medieval Culture.
- **Geofery Chaucer** is considered as the father of English Poetry.
- '**Canterbury Tales**' is the famous work of Chaucer.

Joan of Arc

- The Middle Age was a period of superstitions. It was common among the orthodox to accuse someone, especially young, beautiful and enterprising girls as witch and initiate legal proceeding against them.
- '**The Court of Inquisition**' was meant for the trial of those who are accused of as such.
- Heresy or the denial of religious principles was one of the most severe offences of the Middle Ages.
- In the **Hundred Years War** which started in 1338 between England and France, France was losing

frequently. There was nobody to lead France. Then Joan a shepherd girl, with god's revelation met the king of France and got the permission to lead the French army. She started her victorious Journey by crashing the barricade of English Army in Orleans, in France. Thus she got the name "**Maid of Orleans**". The orthodox church authorities accused her a witch and trialed at the court of inquisition. The verdict was to burn her alive. In 1431 Joan was burnt at the stake. But later the church authorities realized their mistake and in 1921 Vathican proclaimed her a beatified person. Now Joan of Arc is known as St. Joan.

Modern Age

The Renaissance

- The literal meaning of Renaissance is rebirth.
- The capture of Constantinople by the Turks in 1453 was the cause of Renaissance in Europe. The new name of Constantinople is Istambul.
- During the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries there was a great revival in Europe in the field of art, literature and learning. This marked the transition from the Medieval to the Modern period. This is known as the Renaissance. The birth place of Renaissance movement was *Italy*.
- Renaissance was actually the rebirth of Classical Grecco-Roman literature and learning.
- The Renaissance emerged in Italy roughly between AD 1300 and AD 1550.
- Italy is known as "**the Cradle of Renaissance**"
- '**Divine Comedy**' written by Dante was a classical work of the Renaissance period.
- **Humanism** is considered as the heart and soul of Renaissance. Petrarc, an Itaian poet is considered as the, father of Humanism.
- **Niccolo Machiavelli** wrote a book on politics named '**The Prince**'
- Machiavelli is known as **Italian Kautilya** and Kautilya is known as Indian Machiavelli.
- The Renaissance painters painted directly on plaster walls called frescoes.
- '**The Last Supper**' a fresco in Milan, '**The Mona Lisa** and the '**Virgin and the Child**' were the famous paintings of Leonardo Da Vinci.
- Da Vinci was the first person to identify the models of aeroplanes, submarines and cars.
- '**Madona**' and '**The School of Athens**' are the famous paintings of **Raphael**.
- **Michelangelo** was another Italian painter who was the author of famous painting '**Last Judgement**' and Sculpture '**David and Moses**'.
- St. Peters Basilica in Rome was built under the patronage of Pope Julius II and Pope Leo X. It was designed by Michelangelo.
- '**The Praise of Folly**' was a satiristic work written by Erasmus.
- Erasmus was known as *the prince among the humanists*.
- '**Utopia**' was a famous work of **Sir Thomas More** portraying an ideal community on an imaginary island indicating the glaring abuses of his time.
- The technique of printing was first developed by the Chinese.
- **John Guttenburg** of Germany is considered as the father of printing. He published Bible in 1456.
- **William Caxton** established the first printing press in England in 1477.
- **Copernicus** a Polish astronomer developed the theory of universe through his book "**Six Books concerning the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres**".



Mona Lisa

- His theory of universe was later supported by Galileo.
- **Kepler** wrote a book titled '*On the Motion of Mars*' to establish the heliocentric theory.
- **Galileo Galilei** an Italian scientist invented telescope in 1609.
- **Isaac Newton** was born in England in 1642. He published his work "*The Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*".
- The great dramatist **Shakespeare** who is popularly known as the 'Bard of Avon' was born in AD 1564 and died in AD 1616. His great tragedies are '**Hamlet**', '**Macbeth**', '**Othello** and '**King Lear**'. He wrote altogether 37 plays.

Reformation and Counter Reformation

- The name '*Protestant*' was first applied by **Martin Luther**.
- Reformation was started in Germany by Martin Luther in 1517. This resulted in the formation of Protestant Religion.
- **Ulrich Zwingli** and John Calvin were the leaders of reformation in Switzerland.
- Reformation in Switzerland was known as **Calvinism**.
- Reformation movement in England was known as **Anglicanism** it was led by King Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I.
- **Counter-Reformation** was a reformist movement within the Catholic Church to restore its universal authority.
- John Wycliffe is known as the "**Morning Star of the Reformation**". He was responsible for giving inspiration to translate Bible into English for the first time.
- Ignatius Layola formed a society of monks known as '*Jesuit order*' in Spain.
- Jesuit missionaries reached India for the first time during the period of Akbar the Great in 1580.

Geographical Discoveries

- Portugal was the first European country to encourage geographical discoveries.
- Prince Henry, the Navigator of Portugal encouraged sailors by making maps.
- Bartholomew Diaz sailed down the west coast of Africa in 1487, which came to be known as '**Cape of Good Hope**'.
- **Vasco-da Gama** followed Diaz's route, rounded the *Cape of Good Hope* and landed at Kappad in Calicut in the Spring of 1498.
- Vasco-da-Gama was sent to India by the Portuguese king **Dom Manuel**.
- He reached India in a ship named **St. Gabriel**.
- Christopher Columbus discovered West Indies and thought that it was India in 1492 and called its people Red Indians.
- Later, Amerigo Vespucci reached the South American coast in 1499 and America was named after him.
- **Ferdinand Megellan** of Portugal who started his Voyage in 1519 was the first circum navigator (who sailed around the world). His circum navigation exclusively proved that the Earth is round.
- The name '**Pacific**' was given to the ocean by Megellan.
- He reached Phillipines in 1521 and died there fighting its aborigines.
- The coast of Venezuela was explored by Amerigo Vespucci.
- **John Cabbot** discovered New Foundland in 1497.
- Peru was discovered by **Francisco Pizzaro**.
- **Kabral** discovered Brazil in 1500. He was a Portuguese.
- Portugal was the first country in the field of colonialism.



Megellan

England

- United Kingdom includes the Islands of England, Scotland and Ireland
- The inhabitation of England in the Neolithic Age were known as **Iberians**.
- Julius Caesar captured England in BC 55 and the Romans ruled England for 367 years.
- After the Romans England came in the hands of Anglo-Saxons.
- First priest to rule England was Dunston.
- Christianity reached England for the first time by the coming of Romans.
- Caedmon was the first English poet and Bede was the first English historian.
- The **Magna Carta** was signed by King John of England in AD 1215 at Runnymede. The Magna Carta is described as the '**Bible of the English Constitution**'. It is also known as the '**Bible of English Liberty**'.
- Innocent III was the Pope when the Magna Carta was signed.
- The Hundred years war (1338-1453) fought between England and France started during the period of King Edward III.
- The Peasants Revolt in England was in 1381.
- **Battle of Roses** were the civil wars in England.
- The Great Plague in London broke out in 1665.
- The system of Parliament originated in England during the period of Henry I.
- The Stuart king of England believed 'in the **Divine Right Theory of Kingship**'.
- James I, the Stuart king wrote a book "**The Law of Free Monarchies**".
- Stuart king Charles I dissolved the Parliament in 1629 and did not summon it till 1640. He resumed the Parliament in 1640 and ended in 1660. It is known as **Long Parliament**.
- Civil War in England started in 1642. **Oliver Cromwell** led England after the Civil War. He ruled with the title '**Lord Protector**'.

