Do you Know?

**Largest ad library** - Mudra Communication set up an online advertising library-Magindia at Ahmedabad Gujarat in 2000. A net-for-profit centre, it acts as the national level library of Indian marketing and advertising history. Magindia.com has a collection of two lakh ads spanning over 10 years across different product categories in its offline archive and 20,000 agency creatives across 550 plus product categories, 2000 plus brands and multi-media segments in their online archive.

Since inception, Magindia.com has won 52 international web awards based on various criteria like content, information provided, design, layout and easy navigation. It has a registered user base of 15,000 members of which, around 200 members are from ad agencies, corporate houses and business schools.

**First 24-hour University library** - The Central Library of the Aligarh Muslim University set up in 1870 (renamed as Maulana Azad Library in 1960) was converted into a 24-hr library in May 1995. For 7 years, the library remained open round the clock except for 3 hour break on Friday afternoons but in 2001, it was made into an 18-hr library. Now it opens for 24 hrs during the months of annual exams. The library is known for its valuable collection of 14,571 rare Arabic, Persian and Urdu manuscripts besides its vast collection on various topics.

**First 24-hour general library** - The Indian library at Thane, Maharashtra founded by Sanjeev Malhotra was inaugurated on Sept. 6, 1996. It is the country's first 24 hrs library open day and night on all 365 days of the year. The 6,000 sq ft. complex has books on all subjects and when the reference book is not in stock, the library orders in instantly on demand with no cost to the researcher. Besides the reading room, the library is equipped with computers for online retrieval of information, recreational facilities, conference room, canteen facility etc. Open to anyone educated till SSC or above, the members pay a yearly subscription to avail the facility.

**Parliament library** - The collection of the Parliament Library Reference Research Documentation & Information Service earlier located at Parliament House, New Delhi were shifted into the Sansadiya Gyanpeeth in 2002. The first post independence construction at Raisina Hill, New Delhi, the new Parliment library inaugurated on May 13, 2002 was conceptualised and given impetus by erstwhile Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao in 1992. An airconditioned complex with a capacity to store 30 lakh books and journals, it is a broadcast hub and has a 1,100 seat auditorium with camera facility, teleconferencing, screen projections etc. Besides several reading rooms. R.K. Chandha took over as the first Director of the Sansadiya Gyanpeeth.

Raj Rewal, the architect of the 200 crore complex designed the state of the art facility in such a fashion that it merged into the surroundings without taking away from the earlier construction despite being modern in all aspects. Its four storied asymmetric mandala with nine glass topped domes stands two basement deep and two above the surface. It took CPWD nine years to construct the Dhopur stone, glass
and steel edifice.

**First live quiz** - Neil O’ Brien, Father of quizzing, after watching quizzes on TV in England in the 1960s, brought the concept to India in 1967. He emceed the Eddie Hyde Memorial Quiz Contest 1967 in the small parish hall of ‘Christ the King’ in Kolkata before 40 people. The open live quiz with four teams comprised of members from various walks of life who took up the mindsport as a challenge and brought live quizzing into fashion in the country. The Eddie Hyde Memorial Shield was won by the hosts.

**First sponsored live quiz** - The JS Lipton 1973 Open Quiz conducted by Jug Suraiya and Sadhan Banerjee at Kolkata in 1973 was sponsored by Junior Statement from the Statesmen Group.

First national level sponsored quiz _ In 1978, The North Star Quiz sponsored by Bata was started in Kolkata going national in 1982. Quiz buff from all over India competed to win the North Star Trophy (and the shoes that went with the prizes). When it started, the quiz was conducted by Sadhan Bannerjee but was taken over by Derek O’ Brien in 1988. It is no longer held.

**WR : Longest running school quiz** - Bournvita Quiz Contest Which started as a quiz on radio in 1972 changed its format of presentation in 1993 and the quizzes were conducted live in schools in six metropolitan cities. In 1994, it became a weekly televised show anchored by Derek O’ Brien and continuously ran on Zee TV till 2001 after which it shifted to Sony. Asia's largest quiz and the quiz show with most episodes, it has already reached out to 11.5 lakh students directly through Derek O' Brien & Associates, covering 4,000 schools across 66 cities in India and six other Asian countries.

**First national management games** - The All India Management Association (AIMA) launched the National Management Games (NMG) in 1992 for corporate managers to test and display their decision making skills. Although the games are not strictly question-answer based, they fall into the broad category of knowledge based tests, offering team based learning approach under competitive conditions covering diverse sets of business issues, both relevant and topical. More than 40,000 managers from over 500 organisations from public and private sectors have participated in these annual games.

In 2001, four major locations : Kolkata, Bangalore, Mumbai and New Delhi sent 80 teams. Tata Steel and Siemens, adjudged the top team in the competition went on to participate in the Regional Management Games (RMG) for Asian countries in Kuala Lumpur. In 2000, ONGC had finished runner-up at RMG 2000 held in Hongkong. Earlier, in 1997, the national winners MMTC were runner-up in Asian Management Games (AMG) 97 held at Perth, Western Australia and in 1998, national winners ONGC won the AMG 98.

**First Quiz on Independent India** - India Quiz, a 21- part quiz on independent India for youth from every state in the country produced and anchored by Siddhartha
Basu in 1995 was telecast on DD-1.

First Quizzing in jail - Jawab-Lajawab, a multimedia computer generated quiz organised at the Tihar Jail by NGO Ritanjali on Dec. 15, 1997 was produced by Siddhartha Basu's Synergy Communications and conducted by Gajaraj Rao. About 1,500 juvenile offenders and inmates of Jail No. 5 took part. The quiz had eight rounds of G.K. audio-visual and language based questions. The winners were Kishore and Yoginder, both 19 and Govind, the youngest at 16.

First money-back gimmick - In 1950, when the Dev Anand-Madhubala starrer Nirala was released, the makers declared a money-back scheme if the viewers didn't like the film. After happily watching it, the crowds decided they didn't like it and there was such a rush to take the money back that the guarantee was limited to just the first day.

First woman filmmaker - The first woman to produce, direct and script films in the silent era was actress Fatma Begum. She formed the Fatma Film Corporation in 1925 along with her daughters Zubeida and Sultana, who were well known stars of their time. Her first production, Bulbule Pakistan was released in 1926.

PIONEERING ATTEMPTS

First moving images - Mahadeo Rao Patwardhan's magic lantern show Shambarik Khadolika in 1892 in Mumbai.

First ticketed show - Shambarik Khadolika with tickets organised in 1894 at Mumbai. First screening of motion pictures - France's Lumiere brothers, Louis and Auguste, showed their films in India July 7, 1896 at Watson's Hotel, Mumbai. Gate price was Rs.1.

First films shown - On July 7, 1896 six short silent films were screened at Watson's Hotel, Mumbai-Entry of Cinematographe, Arrival of a Train, Sea Bath, A Demolition, Workers leaving the Factory and Ladies and Soldiers on Wheels. On the fourth day, six new items were shown including the comedy Baby's Dinner.

First film shot in India - Coconut Fair was shot in 1897 by an unknown foreign cameraman. The flower of Persia - a short dancing scene from the Bengali Oera - was made and shown at Star Theatre, Kolkata, on Feb. 9, 1898. First film shot on location - Harishchandra S.Bhatavadekar shorts - The Wrestlers featuring about and Man & Monkey about a juggler training monkeys - using an imported Riley camera, were both released in Nov. 1899.

First indigenous feature film - Dadasaheb Phalke's 50 minute, 3,700 ft long, four reel long Raja Harishchandra released at the Coronation Theatre on May 3, 1913 along with four imported short films making up a 90 minute show. First premiere - D.G. Phalke's Raja Harishchandra at Mumbai's Olympia on April 21, 1913.

Trend setting director - Director Bimal Roy (1909-66) entered films as a cameraman with New Theatres Pvt. Ltd. Where he photographed films Devdas (1935) and
Mukti (1937). His first film as director was Udayer Pathey (1944) in Bengali which was remade as Humrahi (1945) in Hindi. Migrating to Mumbai after collapse of New Theatres he directed several films for Bombay Talkies. His best known works are Do Bigha Zameen (1953), Devdas (1955) and Madhumati (1958).

Madhumati was the first film that had its muhurat outside India-in Czechoslovakia in 1956 with Dilip Kumar in the lead role.


First Box office hit - Phalke's Lanka Dahan (1917) ran for 23 weeks in Mumbai. It is on record that the money collected at the counters had to be transported in bullock carts with armed guards.

First co-production - Kolkata's Madan Theatres' Savitri (1924), co-produced with U.C. Italiana of Rome on location in Italy. Italian actors played Hindu mythological roles.

First acclaimed abroad - Himanshu Rai's Indo-German co-production Light of Asia (1925) theatrically released in UK and other European cities.

First silver jubilee film - Silent film kapala Kundala (1929) at Kolkata.

First golden jubilee film - Sant Tukaram (Marathi) in 1936 ran for over a year.

First to employ foreign directors - J.F. Madan, owner of Madan Theatres, Kolkata invited Italian director Eugenio De Liguoro to direct Nala Damyanti (1920). Liguoro directed six other films for Madan Theatres.

First foreign heroine: Suchet Singh used Dorothy Kingdom in Shakuntala in 1920.

First distributed worldwide: Merchant Ivory Production (MIP) first feature, The Householder, was the first Indian film distributed worldwide by American Major, Columbia Pictures. MIP is a partnership between Mumbai born Ismail Merchant and U.K. born James Ivory.

First film posters: Babura Painter (1890-1954), a leading painter of stage backdrops between 1910 and 1916 in Maharashtra was the first to issue programme booklets complete with details of the film and photographs in 1921-22 and was the first to paint posters of his films-his earliest known work being a poster for his film Maya Bazar, (also known as Vastala Haran) in 1923.

First lady of Indian Cinema-Devika Rani, grand niece of Rabindranath Tagore was studying architecture in London in the 1920s when she was introduced to films through Himanshu Rai. She started out designing the sets of Rai's first production Light of Asia (1925). After her marriage to him in 1933, they made A Throw of Dice (1929) with German collaboration and the bilingual Karma (1933) with Devika Rani in the lead. They set up Bombay Talkies Studio in 1934 and by 1935 started producing Hindi films of very high technical standard beginning with Jawani ki Hawa (1935), a murder mystery. Devika Rani played the lead in most of these early production.

First playback - Debaki Bose introduced playback singing in Puran Bhakta of New
Theatres in 1932. K.C. Dey, the blind singer sang for the actors under the music direction of R.C. Boral.

Costly Why .. ?? Raju Chacha (2001), directed by debutant Anil Devgan cost upward of Rs. 30 crore. The movie's major sequences were filmed on the sets of a palatial bungalow which reportedly cost Rs. 4 crore. Constructed in Mumbai in 14 months, it took 94 trucks to transport the set to Ooty and assemble the 14 room bungalow there in two months' time. Occupying about 1,10,000 Sq ft of land, the flooring of the house had gigantic snakes and ladders and a chess board. Aquariums on the pillars, a large piano, a tiny toy train carrying food items on the dining table added to her gimmicks. The entire architecture was created with G.I. pipes like Holywood movie sets unlike traditional Indian sets which use cardboard and PVC. The four minute title song sequence shot at RR Studios, Mumbai 4,000 children.

EXTRAVAGANZA

Mughal-e-Azam, completed in 1960 after its making cost Rs. 1.5 crore. Tailors were brought from Delhi, Hyderabad goldsmiths made the jewellery, Kolhapur craftsmen the crowns, Rajasthani ironsmiths fabricated the shields, swords, spears, dagger and armour, specialists from surat Khambavar were employed for the exquisite Zardosi embroidery on the costumes while the elaborate footwear was ordered from Agra.

Premiered simultaneously in 150 theatres all over the country the film became the biggest money grosser of the time. Its piece-de-resistance was the famous 'Sheesh Mahal' or Palace of Mirrors-a technical challenge for cinematographer Rameshwar Dayal Mathur. The set full of mirrors posed lighting problems. After much trial and error Mathur used bounce lighting instead of direct lighting where more than a 100 reflectors were suspended on the sets. The lights were hidden behind pillars and arches. Songs were shot on the set in colour and the exposed film sent to Techicolor Ltd. in London for processing. The results were amazing. The film won the Filmfare Award for Best Cinematography,

Devdas: At over Rs. 65 Crore, Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Devdas is the most expensive Indian film ever made. Its stunning costumes, amazing light effects and camerawork showcase the opulent sets created specifically for the film. Keeping the ambience of the 1930's, Devdas' house was outlent with 180 huge pillars, each 60 ft high. The largest set and perhaps the costliest ever made in Indian history was Chandramukhi's mirror-bedecked, gold pillared kotha. Created in a Mumbai studio around lake, as the kotha was to be in 'Benaras' overlooking the 'Ganga', it had 60 explicitly carved domes with a six foot tall chandelier.

