

UPSC Civil Services Examination

Subject – UPSC GS-III

Topic – National Emblem - Interesting Facts to Know for IAS Exam

An emblem by description is “a heraldic instrument or symbolic object as a unique insignia of a nation, organization, or family”. The National Emblem of a nation is a seal that is earmarked for official purposes and orders the highest admiration and loyalty. For a nation, it is a symbol of power and signifies the foundation of its constitutional values. The Indian National Emblem was accepted on 26 January 1950 by Madhav Sawhney.

According to rules, the National Emblem of India can only be used as per provisions of the State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act-2005 and any unauthorized use is punishable under law.

Aspirants preparing [IAS Exam](#) should know all important facts about National Emblem as a part of their duty towards nation.

This article is about the National Emblem of India - historical background, rules related to the emblem, meaning of the symbols engraved in it. This topic is important for various [government exams](#) in the Prelims section.

Aspirants can check their preparation by subscribing to [UPSC Prelims Test Series 2020](#) now!!

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14 Facts about National Emblem of India for UPSC

A list of 14 facts about Indian National Emblem is provided below:

1. The Ashoka pillar has four lions seated back to back which imply power, courage, confidence and pride.
2. Other animals demonstrated on the pillar are horse, bull, elephant, and lion.
3. The elephant denotes Buddha's outset (the dream of a white elephant entering her womb dreamt by Buddha's mother at the time of Buddha's conception).
4. The bull symbolizes Zodiac sign of Buddha- Taurus.

5. The horse signifies Buddha's horse which he rode at the time of departing from the citadel.
6. The lion indicates enlightenment.
7. All the Ashoka Pillars were carved by craftsmen from the same area using stone from Chunar and Mathura.
8. Each pillar is around 40 to 50 feet in height, and weighing up to 50 tons each, were pulled to where they were raised.
9. Only six pillars with animal capitals and nineteen pillars persist with inscriptions.
10. The engravings on the pillars described proclamations about morality grounded on Buddhist doctrines.
11. The slogan 'Satyameva Jayate' - "The Truth Alone Triumphs" is engraved below the National Emblem.
12. Slogan 'Satyameva Jayate' is a quote from the Mundaka Upanishad, the closing part of the holy Hindu Vedas.
13. National Emblem is the official seal of the President of India and Central and State Governments and an inevitable part of the official letterhead of the Government of India.
14. National Emblem is a part of all Indian currency and the National Passport of the Republic of India.

National Emblem & the Ashoka Pillar

The National Emblem of India is another version of the Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath, conserved in the Sarnath Museum. The pillars of Ashoka are a sequence of columns spread mainly throughout North India, created by the Mauryan king Ashoka during his rule in the 3rd century BC. In the original Ashoka pillar in Sarnath, there are four lions, standing back to back, fixed on an abacus with a frieze carrying sculptures in high relief of an elephant, a galloping horse, a bull and a lion parted by intervening wheels over a bell-shaped lotus.

To know more about the [list of symbols of states and union territories](#), check the linked article.

In the National emblem, accepted by the Government of India, only three lions are noticeable, the fourth lion is hidden from view as it seated back. The wheel seems in relief in the centre of the abacus with a horse on the left and a bull on the right and the outlines of other wheels on the extreme right and left. The bell-shaped lotus is not there.

UPSC has always asked questions regarding National Emblem, National symbols, National Anthem, and the Official language of India which is an important chapter in the [India Yearbook](#).

Frequently Asked Questions about National Emblem of India for UPSC

What is the name of our national emblem?	The National Emblem of India is called as it is. However, Lion Capital of Sarnath is adopted as our National Emblem
How many animals are there in our national emblem?	Four Asiatic Lions, Elephant, Horse and a Bull are represented in the Indian National Emblem
How many national emblems are there in India?	India has one National Emblem - The National Emblem of India
Who designed the national emblem of India?	Dinanath Bhargava sketched and illuminated India's National Emblem
How many lions are there in Ashoka Pillar?	Four Asiatic Lions are present in our National Emblem

What does Ashoka Chakra signify?	It is a symbol of Buddhist Dharmachakra, represented with 24 spokes
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National Bird of India	National Animal of India	National Song
National Anthem	National Flower	

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