- Charles first was beheaded publicly in 1649.
- The **Petition of Rights** was accepted by the British Parliament in 1628.
- **The Bloodless revolution or Glorious Revolution** occurred in England in 1688.
- Through the Bloodless Revolution English king James II was dethroned and Mary, the daughter of Charles I and her husband William of Orange came to power in England.
- '**Whigs**' and '**Torys**' the political parties of England originated during the period of Charles II.
- **Habeas Corpus Act** was passed in England in 1679 during the period of Charles II.
- *The Bill of Rights* was accepted in England after the Glorious Revolution in 1689.
- In 1707 by the '**Act of Union**' England and Scotland joined together and became 'Great Britain'.
- By 'the Act of Union' of 1801 Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined together and it became United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.
- But Ireland was delinked in 1921 and Northern Ireland became part of England.
- The official name of England is "**United kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**".
- '**Pound Sterling**' is the Currency of England.
- Robert Walpole was the first Prime Minister of England and the first in the world to hold the post of Prime Minister. He laid the foundation of Cabinet system. He became the Prime Minister in 1721.
- **The Industrial Revolution** first started in England in the second half of the 18th century with the rapid growth of applied sciences, power driven machines replaced handwork.
- The Agrarian Revolution also took place in Britain.
- '**The Commonwealth of Nations**' is an association of those free nations which were previously the part of British Empire.



Robert Walpole

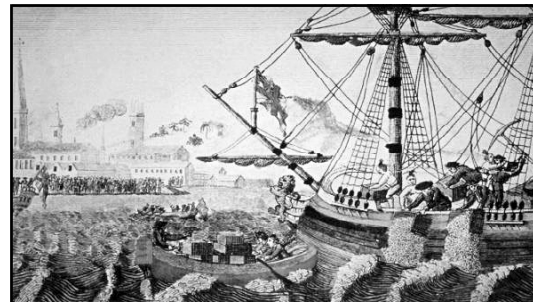
- The delegates send each other by Common Wealth Countries are known as High Commissioners and delegates send by Common Wealth nations to other countries are known as Ambassadors.
- **The Falklands War** was fought between England and Argentina in 1982.
- Stanley is the capital of Falkland Island. Britain came out victorious in the battle. It is a British colony even today.
- **10 Downing Street** is the official residence of the British Prime Ministers.
- **Tony Blair** of Labour Party is the Prime Minister of England.
- **Princess Diana** died in a car accident along with Dodi Al Fayed in Paris.
- **Buckingham Palace** is the residence of British Monarch.

United States of America

- America was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 12th October 1492.
- In the first quarter of the 17th century some protestants from England migrated to the southern part of North America to escape from the religious persecution of James I. They came to be known as '**pilgrim fathers**'. They sailed to America in a ship named, '**The May Flower**'.
- Britain established its first colony in Jamestown in Virginia in 1607.

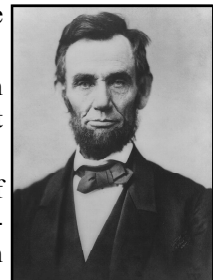
American War of Independence

- The American war of independence was fought between the American colonies and the Britain. The leader of colonies was **George Washington**.
- **The Stamp Act** was passed in 1765.
- **The Navigation Act** was passed in 1651.
- **The Town Shent Act** was passed in 1767. These Acts were passed to control and exploit the colonies.
- **The Boston Tea Party** of 1773 was associated with the American Revolution. To protest against the tax on tea, the revolutionaries threw tea boxes from the ship anchored in the Boston Port. This incident is known as *Boston Tea Party*.



The Boston Tea Part

- "**No taxation without representation**" was the famous slogan associated with the American Revolution.
- The representatives of the 13 colonies met at the First Continental Congress at **Philadelphia** in 1774.
- Second Philadelphia Congress was met in 1776 and it adopted the **Declaration of Independence** on 4 July 1776.
- The Declaration of American Independence was drafted by **Thomas Jefferson**.
- By the **Treaty of Paris** in 1783, the United States of America came to being.
- The Constitution of America was adopted in 1789.
- The Civil War in America was during 1861-65
- **Abraham Lincoln** was the President during Civil War.
- The city of Chicago in America has the largest number of rail roads.
- '**Uncle Tom's Cabin**' of Harriet Beechstowe published for the first time in 1852.
- **Statue of Liberty** is situated in the Liberty Island in the **Newyork Port**. It has 91 meter height.
- **Eagle** is the National bird of America.
- American women got voting right in 1920.
- **John Jai** (1789-95) was the first Chief Justice of America.
- **Baseball** is the National game of America.
- **Golden Rod** is the National Symbol of America



Abraham Lincoln

- The residence of American President got the name White House during the period of Theodor Roosevelt.
- George Washington is the father of America.
- He became the President of America in 1789.
- Thomas Jefferson was the third President of America.
- President who abolished slavery in America was Abraham Lincoln. He was the 16th President of America. He worked as storekeeper and village postmaster. He abolished slavery in 1862. He was assassinated in 1865 while watching a drama, ‘**Our American Cousin**’ in the Fords Theatre along with his wife. He was assassinated by John Wilksbooth. Lincoln is known as “**Great Immancipator**”.
- First modern census was held in America in 1790.
- 49th Parallel separates America and Canada.
- **William Henry Harrison** was the President who ruled the least term.
- **James Madison** is known as the father of American Constitution.
- **Ronald Reagan** was the only filmstar who became American President.
- Chicago International Airport is the world’s busiest airport.
- Gand Canyon in the Colarado river in America is the biggest Gorge in the world.
- United States Library of Congress is the largest library in the world.
- American Museum of Natural History is the largest museum in the world.
- Port of New-York and New Jersy is the largest port in the world.
- Grant Central Terminal in Newyork city is the biggest railway station in the world.
- Yerkis Observatory of Illinois University has the largest refractor telescope.
- ‘**General Sherman**’ in California is the biggest tree in the world.
- Coast Redwood in the Redwood National Park in California is the tallest tree in the world.

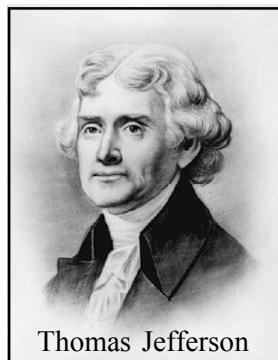
- The first American President to be assassinated was Abraham Lincoln.
- Other American Presidents who were assassinated
James A Garfield in 1881
William McKinley in 1901
John F Kennedy in 1963
- USA has two political parties - Republicans and Democrates.
- **Great Depression** striked America in 1930’s
- There are 50 states and one district in the U.S.A
- District of Columbia (Washington DC) on the banks of Potomak river is Americas capital district.
- New York is the largest city in America.
- **Chicago** is known as the **City of Winds**.
- Newyork city is situated on the banks of Hudson river.

Important Battles

- **Hundred Years War** (1337-1453) : England and France
- **Seven Years War** (1756-1763) : French were defeated by the English
- **Battle of Trafalgar** (1805) : British fleet (under Nelson) defeated the combined fleet of France and Spain.
- **Battle of Water Loo** (1815) : British force led by Duke of Wellington defeated French force led by Napoleon Bonaparte.
- **Opium War** (1839-1842) : China and Britain
- **Crimean War** (1853-1856) : War between Russia and the alliance of England, France, Turkey and Sardinia.
- **Boer War** (1899 - 1902) : Fought in South Africa between the British and the Boers (settlers of Dutch descent in South Africa)
- **World War I** (1914 - 1918) : Germany (with Austria, Hungary) against Britain (with Russia, France, Japan, Canada and Belgium)
- **World War II** (1935 - 1945) : Axis powers (Germany, Italy and Japan) against the Allies (Great Britain, U.S.A., U.S.S.R, China) Axis powers were defeated.