For costumes, designers Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla sourced vintage suits, cravats, handkerchiefs and shoes from old clothing stores in London. Madhuri Dixit's costumes were inspired by the Kolkata of the 1930s and 1940s when heavy brocades were in bogue. Abu-Sandeep designed two costumes for Chandramukhi the courtesan, weighing 30 kilos and 16 kilos respectively, the heaviest lehngas worn in Indian cinema.
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history.

for Paro, Neeta Lulla and Sanjay Leela Bhansali bought around 600 sarees from Kolkata and mixed and matched them to create unique designs. Each saree was a minimum of 8-9 yards instead of the normal 6 yards and took approximately three hours to be pleated. In fact Neeta Lulla picked up authentic antique sarees which were as much as 80 years old or more. The biggest challenge lay in making the ensemble look antiquated. The cinematographer was Binod Kumar Pradhan and the art director was Nitin Chandrakant Desai. Pandit Birju Maharaj of the Lucknow Gharana choreographed the he dances. The film won rave reviews of Cannes.

Songless sagas : J.B.H. Wadia's Naujawan released in 1937 had no songs as it was meant to be a pure thriller. A special trailer explained it to the audience. The film however had a dedicated music director Master mohammad who composed the background score.


Ram Gopal Verma made a songless Kaun in 1999.

**SOUND & SONG**

**Lata-less, he climbed** - The only music director in over three decades who succeeded without Lata Mangeshkar singing for him was O.P. Nayyar. In 1954, O.P. Nayyar replaced the Lata Mangeshkar loyalist, Roshan (father of Rakesh Roshan) in Aar Paar. A furious Lata swore never to sing for O.P. till he took back Roshan. O.P. Nayyar refused and went on to see huge success.

**Most Songs** : Indra Sabha released in 1932 had as many as 71 songs. It was produced by Madan Theatre, Kolkata and directed by J.J. Madan. The film starred Master Nissar, Jahan Ara, Kazzam, Miss Silvasia and others.

Sangeetha Lava Kusa (Tamil, 1930) had 70 songs with almost every character bursting into a song.

**First English song** - Now the moon her light has shed...' from the Hindi film Karma (1933) was sung by Devika Rani under the baton of music Ernest Broadhurst. Directed by T.J.F. Hunt, the star cast included Devika Rani, Himanshu Rai and Devan Sharar.

**First Playback** - Debaki Bose introduced playback singing in Puran Bhakta of New Theatres in 1932. K.C. Dey, the blind singer sang for the actors under the music direction of R.C. Boral.

**First dubbed film** - Akashi Toofan, filmed in Europe produced by Pioneer films was dubbed in Urdu and released in October 1933.

**First Hollywood film dubbed in Hindi** - Jurassic park, a 1993 Hollywood blockbuster dubbed in Hindi collected more than Rs. 1 crore in each of the six major territories it was released in the mid 1994.

**Three double role in a film** - Govinda, Kader Khan and Raj Babbar played double
roles in Aankhen (1993).

**Triple roles** - Three roles of grandfather, father and son were enacted first by Dilip Kumar in Bairag and later by Amitabh Bachchan in Mahaan.

First English film with Indians - Karma (1933), shot in England, was the first film made entirely in English by Indian starring the legendary husband-wife pair Himanshu Rai and Devika Rani.

**First women on screen** - Durgabai and her daughter Kamlabai Gokhale acted in Phalke's second film Mohini Bhasmasur in 1913.

**First child stars** - Phalke's son Bhalchandra, who played the king's son Rohit in Raja Haishchandra (1913) and daughter Mandakini who played the child Krishna in Krishna Janam (1918) was the first child artist to win acclaim.

**Most hated mother-in-law** - The most hated-in-law portrayer, Lalita Pawar, besides having acted in 500 films also produced a film Kailash in which she played a triple role of the heroine, vamp, and mother in the silent era. In 1937, she produced a talkie titled Duniya Kya Hai. Born Amba Laxman Rao Sagun in 1916, she contributed to over seven decades of films in Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Marwari, Tamil, Bengali and Bhojpuri. The ravishing beauty of the silent movies had to enact 'hated' roles in the talkies, simply because of an unfortunate incident during the enactment of a scene which resulted in facial paralysis and an impairment of her eyesight. Lalita Pawar passed away in 1998.

**WR : First one-actor, one-set film** - Sunil Dutt's Yaadein (1964) featured just himself emoting on one set.

**All male cast** - Adoor Gopalkrishnan's 1990 release Mathilukal (Walls) had no women in the cast.

**Only all woman film** - Govind Nihalani's Rukmabai Ki Haveli starring Pallavi Joshi and Kittu Gidwani did not have a single male character.

**WR : Most roles as Police Inspector** - Jagdish Raj donned the inspector's uniform for the first time in CID (1952). subsequently, he enacted the same role in 144 films.

**Most roles in mythologicals** - N.T. Rama Rao acted as Rama, Krishna, Vishnu and other gods in 42 Telugu and Tamil mythologicals. His last appearance was as Viswamitra in the magnum opus of the same name.


**Three generations in a film** - In 1951, three generations of the Kapoor family acted in Awara-Rather Dewn Bisheshwar, son Prithviraj and grandsons Raj and Shashi Kapoor. Again in 1971, Prithviraj, Raj and Randhir Kapoor acted in Kal Aaj aur Kal.

Father Geoffrey Kendall, daughter Jennifer and grand daughter Sanjana acted in 36 Chouringhee Lane.

**Film with most newcomers** - Sony Pictures Entertainment's Pyar Mein Kabhi Kabhi (1999) had 118 newcomers in the star cast and production team. It launched
heroine Rinke Khanna and model Dino Morea as hero.

WR : Most disguises - Sulochana (Ruby M. Ayers) wore nine different get-ups, dresses, hairstyles for one character in a film called Bambai ki Billi (Wildcat of Bambay). The silent version was made in 1927 and the talkie in 1936. Both versions starred Sulochana and were made by Imperial Film Co.

Four generations of actresses - The Samarth family has given four generations of actresses to Indian cinema. Great grandmother Shilotri acted in the Marathi film Swarajasya Simewa. Her daughter Shobhana Samarth (d.2000) made her debut with the Marathi film Vilasi Ishwar and in 1935 in the Hindi film Nikah-e-Nafrat opposite Master Vinayak. Her daughters Nutan and Tanuja remained popular for many years. Nutan's son Mohnish Bahl acted in several films and Tanuja's daughter Kajol made her maiden debut with the 1992 film Bekhudi.

Longest innings as a hero - Dev Anand (b.sept. 26, 1923) celebrated his golden jubilee in Indian films in 1995. He has been playing the much loved hero as well as anti hero from his first role in Hum Ek Hain in 1945.

Oldest book shop - Higinbothams was opened in Chennai in 1844 by Abel Joshua Higginbotham. It is the biggest retail book outlet with the most modern shelving system and stocks journals and periodicals from over 3,000 publishing houses in India and abroad.

Largest book store - Sapna Book House, Gandhinagar, Bangalore, started in 1967 by Suresh C. Shah, is spread over 20,000 sq. ft. and has over 1,00,000 titles. A leading publisher of books with over 1,300 titles by reputed authors, it has the largest collection of Kannada literature. They also sell books, music albums and multimedia CE-Roms through the website www.sapnaonline.com

Sports book store - The Marine Sports bookshop, established in Mumbai in 1946, is a specialised shop stocking only books on sports. It has over 15,000 titles ranging from archery to yoga. With 6,50,000 copies and their own website, the firm has over 4,500 regular and 19,000 customers.

Unique book store - Phoenix Library at Pune, established by J.N. Ponda on Oct. 25, 1959 runs on a unique system. The pages of the books have clippings about the book and the author such as reviews etc. pasted on them. The library had 29,000 books in English and Marathi containing 2,60,000 pasted and 4,00,000 unpasted clippings and 1,025 notebooks with related clippings as on july 31, 2002.

Ponda writes ads on books and magazines in his library. So far he has written over 22,000 such ads.

AWARDS

First Nobel Prize winner - Rabindranath Tagore won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913.

in 2002.

WR : Mini holy books - Prof. Jagadish Shukla of Bangalore has three of the smallest holy books. His Bhagavad Gita measures 2.2cm x 4cm x 0.3cm and weighs only 1.3 gm but contains the complete text in Sanskrit running into 112 pages. Published by Pooja Prakashan, Delhi, he had bought the book some 20 years earlier for Rs. 10. The Quran in his possession is 1.8cm x 2.6 cm x 0.6cm and weighs 2.36 gm. The 323 page book has the complete text in Arabic. The Bible measures 2.8 cm x 3.4 cm x 1.0cm and weighs 11.75 gm. The complete text in English runs into 1,514 pages.


First music school - V.D. Paluskar set up the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya at Lahore in 1901.

Largest congregation of classical musicians - The Thyagaraja Aradhana Festival, held every Jan.-Feb. on the banks of the river Cauvery at Thiruvayar in Tamil Nadu brings together over 1,000 renowned classical music artists from across the globe. As a mark of respect to the great master, the Pancharatna (five gems) kritis are rendered in unison by all the artists on the Aradhana day-the day he attained Samadhi. The nadaswaram artists start off the festival, followed by veena, flute and violin after which comes the grand performance by all artists (vocalists and instrumentalists) together.

Youngest drummer - Siddharth Nagarajan, b. Sept. 25, 1977 of Chennai gave his first live performance on drums on April 14, 2000 when he was just 2.5 years. He has given several public performances since then. Born to a cine rhythmist father and singer mother, Siddharth has had his initiation from renowned drummer Sivamani and is trained by Gopal. He is able not only to identify all rhythms and percussion instruments but compose his own rhythm on the spot.

Darshan Shailesh (b. Jan. 16, 1986) of Mumbai had also begun playing drums when he was two and given several public performances.

Youngest Grade-IV on keyboard - Master K Sathyanarayanan, b. Feb. 1, 1995 of Chennai who plays Carnatic classical music on the keyboard can perform solo concerts for more than an hour. He is able to identify about 30 Carnatic ragas. He also heads a musical troupe called Rhythm & Raga.

At six, he passed the Fourth Grade Electronic Keyboard examination conducted by Trinity College, London in Sept. 2001. Earlier he had cleared the initial level solo piano examination in oct.1999 when he was four and the second grade electronic keyboard exam in August 2000.

Identify ragas - three-year-old Devulapalli Lakshmi Prachotan (b. Feb.5 1999) of Hyderabad is able to identify 144 carnatic ragas. On April 13, 2002 he proved his ability at a public performance held at Nehru Bal Bhavan, Hyderabad, where some music teacher tested his proficiency in identifying ragas. Pra-chotan had in fact started identifying ragas at two.

WR : Non stop singing - Pastor S. jeyaseelan of the Apostolic fellowship tabernacel at kuthukal valsai in Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu sang non-stop for 262
hour from April 22 - May 3, 1989.

Fastest singing of Ramcharitmanas - Shiva Ratan 'Ramrang' of Chiniahva Inara in Mirzapur, U.P. completed singing the Ramcharitmanas continuously in six hours 15 minutes at the Allahabad Maghmela on Feb. 20, 2002. While singing, he also played the harmonium himself.

Longest recorded song - A 90 minute song about 51 Devi Shakti Peethas (temples), written by R.K. Pashaan and composed by Jeetu-Tapam, was sung by Mahendra Kapoor, Alka Yagnik and Kavita Krishnamurthy for a video film produced by Mahavir Jain.

Youngest Singer - Baby Alka Ajit of Thalassery, Kerala is only four years old but has already given about 340 stage programmes and cut a musical album titled I Love My India in 2001. She started singing at the age of 2.5 years and has sung over 2,000 songs in eight different languages so far. Born in a family of musicians, Alka started learning songs by listening to her father singing and has already memorised about 1,500 songs. She won the Millenium Best Baby Singer award from the UNESCO Club of Repalle in Jan. 2002.

Non-stop harmonium recital - Nayan M. Vaishnav of Junagadh, Gujarat played the harmonium non-stop for 17 hours from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. on March 18, 2001.

Longest tabla recital - Chandan Chatterjee of Aligarh, ended a non-stop tabla recital of 36 hours on June 10, 1990. He played solo but as an accompaniment for geet, ghazal, bhajan and Hindi songs in the session.

WR: Only woman pakhawaj player - Chitrangana Agle Reswal of Indore play 350 varieties of taal on her pakhawaj. She often plays non-stop for over two hours.

WR: Longest/smallest flutes - Dinesh Shandilya of Agra, U.P. made a flute out of PVC, measuring 5 ft in length and 3.5 inches in diameter. He also plays the smallest flute 4.5 inch long.

Rohit Anand of Delhi made a six inch bamboo flute, named Anand Vanshi which can play classical music up to two octaves.

First dance schools - Santiniketan, founded in 1901 by Rabindranath Tagore, has a department of dance and music called Kalabhavan.

Kalakshetra, the premier school for classical dance, was founded in 1931 at Adayar, Chennai by Rukmini Devi Arundale. It was established in 1936 as The International Academy of Arts and the first dance production was Kutrala Kuravanji.

First revivalist dance school - Kerala Kalamandalam was founded in 1930 by the poet Vallathol Narayana Menon to re establish Kathakali as a major regional theatre art. He also revived Mohiniyattam which was in existenct in the early 18th century.

First academy for performing arts - Sangeet Natak Akademi the national academy of music, dance and drama was set up in 1953.

First full length Kathak dance drama - Malati Madhvam, choreographed by Lachhu and Birju Maharaj with music composed by the Dagar brothers was presented by the Bharatiya Kala Kendra in 1957.
WR : Non-stop Kathak - Padma Shri Gopi Krishan (1933-94), a great exponent of Kathak, had performed the dance form continuously for nine hours and 20 minutes.

First performance abroad - Uday Shankar choreographed Radha Krishna with Anna Pavlova in the mid-1920s. His composition, Kalpana, is India's first ballet film and contains a number of dance sequences.

Dancing on wires - A Nirmala Mandahas (b. Oct. 11, 1992) of Visakhapatnam danced on suspended wires with a plate under his feet on April 21, 2002. The new dance form named Tantri Taranga Natya Vinyasam was choreographed by his mother Vijaya Jyothi by combining Tantri Natyam (dancing on the wires) and Tarangam (dancing on a plate.)

WR : Only visually impaired dance group - Natyanjali School of Dance in Bangalore was founded by Ashok Kumar in 1986. Using a special technique called Touch and Feel, Ashok has trained 40 visually impaired boys and girls, thirty of whom were given professional training. The troupe has given 750 performances in India and 250 abroad.

WR : Longest Tongue - Poloju Madana Chary, 38 f Warangal, A.P. and Satyendra Kumar Garg, 25, of Jaipur are ften tongue-tied. That's not because they are shy or reserved. It's just that their tongue is soing that it gets tied up in knots.

Satyendra, whose tongue is slightly linger at 10.5 cm, in fact, keeps about 3 cm of the tip rolled up ! Madana Chary's tongue is 10.25 cm (4 inches) against a 'normal' tongue that is usually between 6.5-6.8 long.

And even children are not far behind. Nitya Iyer of Indore is only 10 but her tongue is 92 mm.

Approximately 4 inches ! She can touch her nose as well as her neck with the trip of her tongue !

Tallest Man - Vicki, 15, of Delhi stands 7 ft 10 inch tall.

Tallest couple - Sharad and sanjor Kulkarni of Pune are 2.18 m (7ft 2 inches) and 1.9 m (6ft 3 inches) respectively.

WR : Longest moustache - Kalyan Ramji Saini of Rajasthan grew a moustache 3.39 m (11.11ft) long.

Longest hair - Mata Jagadamba (b. August 10, 1913) of Jjain, has hair 14 ft 4 inch long.

WR : Longest Fingernails - Shridhar M. Chillal (b. 1937) of Pune Maharashatra, has a combined nail length of 6.15 m (262 inches) on his left hand grown since 1952.

WR : Memory Plus - G. Uday Shankar (b. 19, 1984) of Nizamabad, A.P. can recite 30 random binary digits from memory in correct order after they are flashed on a computer screen for three sec, surpassing the world record set by Gert Mittring of Germany (27 digits in three sec). He can also recall 100 random binary digits in 4 minutes. If 50 words are given, he takes 4 minutes to recall them in any order.

Identifying Number of Letters - Give A.R. Raghuraman f Chennai the longest word possible and he instantly says how many letters it contains ! At a demonstration
on May 18, 2002, at Chennai, Raghuraman took 31.75 sec. to enumerate the letters in 25 words. All words had a minimum of 11 letters, the longest being 'incomprehensibility' with 19 letters and others of 16 letters like 'telecommunications, responsibilities', 'parliamentarians' etc.


**Most on a Motorcycle** - Capt. S. Das of the Army Service Corps Carried 32 people for 400 m on a single 350 cc Enfield Bullet Motorcyle at Bangalore on Dec. 7,200.

**WR : 47 members of the Army Corps of Brasilia, Brazil, on a 1200 cc Harley Davidson on Dec. 15, 1995.**

**WR : Fastest Motorcycle Pyramid** - A 15-member team of the ASC Tornadoes made a human pyramid on three bikes and covered a distance of one km on a circular track in min 15 sec on Dec. 7, 2000 at Bangalore.

**Wiggling ears** - Jagdish Kumar Malik of Samalkha Haryana continuously wiggled his ears for 18 hours at a stretch on June 25, 2001. He averaged a speed of 180 wiggles per minute for both ears.

**Roatating Eyeballs** - Shilpi Kapoor, 21, of Agra rotates her eyeballs at virtually lightning speed. She is able to do this for hours together without any visible strain on the eyes.

**Hands Ratation Around Body** - Ved Prakash Sharma of Bhiwani, Haryana keeps his hands clasped around his body, while slipping his feet and entire body through them. On June 24, 2002, he did this 54 times in one minute.

**ENDURANCE**

**WR : Non-stop Reading** - Balmukund Korla of Chamunda Tehsil in Dharmsala, Himachal Pradesh read aloud the Rudrashatadhayayi from the Shuklayajurveda for 28 hours 25 minutes starting May 4, 2001 at 1:20 p.m. finishing May 5 at 5:45 p.m. He beat the previous word record by 3 hours 25 minutes.

**Marathon Writing** - S. Anand of Salem wrote continuously for 73 hours from 11:15 a.m. on Dec. 28, 2001 to 12:15 p.m. on Dec. 31, 2001. He wrote 820 pages comprising 16,020 lines from the writings of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Swami Vivekananda and other great leaders of India.

**WR : Marathon Typing** - Ratnesh Kumar of Allahabad typed non-stop for 245 hours between Nov. 26 Dec. 6, 2000. Taking a break of 3 hr after every 18 hours, he keyed in chapters from Nehru's Discovery of India.

**WR : Marathon Typing on PC** - Mahesh Kumar (25) of Chandigarh typed non-stop on a PC for 31 hr from 203 printed pages from the Selected Works of Vivekananda. Starting on May 7, 1998 at 11:15 a.m. he finished the following day at 6:15 p.m.

**Backward Walking** - D. Muniappan Raju of Salem, 33, back walked 22 km in 3 hr 29 min 59 sec. from 6:52 a.m. to 10:22 p.m. from Brahma Kumaris Shantivan Com-
plex, Abu Road to Brahma Kumaries Academy, Gyan Sarovar, Mount Abu without a break on April 26, 2002.

**PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

**Oldest Extant School** - While education was imparted through gurukuls and pathshalas in ancient times, schooling as we know of today, began only in the 18th century. St. Mary's Church, Charity School was established in 1715 in the vestry of St Mary's Church, Fort St George, Chennai, with 30 children with Rev. W. Stevenson as principal. The school was later shifted to Shenoy Nagar in 1904 and took its present name - St George's School and Orphanage-in 1954.

**Earliest Schools for Girls** - Oldest school in West Bengal and the second oldest in India, St. Thomas School for Girls founded in 1789 for the English Speaking community of Kolkata, was the first girls only school. Along with St. Thomas' Boys' School, it shares a 21 acre campus with residential facilities and now has a total of 2,300 students.

Calcutta Female Juvenile Society Organised by the Baptist Mission founded the first school for Indian girls with eight students at Gauribari, Kolkata in 1819.

**Most Playgrounds** - The Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College, Dehradun, now the Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) was founded on March 13, 1992 to provide preliminary training to boys of Indian birth or domicile wishing to become officers in the Armed Forces of India. In addition to the excellent academic standards, it has seven football and hockey grounds, three squash courts, two tennis courts with a practice wall, a swimming pool, three basketball courts and a gymnasium for the use of cadets.

**Only Biannual Passing out** - Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC), Dehradun is the only school-level institution in India where CBSE exams for Class X and XII are conducted twice a year, in May and November.

**First Boarding School in Hills** - In the 1840s, the great schools numbered not more than half a dozen in England, and Eton, the largest, catered for fewer than 500 boys. In India, there were a handful of private schools and Military Asylums, educating the children of their neighbourhood rather than the public at large. Woodstock School at Mussoorie opened in 1854 is the earliest-known boarding school for boys and girls in Asia. With dormitories spread out over the hills, it offers a college preparatory programme leading to an American high school diploma, the Advanced Placement Examinations and Cambridge University IGCSE examinations.

**First Registered Indian Public School** - The doon School, Dehradun, India's first registered public school was visualised by Satish Ranjan Das, an eminent barrister and a member of the Executive Council of the Viceroy of India who chose his English Public school system as a model for providing good education in India. He registered the Indian Companies Act in 1929. However, his wife set up the Doon School in Sept. 1935 as he passed away earlier.
First Indian Public School for Girls - Maharani Gayatri Devi School established at Jaipur on July 3, 1943 by Maharani Gayatri Devi, wife of Sawai Jai Singh started out with six teachers and a batch of 40 students.

First National Education Council - All India Council for Secondary Education (AICSE) was set up in 1955.

Largest Indian School Outside India - The Indian High School, Dubai, the first expatriate educational institution to be established in 1957, is the oldest and largest Indian Educational institutions outside India. Starting out as Bharatiya Vidyalaya, with eight students on its roll, it was set up on land granted by His Highness Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed Ali Maktoum, late ruler of Dubai. Today, the school has about 8,500 students.

WR : Largest School - The City Montessori School (CMS) Lucknow was founded in 1959 by Jagdish Gandhi and Bharti Gandhi with only five students. Today, it is the world's largest private school in a single city with 21 branches spread over Lucknow and 25,826 students on its rolls. It practices the Montessori method of pre-school education.

From the 1998-99 session, a new CMS Degree College for Girls offers courses in Science and Arts.

Largest Coaching Institute - Sachdeva New P.T. College has more than 82 centers in different parts of the country, coaching over a lakh students every year in various competitive as well as academic examinations. The first institution of its kind in the country, it was established in Lahore (now in Pakistan) in 1940 and subsequently shifted to Chawri Bazar, Delhi in 1947. With branches in most major cities, it has now expanded its centers to Kathmandu, Nepal.

WR : Youngest Post graduate - Born on Sept. 9, 1887 Tathagat Avatar Tulshi of Bihar passed the B.Sc. examination with honours in Physics from Science College, Patna at 11 years, 2 months to go on to pass M.Sc. on Nov. 28, 1999 at 12 years, 2 months.

First ISO Certified School - The Presentation Convent school, New Delhi was awarded the ISO 9001 and ISO 4001 certificates for quality service and for adopting effective environment protection by the British Standards Institute (BSI) in August 2001, Quality enhancement in all classrooms, laboratories, library etc and a policy of minimal interference with nature has been adopted under Principal of Sister Phyllis.

First Survey by School Children - On April 10, 1802, Col. William Lambton began the Great Arc survey-the longest measurement of earth's surface by mapping the whole Indian subcontinent. On his death, the survey was completed by George Everest. To celebrate the bicentenary of the Great Arc, the Surveyor General of India. Dr. P. Nag flagged off a treasure quest from India Gate, New Delhi on April 10, 2002 by the children of various schools of Delhi. The clues were hidden all over Delhi's historical landmarks, pointing out the archaeological relevance of monuments. The cryptic clues
had to be cracked through use of magnetic compasses and measurements of distances were through calibrated steps to enable the children to understand the process of surveying and mapping.