American Presidents

- The figures of four American Presidents are engraved on the **Mount Rushmor**.
- The term of American President is four years.
- Only American president who got all the electoral votes - **George Washington**.
- The birth place of George Washington -**Virginia**
- George Washington died on 1799 December 14.
- First Vice President of America - **John Adams**
- First American Lady who advocated for the rights of women - **Abey Gale Smith** (Wife of John Adams)
- American President who was entrusted to prepare American Constitution - **Thomas Jefferson**
- James Madison is known as the '**Father of American Constitution**'.
- Last military officer of the American revolution to become the President of America - **James Munroe**
- First American President who was the son of a former president - **John Kwinsky Adams**
- '**Kitchen Cabinet**' prevailed during the period of Andrew Jackson.
- First American President to die in harness - **Wilham Henry Harrison**
- First American President who was subjected to impeachment - **John Tailor**
- American President who is known as '**Black Horse**' - James K. Polk
- First American President who was ousted from his party while in Office - **John Tailor**
- American President who chose the site for White House - **Herbert Hover**
- American President who worked as the Chairman of UN Human Rights Committee - **Elenar Roosevelt**
- American President who gave orders to drop atom bomb in Hiroshima and Nagasaki - **Harry S. Truman**



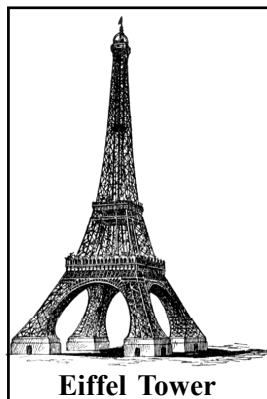
Thomas Jefferson

- American President who was known as Smiling President - **Eisonhower**
- First Roman Catholic born in 20th century to become the President of America - **John F.Kennedy**
- Who shot dead John F. Kennedy - **Lee Harvey Oswald**.
- **John F. Kennedy's** assassination was the first live broadcast murder in the world.
- First Vice President to become President while the President was alive - **Jerald R. Ford**.
- Watergate incident (1972) is related to - **Richard Nixon**
- Oldest President of America - **Ronald Reagon**
- The agreement to give back Panama canal to the nation of Panamas was signed during the term of **Jimmy Carter** as President.
- American Presidents who got Nobel Prize for Peace - **Theodor Roosevelt, Jimmy Carter, Wudrow Wilson**.
- First Bachelor President of America - **James Buchanan**.
- Tallest American President - **Abraham Lincoln**
- First to be elected for a second term as President - **George Washington**
- First to get married while he was president -**Grover Cleavelend**
- Which American President is known as 'Human Chain' - **Benjamin Harrison**
- First American to win Nobel Prize for Peace - **Theodor Rousevelt (1906)**
- First American President who later became Chief Justice - **William Haward Daft**
- Which American President said '**The Chief business of America is business**'. - **Kalvin Koolinch**
- First American Citizen to become American President - **Martin Von Buran**
He was born after the declaration of American independence in 1776.

French Revolution (1789)

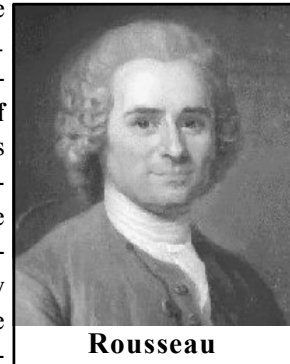
- The century from 1750 to 1850 is known as the '**Age of Revolutions**'

- 18th century is known as the ‘**Age of Enlightenment**’
- 18th century is also known as ‘**Age of Reason**’
- **Voltaire, Rousseau and Montesquieu** were the prominent philosophers who gave inspiration to the French people.
- French society on the eve of Revolution was divided into three Estates - Clergy, Nobles and Commons.
- Louis XVI was the king of France when the revolution broke out (1774-1792)
- His wife was beautiful but ‘**Empty Headed lady**’ Mary Antoinette.
- Like the Stuart kings of England, the Bourbons of France also ruled by the **Divine Right Theory of Kingship**. Louis XIV (1643 - 1715) who fully exploited the theory said “**I am the state**” He also said “**flood after me**”
- The French Parliament was known as ‘**Estates General**’.
- **The Bastille Prison** which was the symbol of monarch’s cruelty was broken by the Third Estate on 14th July 1789. Thus began the French Revolution.
- July 14th is observed as a national holiday in France every year in memory of this incident.
- **Liberty, Equality and Fraternity** the slogan of the French Revolution was given by Rousseau the French Philosopher and the author of “**The Social Contract**”.
- **The Eiffel Tower** is situated on the banks of river Science in Paris. It was built in 1888 by Gaustave Eiffel.
- His famous saying is “**Man is born free but everywhere he is in chains**”.
- **Louise Phillippe** was the Emperor of France from 1830 - 1848 AD. He



shunned the traditional symbols of monarchy and came to be known as the ‘**Citizen King**’.

- Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) is known as the “**Child of the French Revolution**”.
- **Napoleon Bonaparte** was born in Corsica, an island in the **Mediterranean sea** in 1769. He proclaimed himself the emperor of France in 1804. He was defeated by the English in 1813 and deported to Elba. But later he recaptured power. But after his final defeat in the **Battle of Water Loo** he was deported to St. Helena Island. There he died in 1821. The government formed by Napoleon in France was known as Consulate. The Bank of France was established by Napoleon.
- French Philosopher **Rousseau** is the author of books such as **Emile, Confessions, Social Contract** etc.
- The most important work of **Montesquieu** is “**The Spirit of Laws**”
- French Revolution resulted in the destruction of feudalism in France.
- French Revolution gave the term ‘**nation**’, its modern meaning.
- **Elysee Palace** is the official residence of French President.
- Now the term of French President is five years, earlier it was seven years.
- **Franc** is French currency
- **Jacqueous Shirak** is the President of France.
- In 2006 there was a racial conflict between the African immigrants and natives.



The Industrial Revolution

- The Industrial Revolution is the name given to a series of changes that brought about a transition from production by hand to production by ma-

chine from small scale production to large scale production, hand made goods to machine made goods.

- Industrial Revolution started in England in the second part of the 18th century and in the first part of the 19th century.
- Industrial Revolution first influenced the **Cotton Textile Industry**.
- In 1733, **John Kay** invented the **Flying Shuttle** for weaving cloth.
- **James Hargreaves** invented the **Spinning Jenny** in 1764 (Jenny was the name of his wife)
- **Water Frame** was invented by **Richard Arkwright**.
- **Samuel Crompton** invented Mule in 1779.
- **Power Loom** was invented by **Edmund Cartwright** in 1785.
- **James Watt** invented **Steam Engine** in 1769.
- ‘**Safety Lamp**’ or ‘**Davis Lamp**’ was invented by Humphrey Davy in 1816.
- **Elias Home** invented sewing machine in 1846.
- ‘**The Warrior**’ was the first warship built with iron plates.
- **Abraham Derby** invented the method of smelting iron with coke in 1709.
- **Bersemmer** invented the steel furnace in 1856.
- First **Steam Locomotive** was invented by **Trevithick** in 1800.
- In 1814 **George Stephenson** invented an improved steam locomotive called Rocket. It was finally used in opening the first passenger railway from Liverpool to Manchester. That is why Stephenson is called the father of Steam Locomotive.
- **Steam Boat** was invented by **Robert Fulton** in 1807.
- First steam ship sailed from Glasgow to Liverpool in 1857. A ship first crossed the Atlantic in 1833.
- The method of sending message by wire was invented by Morse in 1835.

- **Electric Telegraph** was invented by **Graham Bell** in 1876.
- **John Macadam**, an engineer of Scotland made the first strong roads in England with the help of small stones.
- First important Trade Union Movement in the world was **Chartist Movement** originated in England as a result of the Industrial Revolution.
- Japan was the first Asian country to be industrialised.
- The Steam Engine invented by James Watt was called **Beelzebub**.
- Industrial Revolution gave rise to **Capitalism**.
- A little before the Industrial Revolution the Agrarian Revolution broke out in England.