Tagore International, Vasant Vihar's Green team represented by Anshu Agrawal, Manu Kak, Madhu Parikh and Nilotpal won the quest. Ludlow Castle, first runner-up was followed by Kendriya Vidyalaya and Modern School, Barakhamba Road.

**The School with one Student** - The MCD (Municipal Corporation of Delhi) run school at Dariba Kalan, New Delhi has had only one student, Shantanu Sharma since 2000, the highest class in the school which he failed in March 2001. The school has a staff of three headmistress Raj jain, teacher Liaquat Ali and Chowkidar Om Rao. Chowkidar for 40 years, he says the school has been better days, brimming full with students. The irony-just thee kms away, another MCD school Shantivan has 400 students squeezed into one class.

**WR : Youngest Matriculate** - Soupati Divya Tej of Guntur, born on June 8, 1990 secured an aggregate of 323 marks in SSC public exams held in March 1999 at the age of nine years two days.

**First/only Company Secretary Course** - The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) with headquarters at New Delhi and 36 Chapters Secretaries in corporates in India. To become a Company secretary, i.e., a member of ICSI. The CS course is by correspondence. Admission is open throughout the year with exams in June and December at 52 examination centres in the country and one in Dubai. In 2001, the Institute had on its rolls over 13,500 qualified members.

**First Course in Financial Planning** - The Certified Financial Planning (CFP) Board of Standards, an international body set up in 2001 awards a CFP qualification to Indians - a Certified Financial Planning (CFP) diploma recognised in 14 countries across the world as the highest level of achievement for a professional financial planner. The two-year course is open to graduates in any discipline with a mandatory three years' experience in financial planning. Registrations started on Jan. 1, 2002. As of Dec 2001, the US had 38,188 and the other 13 countries had a total of 25,955 CFPs.

**Japan's only School of Indian film dancing** - Men and women dancing to Daler Mehndi tunes is a common sight in Japan. Located in the Kabukicho district near Tokyo, Japan's only school of Indian film and classical dancing was started in 1995 by Kyoko Nobi-San with six students. Nobis-an learnt Bharata Natyam for 18 years and been teaching film dancing for past seven years. Indian film dance became popular with the release of Tamil film Mithu featuring Rajankint and Meena in 1998. The number of students increased to 30 immediately after the release! the first Indian film Nobis-san saw was Chandni in 1994. Since then, she has collected 20,000 video teps of film and mixes all forms of Indian classical dancing with the steps used in films o teach the unique film dance form.

**First event management training institute** - The National Institute of Event Management (NIEM) founded by Dr. Hoshi Bhiwandiwala in June 2000 at Mumbai as
an autonomous college is Asia's first offers a Diploma in Event Management (DEM) and a PGDEM for graduates. Running four training centres at Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad and Dehradun, the courses cover teaching of organisational, communication, public relations and marketing skills besides logistics management and stage design. The faculty includes professors from management schools and well known personalities from the event management industry and practical training sessions are carried out in actual live events like the Miss India contests, film award sessions, national sports events etc. The first batch trained 220 students.

**Highest Enrollment in a day** - To mark the 20th anniversary, NIIT started Swift Jyoti, a computer education campaign, on Dec. 2, 2001 reaching out to more than 1.5 lakh people from the lower economic strats. Through 2,500 centres across the country, people were offered a variety of specially designed basic 10 hour courses at a subsidised fee of Rs 500. Students from select government schools, principals and a few political leaders were offered courses free of cost. On Dec. 2 alone, 1,04,000 people ranging from 5-85 enrolled for the course, helping break the techno phobia and dispel the fallacy that computers are just for the elite.

**First online admission test** - Jamshedpur's Xavier Labour Relations Institute (XLRI) is the first professional institution in the country to start online admission tests. Software company Blueshift monitored online registration, website design, test centre tieups and test supervision, eliminating paper work and travel by aspirants to distant test centres. In the first instance, 30,000 candidates took the test at 18 Internet centres in March 2002.

**First educational net work** - The Education and Research Network (ERNET) initiated in 1986 by the Government of India, spread Internet in India. It provides state of the art communication infrastructure to the research and education community of the country besides networking government organisations.

**Largest Computer training organisation** - Pioneering IT education and training in the country in 1981, National Institute of Infomedia Technology (NIIT) has a global network of 2,537 earning centres in 28 countries, training 5,00,000 students and professionals annually and is the first certified technical education centre (CTEC). Its industry through Professional Practice (PP) and comes with a 7-year bank loan, repayable only when the student begins earning the first stipend. Netvarsity.com, its online learning facility has more than 34,000 student.

First Vice-chancellors - In 1890, Gooroodas Bannerji became the first Indian Vice-chancellor (VC) of Calcutta University.

On April 29, 1949, Hansaben Mehta (b. July 3, 1897) became the first women VC when she was appointed VC at the Maharaja Sayaji Rao University of Baroda.

First Ph.D. from a foreign University - Agostino Lourenco received his doctorate in Chemistry from the University of Paris on Dec. 4, 1860

**First women Graduates** - Kadambini Ganguli (nee Bose) and Chandramukhi Basu were the first Indian women to pass the BA examination from Calcutta University in
First woman law graduate - Cornelia Sorabjee (B. 1866), the first woman graduate from Bombay University (1887) graduated in law from Bombay University in 1894. Although qualified to practice in England, she was not allowed to practice in India till 1923 when she became an advocate to the Allahabad High Court Bar.

First woman engineer - Lalita (b. 1919) of Chennai qualified as a civil Engineer in 1937.

National symbols

Flag - Horizontal tricolour of deep saffron at the top, white in the middle and dark green at the bottom in equal proportion with a navy blue wheel, as adopted by the Constituent Assembly on July 22, 1947.

Emblem - An adaptation from the Sarnath Lion Capital of Asoka with the words Satyameva Jayate inscribed below the abacus, adopted on Jan. 26, 1950.

Anthen - The Hindi version of the song Jana-gana-mana, composed originally in Bengali by Rabindranath Tagore, adopted on Jan. 24, 1950

Song - Vande Mataram, composed in Sanskrit by Bankim Chandra Chatterji

Calendar - Based on the Saka Era with Chaitra as its first month and normal year of 365 days, adopted on March 22, 1957 (along with the Gregorian calendar for certain official purposes).

Flower - Lotus, Nelumbo lucifera

Bird - The peacock, Pavo cristatus L.

Animal - The tiger, Panthera tigris L.

First global reunion of INA veterans - Around 300 of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's Indian National Army veterans from across the globe came together for a three day International Reunion of Indian National Army Veterans at the Red Fort in Delhi and were honoured with Samman patras on April 21, 2002

First amendment to the Constitution - Bill No. 48 of 1951, an amendment to Article 15 of the Constitution that dwells on prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth was introduced in Parliament on May 12, 1951. President Rajendra Prasad gave his assent to the Bill on June 18, 1951.

First design of the national flag - Madame Bhikkaji Rustom Cama (1861-1936) first designed the national flag and displayed it at the Socialist Congress a Stuttgart, Germany on August 22, 1907. This flag is now on display at the Maratha and Kesari library in Pune.

First national flag hoisting - Surendranath Bannerji hoisted the earliest tricolour flag of green, yellow and red with eight lotuses on August 7, 1906 at Green Park, Kolkata to the salute of 101 guns.

First singing of the national anthem - Jana-gana-mana, composed by Rabindranath Tagore, was first sung on Dec. 27, 1911 at the Calcutta Session of the
Indian National Congress. It was published in 1912 and played at the UN in 1947.

**First Constituent Assembly meeting** - The first session of the Constituent Assembly began at 11 a.m. on Dec. 4, 1946 at the Constitution Hall, Delhi with Acharya Kripalani introducing Dr Sachchidananda Sinha as the temporary Chairman of the Assembly.

**First interim Government** - Or. Sept. 2, 1946, an interim government headed by Jawaharlal Nehru was set up in Delhi.

### ELECTIONS

**First abolishment of sex disqualification** - Madras Province abolished sex disqualification for the legislative franchise from April 1, 1921 but Indian women were allowed to vote and be elected to provincial legislatures only in 1926.

**First woman candidate** - Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya stood for elections in 1926 in Mangalore following the decision of universal adult franchise. She polled 4,461 votes but lost to her male opponent who received 4,979 votes.

**Purification rites** - Following the Supreme Court directive of May 2, 2002 the Election Commission of India (ECI) notified an order under Article 324 of the Constitution on June 28, 2002 which makes it mandatory for all contestants to Parliament/Assembly seats and their parties to furnish certain data. Each candidate has to provide information on (a) whether he/she has been charge sheeted of any offences punishable with imprisonment and if so, its details, (b) assets possessed by him/her, spouse and dependents, (c) educational qualification and (d) information on the candidate's party, which the Commission considers necessary.

Most of these clean up proposals were, however, rejected unanimously by the political class at an all party meet in July 2002. The Union Government got over the EC order with a fresh Pol Reforms Ordinance which was referred to the President for his approval. The President however returned it to the Government with certain queries. The Government for its part returned it to the President who then had no option but to sign the ordinance on August 24, 2002.

**First general elections** - The 1951-52 general elections had 51 political parties in the fray of which 21 entered the Lok Sabha. INC won 364 out of 489 seats.

Longest general elections - The first general elections started on Oct. 5, 1951 and were completed on Feb. 21, 1952. In 1957, it was stretched from Feb. 24 to June 9 in 1962, elections were held between Feb-June.

**WR : Most unsuccessful candidates** - Kaka Joginder Singh of Shyamganj in U.P. contested as many as 300 elections since 1952 losing every one. He has been in the fray for Lok Sabha, Assembly, District Council and Municipality seats in 14 states. In the 10th general elections, he contested from 52 LS and Assembly constituencies.

Dr. K. Padmarajan (b. May 15, 1959), a medical practitioner from Mettur, Tamil Nadu, has contested 56 elections winning none as of August 30, 2002. He has tried his hand at local council, Assembly, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha seats. And the last he
was seen was as an independent candidate taking on Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa at the Andipatti by election and at the Presidential and Vice Presidential elections 2002 where his nomination papers were rejected on technical reasons.

**New Parliament Library** - Sansdiya Gyanpeeth, the new Parliament library building in the Parliament House complex was inaugurated on May 7, 2002.

Designed by architect Raj Rewal and built by the Central Public works Department, the Rs. 197 crore project is a modular, intelligent, utilitarian and centrally air conditioned building. spread over 46,914 sq m. it has about 14,000 sq m of space for stacking publications and features an optic fibre based Local Area Network (LAN) with high speed Wide Area Network (WAN) connectivity to provide linkage with other State Legislatures, foreign Parliaments and other international organisations.

Apart from the library, reference, research and computer divisions, the building accommodates the members' reading rooms, the Bureau of Parliamentary studies and Training, the Parliamentary Museum and Archives and a full fledged Conservation Laboratory/workshop for restoring old and rare documents.

**Costly Adjournments** - Each adjournment of parliament costs the taxpayer about Rs. 17,000 per minute, Rs. 10 lakh per hour and 75 lakh per day

**First Budget webcast** - The Union Budget 2000 was webcast live at the MTNL's portal www.bol.net.in.

**Maximum hours spent on the Budget** - Legislators spent an record 934 hours in the third Lok sabha discussing the Budget and other financial matters against 792 hours in the first Lok Sabha.

**First Budget** - Finance Minister R.K. Shanmukham Chetty presented the first Budget of free and independent India to the Constituent Assembly on Nov. 26, 1947.

**Longest/shortest tenure of LS** - The 5th Lok Sabha constituted in March 1971 lasted five years and 306 days. March 18, 1976 was to be the last day but imposition of emergency extended it till Jan. 18, 1977.

The 12th Lok Sabha, which was dissolved on April 28, 1999 lasted just 13 months and 16 days.