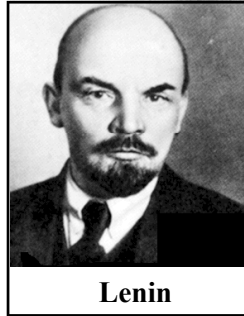
Russian Revolution

- Russia was united into an empire in the 9th century AD. Russia was unified by the Rurichs.
- Russians belonged to the Slavonic race.
- Mongols captured Russia in the 13th century.
- The **Romanoff Dynasty** of Russia was founded by **Michael Romanoff** in 1613.
- Romanoff Emperors were known as **Czars**. They ruled Russia from 1613 to 1917.
- **Peter the Great** is considered as the father of modern Russia.
- Peter’s foreign policy was known as ‘**warm water policy**’
- Russian Revolution was started in 1917 and it was led by **Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov Lenin**.
- Lenin was the leader of the **Russian Social Democratic Labour Party**.

Bloody Sunday

On the 22nd of 1905 thousands of unarmed Russian workers marched to the Winter Palace of Czar in St. Petersburg. Their demand was to have administrative reforms. But the army fired at the mob. Hundreds of workers died, thousands wounded. This incident is known as Bloody Sunday, that is related to the Revolution of 1905 in Russia.

- Lenin is known as the architect of **Soviet Union**.
- Lenin was born in 1870 April 10. in **Simbirsk, Russia**.
- He received the name Lenin in 1901.
- He was led to Communism by his elder brother Alexander.
- Lenin started a newspaper known as **Iskara** in 1900.
- Lenin was the leader of the Bolshevik section of the party.
- He died in 21st January 1924 of cerebral stroke.
- **Bolsheviks**, the majority party and **Mensheviks**, the minority party were the two divisions of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party.
- USSR came into existence in 1922 December
- Czar Nicholas II was the reigning Czar of Russia when the Revolution occurred.
- Russian Parliament is known as **Duma**.
- The new form of workers organisation formed on the eve of the Revolution was known as '**Soviet**'.
- **February Revolution** was on 12 March 1917.
- Provisional Government which formed after the February Revolution was led by Alexander Kerensky.
- **The October Revolution** happened on 7 November 1917 (because old Russian Calendar was 14 days backward).
- After the October Revolution **Trotsky** came to power
- **Stalin** is known as the **Iron Man of Communism**.
- Stalin became the head of Soviet Union in 1924.
- He introduced **Five Year Plans** (1928) for the economic progress of Russia.
- In 1991 the Communist rule in Russia came to an end and the USSR collapsed. Russia and other Soviet Republics became independent nations.



Lenin

- **St. Petersburg** is the largest city in Russia second only to Moscow.
- The city of St. Petersburg was founded by Peter the Great in 1703. The city was known as Petrograd from 1914 to 1924. Later it came to be known as **Leningrad**. Gorbachov renamed it St. Petersburg again.
- **Grand Kremlin Palace** was the Residence of Czars.
- **Rasputin** was a crooked witch, who had an influence over the Czarina.
- The economic and political reforms started by **Gorbachev** in 1985 was known as '**Perestroika**' which means restructuring. For freedom of press and freedom of expression he also introduced '**Glasnost**' which means open approach.
- **The Crimean War (1854-56)**
The Crimean War was fought between Russia on the one side and Turkey, France and England on the other.
- **Florence Nightingale** established the first nursing school.
- Florence Nightingale is known as "**Lady with the Lamp**"

Chinese Revolution (1911)

- The Chinese Revolution took place in 1911.
- Ching dynasty or the Manchus were the last ruling dynasty of China.
- **Puyi**, a six year old boy was the last **Manchu Emperor**.
- The Republic of China was formed in 1912 and **Sun Yat-Sen** became the first Chairman and first President of the Chinese Republic.
- Sun-Yat-Sen was a leader of the Comintang Party. Military Head Yuan Shikai assumed power replacing Sun-Yat-Sen in 1912 March 10.
- In 1949 the Chinese Communist Party defeated the nationalists and formed the "**Peoples Republic of China**".
- **The Opium Wars** were fought between Britain and China.

- The first Opium War, was fought during 1839-42 and the second was during 1856-60.
- Opium Wars were fought to get open the ports of China to trade opium from British India.
- As a result of the first Opium War the Chinese province of Hongkong came under the control of Britain in 1844.
- Hong Kong became a special administrative region of China on July 1, 1997 when the colony was handed over by Britain to China.
- **Macao**, which was a colony of the Portugal was restored to China on 20th December 1999.
- **Shanghai** is the biggest city in China. **Beijing** is in the second place.
- China was admitted to the UN in 1971. Now she is a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council.
- 92% of the Chinese people belonged to the Han race.
- **The Tianen Square** in Beijing is described as the 'Naval of China'. The name means 'the gate of heavenly peace'.
- The highest Court in China is the Supreme People's Court.
- China's leading newspaper is '**Renin Ribao**' (**People's Daily**) of Beijing, which is the official newspaper of Chinese Communist Party.
- China is the first Asian country to launch a space shuttle. **Zhenshou V** was the Chinese space shuttle and **Yang Liwei** was its first space traveler.
- China is the world's most populous country. It has about a fifths of the world's population.
- China has the oldest living civilisation.
- Chinese were the first to make compasses, paper, pottery, and silk.
- Chinese Mandarin is the most widely spoken language of the world and it is the mother tongue of the largest number of people. Chinese call this language '**Putoghua**' (Common language)
- China has the world's largest fishing industry.
- **The Grand Canal** world's longest artificially cre-

ated water way extends more than 1600 Kilometers from Hangzhou in the south to Beijing in the north.

- Chinese People's Liberation Army is the world's largest Army in number.
- China is the largest producer of paddy, silk and coal in the world.
- China has the largest Communist Party in the world.
- World's largest dam **Three Gorges Dam** is built across the Yangtse river in China.
- China opened world's highest and longest highland railway on 1st July 2006 **The Qinghai-Tibet Railway** (1, 1142 Km)
- Karakkoram highway is the only overland connection between China and Pakistan.
- Communist China's first international religious gathering was conducted in April 2006.
In that World Buddhist Forum, Buddhists from more than 30 countries participated.
- 2012 Olympics will be held in China.
- **Wenjiabo** became the President of China.
It is for the first time the posts of President and General Secretary of the Communist Party of China held by two persons.
- The present General Secretary of Communist Party of China is the former President **JiangZemin**
- **Den-Sia-O-Ping** brought liberalist policies in China in 1970.

First World War (1914-1918)

- The murder of **Arch Duke Ferdinand** of Austria by a Serbian student **Gavle Prince** on June 28, 1914 was the immediate cause of the outbreak of the First World War (1914-1918). The war was started by the declaration of war against Serbia by Austria - Hungary. The main combatants in the war were the **Central Powers** (Germany, Austria, Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria) and the **Allied Powers** (England, France, Belgium, Serbia and Russia). The Central Powers lost the war. The war

ended with the **Treaty of Versailles** in 1919. (Versailles is a city near Paris)

- Submarine warboat (U-boat) used by Germany in the war was a great menace.
- Wudrow Wilson was the President of America during the First World War.
- Lloyd George was the British Prime Minister and Clemenceau was the French Prime Minister during the War.
- The Treaty of Versailles was signed between the Allies and Germany on 28th June 1919.
- **The Treaty of St. Germain** was signed by the Allies with Austria-Hungary in 1919.
- An armistice (Peace Agreement) was signed on November 11, 1918 to end the war. It was followed by a peace conference at Paris and the Treaty of Versailles in 1920.
- The Treaty of Versailles resulted in the foundation of League of Nations in 1919.
- **League of Nations** was formed on the basis of the '**Fourteen Points**' put forward by Wudrow Wilson in 1918.
- League of Nations was the predecessor of the UNO.
- League of Nations was disbanded in 1945 and even before that it lost its importance in 1939 when the Second World War broke out.
- The First World War was fought as '**a war to end all wars**'.
- One of the most important results of the First World War was the **Great Depression** which started in USA in 1929.
- Only one European country which was not affected by great depression was Russia.
- Three major powers during the interwar period were **USA, USSR and Japan**.
- **Ku Klux Klan** was a white terrorist gang working in America during the period of Great Depression.
- Franklin D. Roosevelt became American president during the great depression in 1932.

Unification of Italy, and Fascism

- After the decline of the Roman Empire Italy was divided into a number of small independent states.
- Joseph Massini is known as the "**Prophet of Italian Nationalism**"
- Massini founded '**Young Italy**' in 1821.
- **Garibaldi** was another famous leader of Italian Nationalism. He founded an organisation known as '**Red Shirts**'.
- The unification of Germany was completed in 1870.
- Political organisations which originated in Europe after the First World War were collectively known as Fascist Movements.
- The word 'Fascism' was originated from the Italian word 'fasces' which means "**a bundle of rods and an axe**".
- Benito Mussolini, the world's first fascist dictator who came to power in Italy in 1922, is known as the father of Fascism.
- Mussolini organised his followers into the '**Black shirts**'
- In October 1922 he organised a '**March to Rome**' and took over as Prime Minister.
- Mussolini was against Socialism and Communism and formed an organisation known "**Fasci di Combattimento**".
- When Italy surrendered after the Second World War in 1945 Mussolini was captured and executed at Como.
- Italy was the first Axis Power to surrender in the First World War.
- After 2000 **Medea Tycoon Silvio Berlusconi** won the election and became the PM. In 2006 he was defeated by the former President of EU **Romano Prodi**.
- Italy won the World Cup Football title held in Germany by defeating France.

Unification Germany, and Nazism

- Germany was known as **Prussia** in olden times.
- The process of German Unification began when King William I appointed Otto Von Bismark as his Prime Minister in 1862.

- **Bismark** is known as the ‘**Iron man of Germany**’
- His policy was known as ‘**Blood and Iron Policy**’.
- ‘**Customs Union**’ was an organisation which supported German unification indirectly.
- Bismark is known as ‘**Iron Chancellor**’.

- Nazism in Germany was a German form of Fascism in Italy.

- **Adolf Hitler** (1889-1945) was the leader of the **Nazi Party** in Germany. He was known as the **Fuehrer (Leader)**. Hitler was born in Austria in 1889.



Adolf Hitler

- National Socialist German Workers Party founded in 1920 was known as Nazi Party.
- Nazi Party wanted the exclusion of Jews from German citizenship.
- The supporters of Nazi Party were known as Sturm Abteilung or ‘**Brown Shirts**’.
- Hitler became the head of Nazi Party in 1923.
- Hitler wrote his autobiography “**Mein Kampf**” (**My Struggle**) while he was in Jail.
- Hitler became the Chancellor of Germany on 30 January 1933.
- In 1935 under the **Nuremberg Law** German Jews were deprived of their citizenship.
- Hitler became the President of Germany in 1934 when Hindenburg died.
- Secret Police force of Hitler was known as ‘**Gustapo**’.
- Hitler committed suicide along with his wife Iva Brown after the failure of Second World War in 1945.
- Bismark is known as the father of German integration and **Helmet Kohl** is known as father of German Unity. It was under Helmet Kohl that two Germanies united in 1991.
- In 2005 **Angela Merckel** became the first woman

Chancellor of Germany.

- In 2006 June Germany decided to open up a huge archive of Nazi records on Concentration camp inmates.

Second World War (1939-45)

- The Treaty of Versailles and the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany were the main causes of the war.
- The Soviet German Non Aggression Pact was signed on August 23, 1939.
- Hitler’s armies invaded Poland on 1 September 1939.
- On 3 September 1939 Britain and France declared war on Germany, thus began the Second World War.
- The Second World War was between **The Axis Powers** (Germany, Italy and Japan) and the **Allied Powers** (Britain, France, Russia, USA etc)
- The German plan of conquering Britain during the Second World War was known as ‘**Sea - Lion**’.
- German attack on Russia during the war was known as ‘**Operation Barbosa**’
- When the Second World War broke out, the US announced her neutrality.
- In 7 December 1941, the Japanese bombers attacked the US naval base at **Pearl Harbour** in Hawaii.
- On 8 December 1941 US declared war on Japan. Thus US formally entered the Second World War.

Titles

Persons

Fuehrer	Adolf Hitler
II Duke	Mussolini
Lady with the Lamp	Florence Nightingale
Maid of Orleans	Joan of Arc
Maiden Queen	Elizabeth I
Man of Blood and Iron	Bismark
Man of Destinig Little Corporal	Napolean

- Second World War became a Global war in 1941.
- The first Atom Bomb was dropped in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 by America. This bomb is known as ‘**Little boy**’.
- The second Atom Bomb was dropped in Nagasaki on August 9, 1945 it is known as ‘**fat man**’.
- The first country to surrender in the war was Italy and last to surrender was Japan.
- On 2 September 1945 Japan surrendered and the Second World War ended.
- The Axis powers lost the Second World War. This war led to the foundation of UNO in 1945.
- The UN Charter was signed at San Francisco on 26th June 1945 by fifty nations and UN came into force on 24 October 1945.
- The Nuremberg Trials were the trials of the major war criminals of the Second World War. It began on November 20, 1945.

Big Powers and Cold War

- The United States of America, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China were regarded as the big powers since the end of the Second World War (1945). Among them, the United States and the Soviet Union were the Super Powers.
- There was much co-operation among the Big Powers during the War. But later there aroused mutual suspicion among them and Cold War began.
- The Cold War was a war of words or ideologies and of nerves. This Cold War created great international tension. The Cold War was announced by **Winston Churchill** in his famous “**iron curtain**” speech at Fulton, Missouri in 1946.
- The word ‘*Cold War*’ was first coined by **Bernard Baruch** 1946.
- The years 1945-47 are generally taken to mark the beginning of the Cold War.
- The first ‘shot’ of Cold War was fired by Winston Churchill.
- The US decision to intervene in the Greek Civil War may be considered as formally ushering in of the Cold War.

- The biggest crisis of the early stage of Cold War was the **Berlin Blockade** which began in 1948.
- The formation of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (**NATO**) in April 1949 was one of the most important aspects of Cold War.
- In 1954 the US brought most of the South East Asian Countries under a common framework modelled on **NATO** called **SEATO**.
- The Arab states formed **CENTO** in 1955. (Central Treaty Organisation)
- The Cold War continued upto the collapse of Soviet Union in 1990.
- **HOTLINE** is a telecommunication link established since 1963 between the Kremlin (Moscow) and White House (Washington DC, USA) to avoid misunderstanding. Now ‘*hotline*’ means a direct exclusive line of communication especially for an emergency.
- **Warsaw Pact** was a military alliance formed under the Soviet Union against NATO in 1955.
- Now Russia is in a more or less stable condition under the Presidentship of **Vladimir Putin**.

Middle East Conflict

- **Israel Palestine** conflict is popularly called Middle-East Conflict. The conflict became worse by the formation of Israel in Palestine in 1948. In the battle that occurred in 1948, Israel came out victorious.
- **Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)** was formed in 1964 to defeat Israel.
- In the 1967 Arab-Israel battle which lasted for six days, Israel came out victorious.