**First hung Parliament** - V.P. Singh, hanging the National Front government with outside support from the BJP and the Left parties, was sworn in as PM on Dec. 2, 1989

**LS Speakers - First** : Ganesh Vasudeo Mavalankar (pic), May 15, 1952 feb. 27, 1956

**First Deputy** - Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, May 30, 1952 March 7, 1956

**Longest term** - Balram Jakhar, 10 years from 1980-89

**Shortest term** : Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, from March-July 1977

**First to address the House** - P.A. Sangma on August 26, 1997

**People's Prez** - Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul, Kalam, born Oct. 15, 1931 at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu, was sworn in the 12th President of India on July 25, 2002
by polling little less than 90% of the valid votes - 4,152 votes (Valued at 9,22,844) against 459 votes (valued at 1,07,366) polled by his opponent Capt. Lakshmi Sahgal.

After specialising in Aero Engineering from Madras Institute of technology, Dr. Kalam worked with DRDO and ISRO where he made significant contribution to the missile programme. As Project Director, he contributed to the design, development and management of India's first indigenou satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-II). He was responsible for the evolution of ISRO' launch vehicles programme and DRDO's integrated Guided Missile Development Programme. Dr. Kalam served as the Principal Scientific advisor to the Government of India from Nov. 1999 to Nov. 2001.

Preferring to appear in casual attire and as informal as possible while interacting with people, within a short time, he has come to be known as 'People's President'. He has been on a mission to ignite the young minds for national development by meeting school students across the country. His Technology Vision 2020 providing guidance to a number of homegrown technology projects and missions was road map for transforming India's status from a developing nation' to a 'developed' one. He has won several national awards including the Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration in 1997, Padma Bhushan in 1981, Padma Vibhushan in 1990 and Bharat Ratna in 1997. He has also been conferred with the degree of Doctor of Science (D.Sc. Honor is causa) by 30 academic institutions!

For the 2002 elections the calculation was mad accordingly:
Total electors = MLAs 4,120 + MPs 776 = 4896

Value of votes of 4,120 MLAs = 5,49,474
Value of each vote of 776 MPs = 5,49,474 = 708

Value of votes of 4,120 MPs = 708 x 776 = 5,49,408

Total value of votes = 5,49,474 + 5,49,408 = 10,98,882

First Woman candidate - Dr. Lakshmi Sagal, (b.Oct. 24, 1914), contested the presidential election 2002 and lost to Dr. Abdul Kalam winning 459 votes with a value of 1,07,366 alittle more than 10% votes. She was fielded by the Left parties in a symbolic battle against the ruling party. As leader of the Rani of Jhansi regiment, the women's wing of Netaji's Indian National Army, Captain Lakshmi (She was given the rank of Colonel, although in popular imagination she remained Captain) fought for Indian independence. She was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 1998.


Snippets - The President takes home Rs. 50,000 per month tax free. On retirement, he is paid Rs. 25,000 p.m.

Maintenance cost of Rashtrapati Bhavan, built by the British in 1929 at a cost of
Rs. 1.4 crore, is around one crore rupees per month.

The presidential residence is spread over 400 acres has a 1,000 strong staff and houses a school, petrol pump, bakery, printing press and many other utilities.

**Honorary US citizenship** - Mother Teresa (Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhin) was the first Indian and the fourth individual in the world to be conferred honorary US citizenship on Nov. 16, 1996. She was awarded the Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian decoration of the US in 1985.

**HONOURS**

**Nobel Prize**
- Rabindranath Tagore, Literature 1913 (pic)
- C.V. Raman, Physics 1930
- Hargovind Khorana, Medicine 1968
- Mother Teresa, Peace 1979
- S.Chandrasekhar, Physics 1983
- Amartya Sen, Economics 1998
- V.S. Naipaul, Literature 2001

**Gandhi Peace Prize**

India's highest annual award, the Gandhi Peace Prize was instituted on the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in 1995. The award, comprising rupees one crore, a citation and a plaque, recognises social, economic and political transformation through non-violence and other Gandhian methods.

John Hume, the architect of the Northern Ireland peace process, was honoured with the Gandhi Peace Prize, 2001 on Fe. 1, 2002. He had earlier won the Nobel Prize in 1998.

**Earlier winners were** -
- 1995 Dr. Julius K. Nyerere, former Tanzanian President
- 1996 Dr. A.T. Ariyaratane, President of Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, Sri Lanka
- 1997 Dr. Gerhard Fiser, former German diplomat
- 1998 The Ramkrishna Mission
- 1999 Murlidhar Devidas Amte (Baba Amte)
- 2000 Dr. Nelson Mandela and the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh
- 2001 John Hume

**Bharat Ratna** - The Bharat Ratna is given for exceptional contribution to public Service in the fields of arts, literature and science. However, since its inception in 1954, it has been given mainly to political personalities while academicians and social workers trail.

- 1954 Dr. C. Rajagopalachari, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Dr. C.V. Raman
- 1955 Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. Bhagwan Dass. Dr. M. Visvesvarayya

**LEGALIA**

**Earliest codified laws**

Civil and criminal law was clearly defined and demarcated for the first time under the Gupta reign (335-445)

**First restriction against sati**

Muhammed-bin-Tughluq passed a law that license should be obtained before a widow could immolate herself to prevent coercion by others. Sati was declared illegal and punishable in 1829 by Lord William Bentinck, then Governor-General.

**First British Indian Code**

The East India Company set up separate civil and criminal courts in districts on August 15, 1771 in Kolkata.

**First Preventive Detention Act**

Introduced in 1784, the Preventive Detention Act was formalised on April 7, 1818 by the British who introduced the Bengal state Prisoners Regulation III meant for detention and deportation of political prisoners and revolutionaries without trial. The regulation was scrapped when India became independent in 1947.

**First Penal Code**

The Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), drafted by Macaulay's Committee 30 years earlier, were introduced in Bengal in 1862 by John Beames.

**First court**

Court of Judicature was set up as directed by the East India company and English Law was first introduced in India on August 1, 1672 in Kolkata.

**Family Courts**

Family courts, set up generally in a city or town with a population above 10 lakh, deal with disputes relating to marriage and family affairs. As of Oct. 2001, various states had set up 85 such courts under the Family Courts Act, 1984.

**Consumer courts-factsheet**

Justice Balakrishna Eradi was appointed the first president of the National Con-
sumer Disputes Redressal Commission after the consumer Protection Act was passed in 1986. Since then, over 20,600 cases were filed with the commission, of which 11,200 were settled. The 32 State Commissions registered 1,91,000 cases of which 1,12,000 have been disposed. Of the 13,60,000 cases filed with 555 district fora, 11,10,000 had been settled by July 2002.

**People's Court**

No judge, no lawyer, no punishment, yet jana adalat, a 25 member common people's court at the Patitapabana temple near Bhubaneswar in Orissa, headed by Harihar Sahu (66), had solved over 717 cases in seven years between 1996-2002. Recognised by the state Government, the court counsels over 100 people daily. And the cases range from land encroachments to family problems.

**Most writs filed for a single case**

The Orissa High Court admitted 1,187 writs filed in 1996 in connection with the class XII result scam in the state. The High Court ordered a recheck of the answer books in Sept. 1996.

**Fast track courts**

On April 1, 2001, the Government of India announced a scheme to set up 1,734 fast track courts to ease the burden of pending cases in courts. On May 13, 2002, Parliament approved the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill 2000, moved by Law Minister Arun Jaitley. As of May 31, 2002, there were 1,123 such courts set up across the country and out of 1,20697 cases transferred to them 6,153 had been disposed of. The upkeep of about two lakh undertrials languishing in various jails in the country cost the State Governments Rs. 461 crore annually at the rate of Rs. 55 per person per day.

**First permanent Lok Adalat**

The first permanent Lok Adalat was set up in Chandigarh in Jan. 1998 with Justice S.K. Sardana as the Judge. A Lok Adalat is different from other courts in that its decisions cannot be challenged in any court of law. However, it can take up only compoundable criminal cases under Motor Vehicles Act, minor quarrels, land disputes, matrimonial cases etc. It can even take up cases pending before another court but those on which a final decision has already been given by a court. The beneficiaries of this fast justice dispensing system include those with annual incomes less than Rs. 30,000 all women, children, anyone in custody, anyone belonging to the scheduled/backward castes and those suffering from natural calamities.

**Most cases disposed**

Justice S.K. Sardana of the permanent Lok Adalat in Chandigarh cleared 20,000 cases in 17 months since the first sitting of the Adalat in August 1998. He also set up a legal aid cell inside the Burail Jail to provide legal assistance to the undertrials and prisoners.

**First woman judge of Supreme Court**

Meera Sahib Fatima Beevi was appointed judge of the supreme Court in Oct.
1989, the second woman in the world after Sandra Day O'Connor of the US to be appointed to this high office. She qualified for the judiciary in 1958 and served as Munsif for some years before joining the Kerala High Court.

**Oldest High Court**

The Calcutta High Court established in 1862 has 45 permanent and five additional judges as sanctioned strength.

**First High Court Judge**

Shambhunath Pandit domiciled in Kolkata, was appointed judge at Kolkata on Feb. 2, 1863. His tenure lasted till 1876.

**First woman CJ**

Justice Leila Seth, Acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, was appointed Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh on August 5, 1991 and retired in 1993.

**First couple in HC**

Justice K. Sukumaran was joined by wife justice K.K. Usha (Who later retired as the Chief Justice in 2001) at the kerala High Court in 1991.

**Youngest Judge**

Prasanta Behari Mukherjee (b.July 30, 1910) was appointed a judge of the Calcutta High Court on Dec. 24, 1948 when he was only 38 years, he served the High Court for 24 years and seven months.

**Shortest term as CJ (HC)**


**First assassinated**

Justice John Paxton Norman, a sitting Judge of the Calcutta High Court (July 1, 1862 Sept. 21, 1871) was stabbed to death in the court a 100 years later, Justice K.L. Roy, also of Calcutta High court, was shot dead by Naxalites on April 7, 1971.

**Father/daughter Judges in the same court**

Bela Yagnik was appointed a judge of the City Civil Court in Ahmedabad on July 10, 1995 in the same court where her father M.A. Trivedi had been a judge from 1990.

**Oldest/largest Bar Associations**

The Alipore Bas Association of Calcutta was established in 1857. The Tis Hazari Bas Association has over 6,500 members, the second largest in the world.

**First Bar-at-Law**

Jnanendra Mohan Tagore (1826-97) passed the Barrister-at-Law examination from Lincoln's Inn, London on June 21, 1862. In Nov. 1865 he was enrolled at the Calcutta High Court as the first Indian Barrister.

**High Court as the first Indian Barrister.**

**First public prosecutor**

S. Subramania Iyer was appointed public prosecutor to Madras in 1887.

Twice appointed Ag.

Soli J. Sorabjee has been appointed the Attorney General (SG) twice in 1989 and
1998. He also became the first AG to receive a national award the Padma Vibhushan while in office on March 23, 2002

**WR: Longest Practicing Lawyer**

Mahabir Prashad Jain (b. June 1, 1899), an advocate at the Hissar district and Sessions Court in Haryana has been practicing law for over 79 years since 1922. The 103 year old Jain has so far pleaded over 50,000 cases and handles civil cases even now. Incidentally, there are 40 advocates in his 150 member traditional family spanning four generations.

Jashwantlal Itchalal Mamlatdarna (b. Feb. 1, 1908), a member of the Bar Council of Gujarat, has been practicing law since March 13, 1935 at District Court, Bharuch. He was the Registrar under the Co-operative Society Act of 1925 from 1942-72 and specialises in Tenancy Law and the Motor Vehicle Act.

**Longest Petition**

The case against CM N.T. Rama Rao Filed by Petitioner Congress-1 leader Dronamraju Sathyanarayana's affidavit ran to 193 pages and listed 20 allegations which included fiscal crimes, acts of corruption, dishonesty, political patronage etc.

**First visually impaired SC lawyer**

Anjali Arora, 26 who lost her eyesight at 12, started her practice as a lawyer at the Supreme Court in 1999. Speech recognition software and book scanner attached to her PC assist her in the job.

**GENERALIA**

**Blood donation**

Arvind Kumar Agar donated 201 units of blood starting at 18 years on Nov. 12, 1959. He has collected 5,20,000 bottles for the Indian Red Cross Society, Lions club of Indore, Rotary International etc. from 5,300 camps.

Ashwani Munjal of Chandigarh has donated 76 units of blood to date starting at 18 years of age on Oct. 1, 1980, making four donations every year.

Harshvardhan gala of Jabalpur donated 62d units of blood since 1887.