Revolutions

American war of Independence	1776
Russian Revolution	1917
French Revolution	1789
Chinese Revolution	1911
Communist Revolution in China	1949
Industrial Revolution	1750-1850 (England)
Green Revolution in India	1964

- **The Israel - Palestine Peace Treaty** was signed in 1994 and PLO supremo sworn in as the head of Palestine National Authority.
- The historic Israel-PLO agreement was signed in Washington on September 28, 1995. River Wye Agreement was signed by Israel and Palestine for solving the crisis.
- **Golan Height** was a place captured by Israel from Syria in 1967
- **West Bank** : This place was captured by Israel from Jordan. As per the peace treaty of 1994 the administrative authority of this place was given to Palestine National Authority.
- **Gaza Strip** is in the Egypt. It was captured by Israel in the 1967 battle and as per the treaty of 1994 it was handed over to Palestine National Authority.
- **Sinai Peninsula** : This place was also captured from Egypt in the 1967 war and handed over to Palestine in 1982.
- The official name of Israel is Medinat Israel.
- Hebrew and Arabic are the official languages of Israel.
- The conflict reached a turning point with the election (January 2005) of **Mahmud Abbas** as the new Palestinian leader following the death of **Yassar Arafat**.
- In 2006 July-August Israel invaded **Labanon** and tried to destroy the so called extremist organisation **Hisbulla** led by **Sheik Hassan Nasrulla**.
- The Hamas lead coalition won the general election in Palestine. But the Israel and EU blocked their financial assistance to this country. Now it is in great financial crisis.



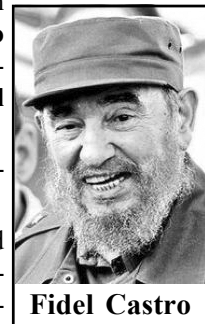
Yassar Arafat

LATIN AMERICAN NATIONALISM

- Countries to the south of USA are collectively called Latin America.
- Mexico, Central America, South America and the

Islands of West Indies are the major parts of Latin America.

- There are altogether 46 countries in Latin America. 33 independent nations and 13 dependent countries.
- Brazil is the largest Latin American country in area and Population.
- **Spanish** is the most widely spoken language in Latin America.
- **Guarani** is the language of Indian origin spoken in Paragua.
- **Quechua** is the Indian language in Peru.
- **Aymara** is the Indian language Spoken in Bolivia.
- **Christopher Columbus** was the first European to reach Latin America.
- **Francisco De Miranda** (1750-1816) was one of the most important leaders of Latin America. He fought for the liberation of Venezuela and came out victorious in 1910 and it proclaimed its independence in 1911.
- **Simon Bolivar** (1783-1830) worked for the liberation of Columbia, Venezuela, Equador, Peru and Bolivia. He is considered as the father of their nation by all these countries. He is known as the '**Liberator**' or '**the Washington of South**'.
- **San Martin** (1778 - 1850) another famous Latin American leader worked for the liberation of Argentina, Chili and Peru.
- Brazil got independence from Spain in 1822.
- **Fidel Castro** came to power in Cuba in 1959.
- Due to health reason Cuban President **Fidel Castro** transferred his power temporarily to his brother **Raul Castro** in September 2006.
- Panama got the Panama Canal from US in 1999.
- Panama Canal was opened in 1914. Panama Canal connects the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.
- Soccer (Football) is the most important game of Latin American countries.



Fidel Castro

- **Aguaretiente** is a liquor obtained from sugarcane used in Latin America
- Latin American Tea is known as Mate.
- Most of the Latin American countries follow Christianity.
- Brazilian dance is known as **Samba**
 - Cuba** - **Conga**
 - Argentina** - **Tango**
 - Bolivia & Chile** - **Cueca**
 - Mexico** - **Jarabe Tapatio**

Japan

- Japan is an Island nation of the North Pacific.
- The name Japan was originated from the name Zipangu used by Marco Polo in Italian language.
- The official name of Japan is **Nippon** or **Nihon**, which means the **source of the Sun**.
- Japan is known as the '**Land of Rising Sun**' or '**Britain of the East**'.
- **Iasu Tokugama** who ruled Japan the 16th Century is known as 'Napoleon of Japan'.
- **Tokyo** became the capital of Japan during enlightened rule (Meiji Age) which is known as the **Golden Age of Japan**.
- First constitution of Japan came to force in 1889 and the Japanese Parliament Diet was formed.
- Geographically Japan is situated in "**the Ring of fire**" which is in the coast the Pacific ocean with lot of volcanoes.
- **Mount Fujiyama** is the highest mount in Japan.
- In the first World War Japan was in the part of Allied Powers.
- Japan joined the Second World War in 1940 on the part of Italy and Germany.
- On 7 December 1941 Japan attacked Pearl Harbour. This resulted in the entry of USA into the Second World War.
- America dropped an Atom Bomb named '**Little boy**' in Hiroshima from an aircraft named '**Inola Gay**' on 6, August 1945. Later another bomb '**Fatman**' was dropped in Nagasaki from an aircraft named '**Box car**' on 9 August 1945. Followed by the Japan surrendered before the Axis Powers on 2 September 1945. The treaty of surrender was signed in a ship named USS Missouri in the Bay of Tokyo.
- **Kabuki** is a form of stage drama in Japan.
- **Bunraku** - a puppet theatre
- **Sumo** is a Japanese form of Wrestling.
- **Ikebana** - Japanese style of flower arranging
- **Sake** - Rice wine made in Japan
- **Cloisonne** - A Japanese type of decorative enameling
- **Origami** - The Japanese art of folding paper into decorative objects.
- **Kawabata Yasunari** is the first Japanese to win the Nobel Prize (1968) for literature. '**Snow Country**' is the book authored by him.
- **Yuichiro Miura** : 70 year old man who became the oldest to conquer Mt Everest in May 22, 2003.
- **Junko Tabei** First woman to climb mount Everest.
- **Manasobu Fukuvoka** is the author of the famous book '**One Straw Revolution**'. He was a famous agricultural scientist.
- **Jimmu Tenno** : He was supposedly the first emperor of Japan. In 660 BC he became the Emperor.
- **Hirohito** became the first Japanese emperor who travelled outside Japan in 1971.
- World's longest suspension bridge, the **Akasi Kaikyo Bridge** (1990 metres) is in Japan. It connects the Island of Honshee and the Island of Shikoku.
- Japan's largest single export is Crude Oil.
- '**Yomeyerie shimbon**' a News paper in Japan has the largest circulation in the world. It is also published in English with the name '**Daily Yomiurie**'.
- The Japan's economy ranks second only to USA in terms of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- Japan has the largest fishing industry in the world.
- New PM of Japan is Shinzo Abe (Liberal Democratic Party)

INDIA AND PAKISTAN

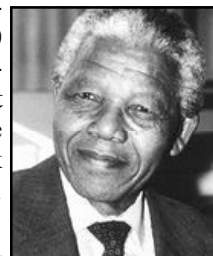
- Muhammed Ali Jinna was the founder of Pakistan. He was the first Governor General of the Dominion of Pakistan.
- **Jinna house** is in Mumbai.
- Pakistan observes its independence day on August 14
- Jinna is called the father of Pakistan.
- Pakistan proclaimed itself an Islamic Republic in 1956.
- Poet - Philosopher **Muhammed Iqbal**, first articulated the concept of Pakistan in 1931.
- Pakistan's first free elections were held in December 1970.
- Bangladesh was separated from Pakistan in march 26, 1971.
- On 28 and 30 may 1998 Pakistan carried out five nuclear tests in the desert of Baluchistan at the Chagai Hills in response to India's test.
- On 12 October 1999, **General Pervez Musharraf** in a military coup deposed the **Premier Nawaz Sherif** and suspended the constitution.
- In 2001 he became the President of Pakistan. Musharraf's presidency was extended by five more years till 2007.
- **The Tashkent Agreement** was signed on January 10, 1966. This Agreement was signed by **Lal Bahadur Shastri** and **Ayub Khan** just after the 1965 Indo - Pak War. On January 11, Shastri died at Tashkent.
- Now Tashkent is the capital of Uzbekistan.
- **The Shimla Agreement** of 1972 was signed between India and Pakistan after the 1971 battles.
- **The Lahore Declaration** was signed between India and Pakistan just before the '**Operation Vijay**' of 1999 in Kargil to expel the usurpers.
- **Th Radcliff line** separates India from Pakistan, the **Durand Line** is between Pakistan and Afghanistan and the **McMohan Line** is between India and China.
- **Siachin Glacier** which lies between India and Pakistan is referred as the highest and the coldest battle field in the world.
- **The Agra Summit** (2002) between **Musharraf**

and **AB Vajpayee** ended in failure. Aim-solving bilateral problems.

- Pak conspirations attacked Indian Parliament in 2001 that led to the verge of a war.
- Relation worsened due to the Mumbai blasts in July 2006
- In the side line **NAM summit in Havana** (2006 September) both agreed to continue to the peace process

THE SOUTH AFRICAN STORY

- The Union of South Africa was formed in 1910.
- It became a Republic in 31 May 1961.
- **Nelson Mandela** was released from prison in 1990 after 27 years of imprisonment. He was imprisoned at Robert Islands In 1994 he sworn in as the first black President of South Africa. His term ended in 1999.
- First Democratic President of South Africa is Nelson Mandela. **Thabo Mbeki**, the President of ANC (Africa National Congress) succeeded Nelson Mandela as the President of South Africa in 1999.
- Nelson Mandela was the second foreigner to receive the Bharat Ratna.
- The first foregner to receive Bharat Ratna was **Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan**, the '**Frontier Gandhi**'
- South Africa is the leading producer of gold in the World.
- **African Development Bank (ADB)** was formally established in 1964 and began its operation in 1966.
- **Organization of African Unity (OAU/ OUA)** was formed in 1963, with its headquarters at Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)



Nelson Mandela

Gulf War I and II

- **The Gulf War (1991)** was fought between the US led multinational forces and Iraq to expel Iraqi troops from Kuwait. Its code name was **Operation Desert Storm**.
- '**Operation Desert Fox**' was the continuation of operation Desert storm.

- **'Operation Iraqi Freedom'** was launched to 2003 to expel Saddam Hussain from Iraq. USA and England jointly launched the operation. This war is known as Gulf War II.
- Their aim was to establish democracy
- But still Civil War goes on there.

Earth Summit I & II

- The first Earth Summit was held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992.
- In 2002 the second Summit was held at **Johannasburg** in South Africa.
- April 22 is Earth Day.
- The motto, of the Summit was **'Sustainable Development'**.

WORLD AFTER 2000

Asia

- Afghanistan was under the Taliban forces headed by Mulla Omar since 1995. The Islamic government of the Taliban was ousted by the UN forces in November 2001. In 2002 **Hamid Karzai** was elected the President.
- The August 2003 NATO assumed its first ever operational commitment outside Europe when it took control of the security of Kabul.
- On 9 October 2004, Hamid Karzai became the first democratically elected President of Afghanistan.
- **The National Assembly of Pakistan** was inaugurated on 19 december 2005.
- In December 2005, **King Jigme Singye Wangchuk** announced that he would step down as king of Bhutan in 2008 and would be succeeded by his son, the crown **Prince Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**.
- In July 2006 the Cuban President **Fidel Castro** underwent a surgery and temporarily handed over control of the government to his brother Raul.
- In 1999, Indonesia bowed to mounting interna-

tional pressure and allowed a referendum to ascertain the future of East Timor. The majority vote in favour of independence led to East Timor finally going independent in 2002.

- In 1999, first ever free Parliamentary elections were held in **Indonesia**. In October 2004 **Susilo B. Yudhoyuno** became the new President after elections.
- Thousands of people were killed in the 2004 (December 26) Tsunami and Indonesia is the worst affected Country in the crisis.
- In April 2002, voters overwhelmingly approved a referendum to extend Pakistan President Musharaf's presidency for another five years.
- In November 2003 Pakistan and India declared the first formal ceasefire in Kashmir in 14 years.
- In the Parliamentary elections held in Palestine in January 2006, the extremist group HAMAS emerged victorious.
- For the Parliamentary elections in Israel in 2006 the Party of **Ariel Sharon Kadima** came out victorious.
- In New Zealand, Indian origin **Anand Sathyanand** sworn in as the new Governor General in 2006.
- In January 2006 China launches official website www.gov.cn at zero hour.
- For the first time Kuwaiti women Cast Votes in Parliamentary elections in 2006 June.

Europe

- Bulgaria became a member of NATO in 2004.
- In May 2003, **David Oddsson** of Iceland was re-elected making him the longest serving Prime Minister in Europe (from 1991-2004)
- In 2000, **Tarja Halonen** became the first woman president of Finland since 1998. In April 2003, Finland appointed its first female Prime Minister, making it the only country in Europe with both a female President and Prime Minister.
- In 2004, the French government passed a law banning the wearing of Muslim headscarves and other religious symbols in schools.
- The UN's Human Development Index has rated **Norway** the world's most livable country.

- **Portugal** gave up its last colony, on December 20, 1999 after a long period of imperialism.
- **Vladimir Putin** on March 16, 2000 won the presidential election and became the President of Russia and in 2004 he was again reelected.
- In September 2004, Russia endorsed the Kyoto protocol on climate change.
- In July 2004, the Butler report on Pre-Iraq British intelligence was released i.e., the intelligence report on Iraq's possession of biological weapons are false and misleading.
- In March 2000, the Pope issued an apology for sins committed by Catholics over the past 2000 years, including religious persecutions and discrimination against women. In 2003, the Vatican launched an international campaign against legalising same-sex marriage.
- In 2002 **Niyazov** the President of Turkmenistan renamed all the months of the Calendar April is now named after his mother. He was voted president for life by his rubber stamp Parliament in 1999. He died recently.
- Scottish writer **Ali Smith's**, 'The Accidental' wins the 2006 Whitbread prize.
- In June 2006 **Montenegro's** Parliament proclaims independence forming a new European state. It is the 192 member in the UN.
- French adventurer **Raphaella le Gouvello** becomes the world's first person to windsurf the Indian ocean, reaching Reunion Island after a 60-day Odyssey.
- **SMART 1**, Europe's first space craft to the Moon launched in September 2003, ends its mission with a planned crash on the lunar surface on 3 September 2006.

Africa

- In 2004 January Algeria assumed a two-year seat on the UN Security council.
- In March 2002, **Zimbabwe** was suspended from the Commonwealth of Nations.
- In 2003, an outbreak of polio spread through **Nigeria**. The Kano region lifted its ten-month ban against vaccination in July 2004. On Aug 24, there were 602 polio cases world wide 79% of which were in Nigeria.
- Over 1,300 people are killed after an Egyptian cruise

liner sinks in the Red Sea between Duba in Saudi Arabia and Safaga in Egypt on 3 February 2006.

- A new tomb is discovered in the Egyptian valley of the kings the first since the 1922 unravelling of king Tatankhamun's tomb.
- On 7 December Joseph Kabila sworn in as the first democratically elected President of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

North America

- In 2001 **George W. Bush** sworn in as the 43rd President of the United States of America.
- The August and September 2004, four hurricanes (**Kathrina, Rita, Gama** etc) devastated Florida and other parts of Southern United States.
- In the Presidential elections 2004, Bush got a majority of votes to rule the state for a second term by defeating John Kerry.
- In 2001 Canada legalised medical Marijuana for the terminally or chronically ill. It began legally dispensing Marijuana by prescription in July 2003.
- As per the report of the Transparency International 2006 **Haiti** is the most corrupt country in the world.
- NASA's Stardust space craft returned to earth with the first comet dust samples and landed in the Utah desert after seven years journey, in 2006 January 15.
- In 2006, February 7, the Haitians cast ballots in the country's first presidential election in nearly six years.
- Space shuttle **Discovery** safely landed in Florida competing a 13 day mission on 17 July 2006.