**Largest public health campaign**

National Immunisation Day, dubbed Pulse polio Immunisation (PPI) was launched on Dec. 9, 1995. More than 1,00,000 rotarians, under the aegis of the Rotary Polio Plus Programme India, administered oral polio vaccine from 5,00,000 booths to 8.8 crore children across the country.

**First bio-medical research fund**

The Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA) funded by the ministry of Health & Family Welfare was established in 1911 for sponsoring and co-ordinating medical research at a national level. Redesignated Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 1949, ICMR awards 38 annual prizes to Indian scientists in the field of biomedical research of which 11 are meant exclusively for scientists below 40 years.

Oldest existing medical journal
The Indian Journal of Medical Research (IJMR) published since 1913 is one of the oldest medical journals in Asia.

**National medical council**

Medical Council of India (MCI) set up in 1956 is an autonomous institution which mainly monitors and regulates the standard of medical education. Any new institution for medical education has to apply to it for recognition. Any doctor practising must be registered with either MCI or any of the state medical councils.

**ECONOMY**

**First tax on income**

The British government levied tax on income in 1860 as part of licence tax on all annual income from trade, agriculture and government or non-government services exceeding Rs. 200. In 1878, it was extended to commercial and trading classes and artisans. In 1886, the government passed the income tax Bill to include salaried classes and professionals and in 1886-87, Rs. 1.3 crore was collected from 3,51,000 taxpayers.

**First estimate of per capita income**

Dadabhoy Naoroji's first statistical estimate of per capita income was Rs. 20 for the year 1867-68, but the first officially estimated per capita income prepared by the government in 1882 pegged it at Rs. 27.

**PLANNING**

**First five year Plan**

The First Five-year Plan (1951-56) was launched in 1951 with an outlay of Rs. 2,978 crore. It laid emphasis on agriculture, irrigation, power and transport to provide infrastructure for rapid industrial expansion.

**First plan for industrialisation**

The Second Five-year Plan (1956-61) emphasised the development of heavy industries. The industrial policy resolution was amended so as to shift the primary responsibility for development on the public sector. Consumer industries were left to the private sector.

**First term perspective plan**

The 'Garibi Hatao' Programme covering ten years from 1974-75 to 1985-86 attempted to co-ordinate various sectors of economy to eradicate poverty. The draft of the fifth Plan was based on this perspective plan.

**WR : first population Control programme**

In 1951, the Union Government launched an official population control programme. (See major health plans in the medical Generalia section of Medical Sciences.)

**Gas-timate**

About 70% of India's natural gas reserves are found in the Bombay High basin, Maharashtra and within the state of Gujarat.
WR: Longest exclusive LPG pipeline

The 1,270 km long Jamnagar-Loni pipeline of the Gas Authority of India GAIL), an exclusive LPG pipeline, covers five states and carries 2.5 mn tonne of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) equivalent to five lakh domestic cylinders per day.

3,300 distributors, is one of the largest LPG networks in the world.

IOC featured in fortune’s Global 500 of the world's largest industries for seven consecutive years starting 1995 IOC has over 21,00 sales points. One of the largest in the world. IOC also holds the world record of the highest filling station at Kaza, Spiti Valley, at 13,500 ft.

Largest oil producing field

Bombay High in the Arabian Sea off Mumbai is India's largest oil producing field with production of 2,10,000 barrels of crude per day (bbl/d) in 1999. India's average crude oil production level for 2001 was estimated at 7.50,000 bbl/d. India had net oil imports of over 1.1 million bbl/d in 2001.

Reserve Bank of India

The Reserve bank of India (RBI), the central bank in the country was established on April 1, 1935 at Mumbai in accordance with the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. It was originally started as a shareholders bank with as share capital of Rs five crore devided into fully paid up shares of Rs. 100 each. In 1948, it was nationalised and the Government of India holds the entire share capital of the Bank acquired by paying compensation to the shareholders.

First bank for agricultural credit

The National bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) set up in July 1962 is the apex body in rural credit with responsibilities of overall development, policy, planning and financial support for agriculture and rural development. NABARD provides credit to the rural sector through co-operative banks, commercial banks, regional rural banks and other financial institutions set up to finance rural development.

First private bank

UTI Bank - a joint venture of Unit Trust of India, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and General Insurance Coroporation Ltd. and its four subsidiaries namely, National Insurance Company Ltd. The New India Assurance company, The Oriental Insurance Corporation and United Insurance Company Ltd-Began operations in 1994 as the first private bank after the Government of India allowed private banking the UTI Bank today is capitalised to Rs. 131.9 crore through public holding.

BANKING

Pioneers

First bank: The Bank of Hindustan, Kilkata (1770)
First joint stock bank: The General Bank of India, Kolkata (March 1786)
First savings bank facility: Presidency Bank Kolkata extended savings bank
facility to both British and Indians in 1833.

**First Exchange bank**: The British Oriental Banking Corporation, London (1842). First Presidency bank: Bank of Calcutta (June 2, 1806) in Kilkata was renamed Bank of Bengal on Jan 2, 1809. It became the first joint stock bank of British India sponsored by the government of Bengal.

**First regional rural banks (RRB)**:
- RRB Moradabad and Gorakhpur in U.P., Bhiwani in Haryana, Jaipur in Rajasthan and Malda in West Bengal (Oct. 2, 1975)

Oldest private Bank: The Oudh Commercial bank established in 1881 lasted till 1958.

Punjab National Bank Ltd, the first wholly Indian-owned and run private bank was in 1895.

**First institution for agricultural credit**
- Agricultural Refinance Corporation (ARC) was established at New Delhi in 1963 to support investment credit needs for agricultural development.

First import-export bank
- The Government of India set up the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) in 1982 as a statutory corporation wholly owned by the Union Government providing financial assistance of exporters and importers. It acts as the principal financial institution for co-ordinating operations of other export-import institutions. It also provides refinance facilities to commercial banks and financial institutions against their export-import financing activities. EXIM Bank's main objectives are to ensure an integrated and co-ordinated approach to solve the problems of exporters, provide special attention to capital goods exports and export of technical services, and to tap domestic and overseas markets for resources.

**First bank for housing development**
- National Housing Bank (NHB), established on July 9, 1988, on the recommendation of the Banking Commission of 1971, is the first banking institution to promote housing finance to mobilise resources for housing sector and to regulate and co-ordinate all the agencies connected with housing.

**First public sector housing development institution**
- Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO), a wholly Central Government-owned company was set up in 1970 to finance development authorities like state Housing Boards to provide housing for economically weaker sections using about 55% of the funds. HUDCO raises its resources mainly through issue of bonds.

**Largest international bank**
- When Standard Chartered Bank and ANZ Grindlays Bank merged in March 2000, Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank became the largest international bank with 60 branches in 19 cities across the country with a combined balance sheet of Rs. 24,515.9 crore (as of March 31, 2001). It offers ATM services in 64 centeas and is the first bank to provide 24 hour, 365 days banking facility starting with the Breach Candy branch in Mumbai in April 2000 followed by Delhi and Chennai.
Largest credit card issuer

Citibank card has the largest number of card holders 1.5 million according to 2001-02 figures. It is followed closely by stanchart-Grindlays with 1.2 million, SBI with 0.9 million and ICICI with 0.6 million.

First insurance feature

In 1989, when Citibank took over the Diners Club franchise in India, it offered a special life insurance benefit to cover card members in air and road accidents.

First platinum card

Citibank, in association with Master Card International, Launched Ditibank Platinum Card in July 2000. It has the highest credit limit, free personal accident insurance of Rs. 1 crore for loss of life in an air accident; Rs. 5 lakh for any other accident/ delayed baggage insurance of Rs. 15,000 in India and Rs. 25,000 abroad in case the checked in baggage is not delivered within 12 hours of arrival.

First message service

Citi Alert, a special message service for card members was launched by Citibank in April 2000 to send customised updates to card holders. They send messages about confirmation of payment, payment due date reminder, discounts at various merchant outlets, either as an SMS or as email.

WR : Largest banking network

There are 301 Indian commercial banks with a network of 67,041 branches (Rural-32,894, Semi-urban- 14,390 Urban - 10,816 Metropolitan-8,941) 97 overseas branches, 32 private and 25 foreign banks. More than 35 crore people are covered by the banking network.

Largest national bank

State Bank of India constituted on July 1, 1955 by an Act passed in parliament in May 1955, is the largest bank in terms of profits (Rs. 20.57 million), assets (Rs. 3456.4 million), deposits (Rs. 3484.2 million), branches (over 9,000 in India and abroad) and employees. The Bank commands about one-fifth of the total deposits and loans in all scheduled commercial banks in the country.

SBI’s shares abd bibds are kusted fir tradubg ib akk nahir Ubdub sticj exchanges. SBI’s German Depository Receipts are listed on the luxembourg stock Exchange.

Largest development bank

Industrial development Bank of India (IDBI), a fully owned subsidiary of the RBI, was set up in July 1964. By 1976, its entire ownership had been acquired by the Government of India.

Largest private sector bank

The merger of bank of Madura Ltd. with ICICI Bank Ltd on March 10, 2001 made ICICI Bank the largest private sector bank. With this, ICICI enjoys combined assets of Rs. 17327 crore and total deposits of Rs. 13460 crore with over 30 lakh customers. It has a network of more than 350 branches and 450 ATM centres spread over 100 cities. HDFC Bank is the second largest with total deposits of Rs. 13,209
Largest ATM Provider

With the Swadhan network, the HMA Group Ltd installed and maintained over 600 ATMs of 38 member banks of the Indian Banking Association across the country. HMA has 56% of market share of ATM installations.

INSURANCE

First insurance company

The Calcutta Insurance Company was set up in 1798 in Kolkata exclusively for Europeans.

First Indian life insurance company

In 1870, Bombay Mutual Life Assurance Society was formed. It insured Indians at the same rate as Europeans.

First general (non-life) insurance Company

In 1850, Triton Insurance Company Ltd was established at Kolkata with shares held mainly by the British.

First Private sector life insurance company

HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company Ltd was granted License from IRDA on Oct. 23, 2000 as a partnership between HDFC and Standard Life, the largest Mutual life company with assets of Rs. 5,50,000 crore, founded in Europe in 1825.

First Multinational life insurance firm

MAX New York Life Insurance Company Ltd, an Indo-US joint venture life insurance company launched its operations on April 21, 2001 in India. New York Life, a fortune 100 company is the largest life insurance company in the US

Largest state owned non-life insurance company

In 2001-02, New India Assurance (NIC) - a subsidiary of GIC crossed the Rs. 4,000 crore mark global premium income.

First Operational risk cover

The Tanir Bavi power plant in Karnataka was co insured by New India Assurance Company, United Insurance Company and National Insurance Company along with the private companies Royal Sundaram Finance and Reliance General Insurance Company in 2001. Premium of Rs. 4 crore was fixed for operational insurance, covering fire and loss of profit risks.

First ad film insured

In April 2002, United India Insurance Company insured an advertising film by Lehar Communications featuring actress Hema Malini, Premium at 1.10% of the film budget was about Rs. 15 lakh

WR : Largest Claim settlements

During 2001-2002, LIC settled 85.27 lakh claims, both maturity and death 73.47 lakh claims, both maturity and death. 73.47 lakh claims were settled in 200-01.
STOCKS & SHARES

WR : Highest per hour trades stock exchange
The approximately 70,000 deals executed at the BSE on a daily basis by over 3,500 listed companies make for one of the highest per hour rates of trading in the world.

WR : Highest stock exchange daily trades
Till Nov. 1994, the average trades at the NSE were 890 but by Feb. 28, 2001, they had touched 13,78,940.

First lady of the BSE
Dina Mehta was elected the first woman President of the Bombay Stock Exchange in March 2001 on an ad hoc basis for a month. Earlier she had held the posts of Director & Vice-President of the Exchange.

Largest shareholder
LIC held 56% shares of the entire stock and share industry during 2001-02 followed by the public with 14% while fll and banks held 9%.

First solar-powered insurance office
The LIC office at Delhi went completely solar with a 5 kv powered panel to run the local area computer network of the branch.

Highest devidend
Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) paid an interim dividend of 750% amounting to Rs. 1,132.21 crore for the Oct. 2001-Jan 2002 quarterly period. This was on account of the 52.97% shares held by the Government of India.

IRON & STEEL

Oldest engineering Company

WR : Oldest cotton mill
The birth of cotton textile industry can be traced to 1818, when the first mill started at Kolkata, but its real foundation was laid in Mumbai with the setting up of Bombay Spinning and Weaving Company Limited by Cowasjee Nanabhoy Davar in 1851.

WR : Oldest Jute mill
In 1855 Wellington Jute Mill was established by George Auckland in Rishra in West Bengal. It is one of the oldest organised industries in the County.

First tea company
Alubari Tea Company commercialised tea in 1856.

First iron and steel factory
Bengal Iron Works company was set up at Kulti in West Bengal in 1870.

Largest cement manufacturer
Associated Cement Company (ACC), with the latest addition of the Wadi unit in Andhra Pradesh, produces 15 million tonnes of cement and holds 11% of market.
shate. India is the fifth largest cement-producing country in the world.

**Largest tyres**

South Asia Tyres Ltd of Aurangabad, a Good year company, produced the first batch of 10 ft tall good year 3600-51 tyres the largest sized tyres manufactured in the country in early 2000. The 2,644 kg tyres with a load capacity of 41,250 kg are made for special purpose dump trucks used in construction, mining and quarrying. Nearly 2,000 pieces are produced annually.

**IT & TELECOM**

**Most cell-phone users**

Andhra Pradesh has 5,59,056 cell phone users followed by Maharashtra with 5,24,934 (excluding Mumbai). According to a separate survey for metro providers, Mumbai tops the list with 11,21,714 users followed by Delhi's 12,50,248 users. (Source: cellular operators' Association of India, June 2002 figures)

**Largest-selling colour television**

According to market research agency ORGGFK, BPL colour televisions had 16.7% market share in 2001 followed by Onida and Videocon.

**Largest selling PC Brand**

HCL Infosystems sold 1,51,104 units of PCs (all categories) during 2001-02, acquiring 8.6% of total marked share. It was followed by Compaq which sold 1,47,406 units (8.4%) and HP which sold 84,098 units (4%). Compaq retained its number one status in consumer PCs with sales of 52,280 units (9.3% market share). (Source: business line 2002).

**RETAIL**

**First supermarket**

In 1987, Nilgiri Dairy in Chennai opened the first supermarket and food store. Today, it has 20 outlets.

**Largest children's shop**

Ravi Melwani's Big Kids kemp in Bangalore spread over 20,000 sq ft of floor space has a 200-ft long window display since 1995. It employs 125 people and approximately 800 families visit it every day. First retail chain for computers

Computer Point launched the first retail chain for computers opening their first showroom in Mumbai on Dec. 31, 1984

**PEOPLE**

**First commander-in-chief**

Maj Stringer Lawrence, considered the father of the modern Indian Army, took over as the Commander in Chief of all the East India Company's forces at Fort St David and the three Presidentcies were placed under his command in 1748.

**Most chiefs from one institution**

Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC), established on March 1, 1922 by the
Duke of Windsor (then Prince of Wales) at Dehradun has produced three Army Chiefs (Generals K.S. Thimayya, G.G. Bewoor and V.N. Sharma) and three Air Chiefs (Air Marshals M. Asghar Khan and M. Noor Khan, both chiefs of Pakistan Air force and Air Chief Marshal N.C. Suri). Its first Principal was Hugh Catchpole.

The Indian Military Academy (IMA) at Dehradun has the unique distinction of Producing four chiefs of three different countries, 'Field Marshal S.H.J. Manekshaw of India, Generals Smith Dun of Burma and Ali Ashraf Khan and Mohd. Musa of Pakistan.

**First chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CIDS)**

on Oct. 1.2001, Lt. Gen Pankaj Joshi was appointed first CIDS.

**Four generations in one regiment**

Four consecutive generations of the Ahlawat family have served in the Skinner's Horse, the armoured regiment raised in 1803. Risaldar Maj (Hon Lt) Sheo Chand (1886-1918), his son Capt Daryao Singh (1918-46), grandson Lt Col Shamsher Singh Ahlawat (1955-82) and great grandson Sandeep Singh (Commissioned June 12, 1993)

Another Ahlawat family has had three generations serving the 4 Jat regiment Subedar Major (Hon capt)Maujiram (1907-44), OBI Class 1, his son Major Ram Singh (1941-70) saw action in Malaysia during the World War and was captured at Singapore. Later, he was part of the UN Peacekeeping Mission at Congo. Lt Col Rajender Singh Ahlawat was commissioned in 1976 and was part of the IPKF Sri Lankan Operations. Interestingly, Mauri Ram's painting by the then regimental commander's wife has been taken as the symbol of the ideal Jat recruit.

**First Indian Commander-in-Chief**

Gen (later Field Marshal) K.M. Cariappa took over from the British C-in-C Sir Roy Bucher on Jan. 15, 1949 and held office till Jan. 14, 1953. The only other C-in C was Gen M. Rajendra Sinhji who took over as the first chief of Army Staff (COAS) in April 1955 when the post of C-in C was abolished.

**First Field Marshal (FM)**

S.H.F.J. Manekshaw, redipient of the Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan, became FM in 1973 while in service. Although the late Gen Cariappa was senior to Manekshaw, he was made FM after retirement.

**Hospital at the highest altitude**

The Marathi daily pudari's 75 bed Siachen Military Hospital in the Nubra valley is located at an altitude of over 10,000ft. Constructed in a record four months, it has a state-of-the-art decompression chamber, central heating, operation theatre and advanced medical wards to treat both troops and civilians. Money for the Rs. 2.6 crore project was raised by the Marathi daily, particularly by its editor Pratapsingh alias Balasaheb Jadhav, entirely from public contributions after the Kargil conflict.

**Women in the Army**

The first batch of 25 women outside the Army Medical Crops was commissioned on March 6, 1993, at the Officers' Training Academy, Chennai, They were inducted
into non-combat departments like supply, education, logistics and legal branches.

Of arms and limbs

The Indian Army is divided into Arms and Services. ARms or the 'teeth' comprise troops who carry out operations-infantry, including air-borne and mechanised, Armoured, Aviation, Artillery, Air Defence Artillery, Engineer and Signals. The remaining, like EME, ASC, Ordnance and Medical Corps are Services who provide logistic and administrative back-up, often referred to as the 'tail'.

reporting to Gen Sundararajan Padmanabhan, Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee. CIDS is an interim arrangement to look after the integration of the defence services under a proposed Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). Once a CDS is appointed, the CIDS will be redesignated a vice CDS.

**First DIA Chief**

On March 5, 2002, Lt Gen Kamal Davar became the first Director-General of the newly established Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA). The DIA Chief will be the principal military adviser to the Chief of Staff Committee and the Defence Minister.

**Fourth Artillery Chief**

When Gen Sundararajan Padmanabhan took over as the 20th Army Chief on Sept. 30, 2000 he became only the fourth artillery officer to occupy the Indian Army's highest office. His corps predecessors were General P.P. Kumarmangalam, O.P. Malhotra and S.FI Rodrigues.

Service in three different regiments

Between 1942-48, Maj S.P. Samant was with the Army Postal Service where he served at the Imphal Base Post Office and later at Mandalay. He then served the Dogra Regiment till 1955 when he was transferred to 9 Gorkha Rifles.

Longest service

MWo Surendra Sings who joined the IAF as an Electrician on March 9, 1962, retired on Feb. 28, 2002, having served for nearly 40 years.

**UNITS & FORMATIONS**

**First cavalry unit**

The First Indian Cavalry unit was raised in 1787 as 5 regiment of Madras Native Cavalry. It became I Regiment Madras Native Cavalry in 1788 under Maj Tonyn. Renamed 26 Light Cavalry in 1903, it was amalgamated with 30 lancers in 1922 and became 8 light Cavalry.

**First cavalry and mechanised regiment**

Scinde Horse was raised in 1838 as the Scinde Irregular Horse by Capt Ward in Hyderabad under the command of Capt John Jacob. It last paraded its horses in April 1938 at Rawalpindi after which it became the first mechanised cavalry regiment.

**First rifle regiment**

The rifle regiment as a tactical unit was introduced in 1841 and the first unit was introduced in 1841 and the first unit to be so converted was 4 Bombay Native Infantry
which, till independence, was 1 Battalion of rajputana Rifles and is now 3 Guard. They were issued Enfield Muzzleloaders and 0.577 bullets.

**Most decorated regiment**

The Sikh regiment has two Param Vir Chakras and 58 Vir Chakras besides other decorations.

**Youngest regiment**

The Naga regiment, formed with many reformed insurgents, was raised in 1970 after the State of Nagaland was formed in 1963.

The youngest regiment to see action was the 72 Armoured Regiment which served in the Chhamb sector in J & K in 1965 within a year of its raising.

**First artillery unit**

On Jan. 15, 1935, 'A' field Brigade (now 1 field Regiment SP) Comprising four batteries of horse drawn guns, was raised at Pangalore, Marking the official bith of the Regiment of Artillery.

**First light infantry**

As a sequet to Pakistan,s invassion of Kashmir in 1947, the Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry (JAKLI) was born of local defence groups. They were later given responsibility of sectors like Jammu, Poonch and Leh and grouped into militia battalions that earned them three battle honours in 1971. In 1972, they were brought on par with Army units and in 1976, given their present designation.

**Army Aviation Corps**

With increase in range and lethality of artillery, the Army needed land-based observation posts. Air Observation Posts (Air OP) had artillery officers who flew small, manoeuvrable aircraft that directed long range medium artillery to fire accurately at targets beyond ground observation.

Air OP Flights were Air Force units manned and maintained by Air Force personnel except for Artillery pilots. In 1984, HAL Cheetahs were inducted at Siachen, an unprecedented feat in world aviation. Today, pilots are drawn from all arms.

First counter insurgency school

Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School was established at Mynkre, Meghalaya in 1967. It was relocated to Vairengte in Mizoram on May 1, 1970. Its motto is 'Fight the guerrilla like a guerrilla'. Apart from giving commando training, it teaches local languages like Nagamese, Lushai, Mainpuri, Tangkhul and Burmese.

**First military intelligence school**

Opening in Karachi on Jan. 20, 1945 it shifted to Mhow where it was known as the Intelligence Corps Training School and Depot. On Feb. 29, 1984, it was renamed the Military Intelligence Training School and Depot.

**Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE)**

The premier training institution for the Corps of Signals was set up in Nhow in 1946 as the Indian Signal Corps School. It was renamed School of Signals in 1948 and got its
present name in 1967. It trains students in combat communications, electronic warfare, communication engineering, computer technology.

**Armed forces Medical College (AFMC)**

AFMC was established on May 1, 1948 at Pune by amalgamating Army Medical Training Centre, Army School of Radiology, Army School of Hygiene, Central Military Pathology Laboratory and School of Blood Transfusion. The dental wing was added in May 1955 and the graduate course started on August 4, 1962.

**National Defence College (NDC)**

Founded in 1960 at New Delhi, it is the only institution that prepares senior defence and civil service officers for a comprehensive understanding of national security and strategy.

**College of Defence Management**

Deployment in far flung areas, cost of equipment and limited resources necessitated commanders to be exposed to modern management and gave rise to the Institute of Defence Management (IDM) at Secunderabad, inaugurated in Dec. 8, 1970, it was re-named College of Defence Management (CDM). It has trained over 3,500 officers up to the rank of Major General and equivalent.

**WR: High altitude commando school**

Parvat Ghatak School or the high altitude commando school at Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh at 15,000 ft. operates at below freezing temperatures (-20 C). Barely two kilometres from the India China border, the school is run by the Korea Brigade which gets its name from its role in a peace keeping mission in Korea in the 1950s. It combines the training technique taught at the Commando Training School in Belgaum, Karnataka and the High Altitude Warfare School at Sonmarg. Maj Paramjit Singh, who has trained at both the Belgaum and Sonmarg schools, designed the schedule. Trainees are taught in platoons made up of one officer, a junior commissioned officer (JCO) and 26 other ranks. The four week training begins only after six days of acclimatisation.

**Officers Training Academy (OTA)**

Officers selected for the Short Service Commission are trained at OTA, Chennai for nine months. Besides military matters, OTA trains 500 cadets in skeet shooting, golf, riding and angling. Fifty women cadets have been trained here annually since 1992. Raised in 1963 as the Emergency Commission, it was re-designated in 1988.

**High Altitude Warfare School**

Instituted as a formation ski school at Gulmarg, the High Altitude Warfare School came into being on April 8, 1962, the only training institution in India that has been to war. The course incoldes sking and mountaineering. Its alumni have scaled some of the highest peaks.