South America

- In January 2003, **Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva**, a former trade union leader and factory worker widely known by the name Lula, became Brazil's first working class President.
- In March 2000 Ricardo Lagos became the first socialist President of Chile. In 2004, Chile passed a law permitting divorce for the first time.
- According to 2004 polls cited in the Economist, Alejandro Toledo, the President of Peru is Latin America's least popular leader.

- On 11 March 2006 **Michelle Bachlet** is sworn in as Chile's first woman president.
- Now there is a trend in South America that several of its countries moving to the communist side of political ideology.

Australia

- **Harriet** a 178 year old giant tortoise credited with helping Charles Darwin pioneer the theory of evolution dies in Australia in 2006 June 22.
- Australian Crocodile hunter **Steve Irwin (44)** died on September 4, 2006 following a stingray blow to the chest while filming a documentary on the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Port Douglas in Queensland state.
- **Marsupial lions**, Kangaroos as tall as trucks and wombats the size of a rhinoceros roamed Australia's outback before being killed off by fires it by arriving humans. The giant animals lived in the arid **Nullarbor Desert** around 400,000 years ago, but died out around 50,000 year ago, relatively shortly after the arrival of human settlers, according to new fossil skeletons found in Caves.

Selected Questions from World History

- Father of History
Herodotus
- Iron was accidentally discovered by
Neanderthal man
- Humans with similarity to the Neanderthal man
Cromagnans
- Mesopotamian ruler who gave a famous code of laws
Hammurabi
- The Cuneiform script was discovered by
Sumerians
- Largest Pyramid of Egypt
Khufu
- Large temple in ancient Egypt dedicated to Sun God
Temple of Abusimbel
- Three states of China existed in the 300 BC
Chin, Chu, Ehi
- Siesmograph was discovered by
Ancient Chinese
- Most important Persian ruler who lived in BC 600
Cyrus
- God of Parsies or Zoroastrians
Ahuramazda
- Most famous ruler of ancient Athens
Pericles
- Oligarchy is a form of government led by .
a group of rich people
- Greek poetess who sung about love, nature and beauty
Sappho
- Greek poet who wrote poems in honour of victorious athletes
Pindar
- Father of tragic dramas
Aeschylus
- Father of Comic dramas
Sophocles
- Most important example of Greek architecture
Temple of Parthenon
- The word Hieroglyphic means
Sacred Writing
- Philosopher king of Rome
Marcus Aurelius
- Famous Orator of Greece
Cicero
- The Roman Governor who gave the verdict to crucify Christ
Pontius Pilate
- The birth place of Prophet Muhammed
Mecca
- Who was the wife of Prophet Muhammed
Khadija
- Which place is known as the Birmingham of Central Africa
Sinai - Trophus
- Most famous ruler of Mali in Africa
Mansa Musa
- Time taken to complete the construction of the Great Pyramid in Egypt
20 years

- Who was the commander of Carthage in the Punic wars
Hannibal
- Who became the ruler of Rome after Julius Caesar
Octavian (Augustus Caesar)
- Country known as the nest of singing birds
England
- Perceolis was the capital of the ancient Empire
Persia
- The hanging gardens of Babilona was built in the name of
Nebuchadnezzar
- Only South East Asian country never occupied by any European powers
Thailand
- Famous Chinese king Shihuangti belonged to
Chin dynasty
- Which ancient civilisation was famous for secular architecture
Persian
- The tutelary deity of the city 'UR' in Mesopotamia
Nannar
- The Mayan calendar had
18 months
- Buddhism reached China from India during the period of
Han dynasty
- Golden Age of Rome is the period of Augustus Caesar
- Most cultured civilisation of Middle Ages was of
Arabs
- Which was the language of learning of the Middle Ages
Latin
- First university in the world was started in **Paris**
- Which subject was known as Queen of Sciences during the Middle Ages
Theology
- Who was the immediate successor of prophet Muhammed or first Khalifa
Abubekker
- Capital of Arab Empire during the Abbasid rule
Baghdad
- First industrially developed country in Asia
Japan
- The Capital of Japan in the 8th Century
Nara
- Ancient religion of Japan
Shintoism
- Architectural style developed in France
Gothic
- The mount where Saint Benedict founded his monastery
Monte Cassino
- Holy Kaaba was built by
Prophet Ibrahim
- The capture of Constantinople by the Seljuk Turks resulted in the decline of
Byzantine Empire
- The prophet of French Revolution
Rousseau
- Nationalisation of Suez Canal was done by
Col. Gamal Abdul Nasser of Egypt
- Japanese Parliament is known as
Diet
- Battle in which Napoleon was defeated in 1815
Battle of Trafalgar
- Unification of Germany was done by
Bismarck
- Pakistan President who was hanged to death in 1979
Sulhikar Ali Bhutto
- English king who was tried and executed publicly in 1649
Charles I
- English king who signed the Magna Carta in 1215
John
- Treaty which ended the Russo-Japanese battle of 1905
Treaty of Portsmouth
- Co-operative movement was started in England in 1821 by
Robert Owen

- Small Island where Columbus landed in 1492
Wattlings Island
- Amerigo Vespucci who identified America belonged to
Italy
- The petition submitted American colonists before king George III of England in 1774
Olive Branch Petition
- The Queen who was known as Madam Deficit
Mary Antoinet (France)
- Oath of Tennis Court is related to
French Revolution
- Water Loo where Napoleon was defeated is situated in
Near Brussels in Belgium
- Napoleon Bonaparte was died in the year
1821
- Who is considered as the father of Scientific Socialism
Karl Marx
- Work which is considered as the birth cry of modern socialism
Communist Manifesto
- 'Open Door Policy' was introduced by
USA
- The rebellion led by the peasants of Kenya against the British
Mau-Mau-Rebellion
- Russian Parliament was known as
Duma
- Spy organisation formed by Germany during the second world war
Fifth Columnists
- The policy of USA which helped Britain and France during the Second World War
Cash and Carry Policy
- Party which became prominent in Britain after the Second World War
Labour Party
- Trojan horse tactics was the policy adopted during the Second World War by
Germany
- Leader of Indonesian Nationalism
Dr. Sukarno
- Vietnam's freedom struggle was led by
Ho Chi Minh
- Who banned 'Shake Hand' in Italy in 1930
Benito Mussolini
- Saudi Arabian king who gave the name to the country in 1925
Abdul Aziz Sand
- Persia came to be known as Iran from
9th March 1935
- Symbol accepted by Hitler for German national flag
Swastika
- Lover of Hitler
Iva Brown
- Country ousted from League of Nations in 1939
U.S.S.R
- Hitler and his wife Iva Brown committed suicide in
30 April 1945
- Mussolini and his wife Claretta were killed by the Italian Guerillas in
28 April 1945
- Which city is called by its natives as 'The Big Apple'
New York
- Who questioned the Sale of Indulgence
Martin Luther
- Founder of Salvation Army
William Booth
- Who killed Abraham Lincoln in 1865
Wilks Booth
- Princess Diana was killed in a car accident in Paris on 31 August 1997.
- Communist leader who proclaimed war with Cuban ruler Batista in 1958
Fidel Castro
- The Great fire of London was in the year 1666.
- Chinese President who adopted Christianity in 1980
Chiang Kaishek
- Mussolini was captured and killed at
Como
- Founder of Comintang Party -
Dr. Sunyat Sen