**First veterinary school**

A veterinary school was started at Kirkee, Pune in 1862 for the artillery, cavalry and mounted police. Similar school came up in Hapur (1877), Lahore (1882), Ambala (1889) and Shimla (1891).
**First computerised medical store**

Armed Forces Medical Store, Delhi, is the only medical store depot with computerised inventory management. It won the Best Depot Trophy for the fourth year in succession in 2001-02. It services not just Indian hospitals but also caters to some UN missions too. Its turnover is almost equal to combined turnover of depots in Mumbai and Lucknow.

**Army Welfare Housing Organisation (AWHO)**

A registered society formed in Dec. 1978, the objective of AWHO, based in Kashmir House, New Delhi, is to provide affordable, quality houses to serving and retired Army personnel and to their widows on a not for profit basis.

**First modern shipbuilder**

In 1736, East India Company officials invited a foreman, Lowji Nusserwanji Wadia, and 10 carpenters from their Surat dockyard to build a shipyard at Mumbai. Wadia worked there for 50 years at Rs. 40 a month and passed in his skills to his sons. Seven generations of Wadias built ships including HM ships Minden (the first ship of the line to the constructed for His Majesty's Navy outside of Great Britain), Trincomalee and Cornwallis. While the Treaty of Nanking ceding Hong Kong to the British was signed aboard the Cornwallis, the national anthem of the United States, 'The Star Spangled Banner', was composed by Francis Key on board the Minden, when she was on a visit to Baltimore, Maryland.

**First navel pilot**

Lt. Y.N. Singh was deputed to U.K. in 1941 for basic training and later to Canada where he obtained his wings in 1944 before serving in escort carriers of the Royal Navy until the end of World War II.

**First Chief of Naval Staff (CNS)**

R Adm I.T.S. Hall was the first post Independence Commander-in-chief of the Royal Indian Navy, 'Royal' was dropped on Jan. 26, 1950. The first Commander-in-chief of the Indian Navy was Adm Edward Parry. Adm Mark Pizey, who took over in 1951, was the first Chief of Naca Stoff in 1955. The first Indian CNS was Vice Admiral R.D. Katari who took over on April 22, 1958.

**ESTABLISHMENTS**

**Only Indian diving school**

INS Venduruthy, established in 1954.

**Oldest naval school**

The Signal School was established at Mumbai's Carnac Bunder in 1919. In 1958, it moved to INS Venduruthy.

**Only helicopter training school**

INS Rajaji houses Indian Naval Air Station (INAS) 561 to train pilots.

**First naval academy**

Before that, cadets trained in England Cdr Ramdas was the first Officer-in-charge.

**First naval airbase**
Venduruthy H commissioned in Kochi on May 11, 1953 and later renamed INS Garuda.

**First submarine base**
Virbahu was commissioned on May 19, 1971 at Visakhapatnam

**WR: Largest treecanopy**
A Banyan tree discovered in 1988 by photographers Regret Iyer and K.S. Ramakrishna of Bangalore in the Thimmamma Marrimanu village in the Anantapur district Andhra Pradesh covers 2.1 ha. With over 1,100 odd prop roots, it is believed to be over 600 years old.

**First artificial forest**
Right in the middle of an urban milieu, an artificial forest, the Tree Diversity Park, is taking root. Conceptualised by Suresh Heblikar and son Akshay who jointly head Eco-Watch, the task involves growing 2,00,000 tree in the 400 acres owned by the Army Service Corps (South) at Bangalore. Planned as a hothouse of vegetation, the park will nurture several hundred species of aromatic, medicinal and fruit bearing varieties starting with 80,000 saplings in the first phase. While the Army is naturally enthusiastic, corporates have also pitched in with tractors and organic manure. The Indo Norwegian Environment Program (INEP) has also provided Rs. 50 Lakh for the project. To participate in this project or contribute towards the cause, contact Eco-Watch: Ph :: 080-6655070, 6553422 or email: ecowatch22@yahoo.com

**Oldest tree**
A shaftoot tree at Joshimath in the Chamoli Dist of Uttarakhand is believed to be over 1,200 years old.

**Lightest/heaviest wood**
Seasoned wood of the Silk Cotton Tree (Bombaxceiba) with a girth of 12 m or more weighs 10.5-15.5 kg. cu ft. and 45.5 to 54.5 kg. cu ft when green.

**Longest lived ftee species**
The Banyan tree (Ficus bengalensis) lives over 250 years.

**Largest leaf**
The Plam tree (Arenga saccharifera) has leaves 5 to 8 m long and 3m broad.

**WR: Rafia Palm (Lodoicea maldivica) blades measure 20 m.**

**Tallest shortest palm**
The Coconut Palm (Cocoa nucifera) grows 30 to 40 m tall. Wallichia densiflora, a stemless palm found at o weelevations in the Himalayas, has 3m-long tufts of leaves rising from underground rhizomes.

**Longest flower**
The Himalayan Rhubarb (Rheum nobile) grows 3-4 ft long at heights of 4,268

**WR: Largest rhododendrn**
The scarlet rhododendrons found on Mount Japfu of Nagaland reaches heights
of over 20m.

**Tallest/largest lilly**

Cardioocrinum giganteum in the Himalayas grows to a height of 4 m and bears clusters of fragrant white flowers, each 13-18 cm long.

The fragrant white flowers of the Lilium wallichianum found in the Himalayas and south India are about 25 cm long on 2 m long stems.

WR: Parasitic Stinking Corpse Lily (Rafflesia arnoldii) grows to a width of 91 cm 3 ft, weighs up to 11 kg.

**WR: Topiary art**

Moirangthem Okendra of Imphal, Manipur cuts plans and hidges to a desired shape and height in his Hedge to Heaven Garden. Starting in 1983 with the ordinary hedge plant Duranta in a pot he trimmed it into umbrella shapes, one above the other. Today, after 19 years, it is 61 ft tall and the ladder he has fabricated to climb to the topmost, canopy has 44 steps.

**Tallest sunflower plant**

Indravadan Shah of Ahmedabad, Gujarat grew a sunflower plant that reached a height of 10 ft 1 inch on Feb. 26m 2002. Normal height of this plant is 3-5 ft.

**Tallest marigold plant**

Arvind Kumar Nema of Bhopal grew a marigold plant (Calendula officinalis L.) in 2000 that was 9 ft 6 inches tall. Planted in an earthen pot it started flowering in its second season. No fertilisers were used.

**TEA & COFFEE**

**First specialty coffee**

Dark Forest coffee from Amalgamated Bean Coffee Trading Co. Ltd, popularly known as ABC, was launched at the India International Coffee Festival during Feb. 17-17, 2002. It is a single origin estate branded coffee grown in and around Chikmagalur region in Karnataka. With a coffee growing tradition since 1875 and a filter coffee brand, Coffee Day, in the domestic market, ABC exported over 27,000 tonnes of coffee valued at US $ 600 lakh and became the largest coffee exporter in 2000.

**First tea estate**

In 1837, East India Company set up the first tea estate at Chubwa in the Diburgarh dist. of Assam, now owned by Tata Tea Ltd. The first Tea Committee was set up by David William Bentinck in 1834.

**WR: Largest tea producer**

With an output of 8,234 lakh kg in 2000, India continues to be the world's largest tea producer accounting for 52% of global production (15,936 lakh kg). India is also the largest consumer, drinking up about 80% of output and exporting about 2,000 lakh kg!

**WR: Table and vitaminised tea**

In Feb. 2000, Hindustan Lever Ltd test marketed A 1 Chai Goli, a dust tea in the form of a tablet in Maharashtra while Unilever Worldwide launched 'A 1 Power', a vitaminised tea containing vitamins C, niasin, B and A in Karnataka.
WR : Most expensive tea

In July 1993, Abdulla Alireza of Europe procured one kg of Castleton tea for Rs 14,250 the highest price paid so far. Castleton Tea Ltd in Darjeeling, West Bengal accounts for 23.5% of the world's tea production.

It's Darjeeling Tea, officially!

The patent for Darjeeling tea, cultivated, produced and processed in the upper hilly regions of Darjeeling Tea Plantation District, said to produce the best quality of tea was obtained by the Tea Board of India in Feb. 2000. Darjeeling tea thus became the first product to be patented with a geographical indication in the wake of post - WTO & TRIPS scenario.

Monsooned coffee

Monsooned Coffee, a hot favourite with connoisseurs in Europe, especially the Scandinavian countries, has a story behind its origin. The first monsooning of coffee happened quite by accident when a shipload of coffee bound for Europe acquired a mellow yet unique taste en route with the coffee beans swelling due to the moisture in the air. Consumers loved it for its special colour and flavour and a new coffee was born.

First India International Coffee Festival

India International Coffee Festival 2002 (IICF 2002), held between Feb. 15-17, 2000 at Bangalore, drew about 500 delegates and 35 exhibitors from across the world. A brand building exercise for Indian coffee to boost profit margins in the international market, the show was jointly organised by the Coffee Board and the United Planters Association of South India (UPASI). The event had six conference sessions, business meetings, an exhibition, a competition for quality coffees and a museum show to highlight India's coffee heritage. It culminated with the release of a coffeeetable book on the coffee!

Largest coffee exporter

Allana Sons Ltd, Bangalore exported 25,641.5 tonnes of coffee, made up of 12,189 tonnes of Arabica and 13,415.7 tonnes of Robusta varieties in 2000-01. The company has supplied 1,500 tonnes of specialty coffee to customers the wordover.

Coffee sans caffeine

Scientists at the Biotechnology Centre of IARI, New Delhi devised in 1998 a biotechnology tool that kncks off the caffeine from coffee while retaining its smel and potency.

Cupping of coffee

The heart of coffee is in the cup! Cupping or cuptasting is a method of defining quality and creating a term of reference for the quality of coffee based on the perceptions of buyers. The practice was introduced in India by the Coffee Board when a department for Quality Control was set up in 1967. Ramunni Menon who headed the department set up the first cup tasting laboratory at Bangalore in 1970.

With the specialty coffee movement, private companies also stepped in and set up cup
tasting facilities. Today there are three such cupping units in the private sector-The Tata Coffee Ltd R & G factory, Coffeelab Pvt. Ltd and Adam & Company, all based in Banagalore.

**Marathon Man**

Dr Ashis Roy, who took up running to maintain his health at the age of 50, had by the time he was 70, run 55 marathons starting with the Rath Marathon in 1984. His achievements include 27 in the international circuit US (10), Canada (4), UK (2), one each in Greece, Holland, Poland, Finland, Sweden, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Macau, Australia, New Zealand, Russia and Germany. He is the first Indian to have run three marathons in four weeks and the only Asian to have run three races on three consecutive Sundays (Toledo, Cleveland and Cincinnati, 1999) and stood first in all three in his age group (65-69 years). In nearly all the marathons, Roy has finished within the first 30% runners besting many one third his age!

**BADMINTON NATIONALS**

**First tournament**

The Punjab State championship was held in 1929. The Badminton Association of India was formed in 1934.

**First championship**


**Youngest to win**

Prakash Padukone was 17 when he title at Chennai in 1971. He was the first player to win both the Senior and the Junior titles the same year.

**Most singles wins**

Prakash Padukone won nine successive golds from 1971-79. Madhumita Bisht won the women singles crown seven years in a row from 1985-91.

**Most titles**

Madhumita Bisht who has participated in the nationals since 1978 won 29 titles - in singles (8), doubles (9) and mixed doubles (12) categories. She won the mixed doubles crown at the 2002 national partnering Marcus Bristow.

**Most double titles**

Leroy D'Sa won seven double titles and entered 14 finals. U.Vinod Kumar won five titles.

**Longest career**

Madhumita Bisht, who won the sub-junior girls singles champion in 1977 retired after winning the mixed doubles crown in 2002.

**COMMON WEALTH GAMES**

**First gold**

Prakash Padukone won the Singles gold in 1978 at Edmonton, Canada beating
Ray Stevens of England.

**Overall Performance**

India won two silver and two bronze medals at the 16th Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur 1998, the most so far. Aparna Popat won the singles silver; the men's team won a silver in the team event, Puela Gopi Chand won a bronze in the men's singles and the women's team bagged a bronze in the team event.

**INTERNATIONAL**

**First World Cup**

Prakash Padukone won the Alba Cup in 1981 defeating Han Jian of China 15-10 15-7

(Source-Limca book of Records)