

Important Firsts in India

Firsts in India (Male)

- First Governor General of Bengal: **Warren Hastings**
- First Governor General of India: **William Lord Bentinck**
- First President of Indian National Congress: **W. C. Banerjee**
- First Indian Governor General of Independent India: **C. Rajgopalachari**
- First Indian I.C.S. Officer: **Satyendra Nath Tagore**
- First Governor General of India (after independence): **Lord Louis Mountbatten**
- First Indian Cosmonaut (to go into space): **Sqn. Ldr. Rakesh Sharma**
- First Indian Nobel Laureate: **Rabindra Nath Tagore**
- First Indian to get Bharat Ratna Awards: **Dr. S. Radhakrishnan**
- First Field Marshal: **General S.F.J. Manekshaw**
- First Indian to swim across the English Channel: **Mihir Sen**
- First Indian to get Jnanpith Award: **G. Shankar Kurup**
- First Indian to win Palk - Strait Ocean Swimming Contest: **Baidyanath Nath**
- First Chief of Air Staff: **Air Marshal Sir Thomas Elmhirst**
- First Indian Air Chief of India: **Air Marshal Subroto Mukherjee**
- First Chief of Army Staff - **General Maharaja Sri Rajendra Singh Ji Jadeja**
- First Chief of Naval Staff of India: **Vice Admiral R.D. Katari**
- First large - scale Atomic Reactor of India: **Apsara (1956)**
- First Person to get Paramvir Chakra: **Major Somnath Sharma**
- First Nuclear Submarine of India: **IN.S. Chakra**
- First Indian Scientist to get Nobel Prize: **CV. Raman (Physics)**
- First Scientist of Indian origin, to get Nobel Prize in the field of Medical Science: **Dr. Hargobind Khorana**
- First Indian to win Stalin Award: **Saifuddin Kitchlew**
- India's first Nuclear Centre: **Tarapur**
- First Indian to win Magsaysay Award: **Acharya Vinoba Bhave (1958)**
- First British to visit Mughal Court (Court of Jehangir): **William Hawkins (1609)**
- First Asian Games organized: **New Delhi (in 1951)**



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- India's first Election Commissioner - **Sukumar Sen**
- First Muslim President of Indian National Congress: **Badrudin Tayab Ji**
- First Chief Justice of India: **Justice Hiralal J. Kania**
- First Person to submit the proposal of Indian Independence in a Congress Session: **Maulana Hasrat Mohani**
- First foreign recipient of Bharat Ratna: **Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan**

Firsts in India (Female)

- India's first Woman President: **Smt. Pratibha Patil**
- First Woman Chief Minister of a state: **Sucheta Kriplani (Uttar Pradesh)**
- First Woman Judge of the Supreme Court: **Meera Sahib Fatima Bibi**
- First Indian Woman to swim across English Channel: **Arati Saha (Gupta)**
- First Indian Woman to become 'Miss World': **Miss Reita Faria**
- First Indian Woman to become Miss Universe': **Sushmita Sen**
- First Woman to get Jnanpith Award: **Ashapurna Devi**
- First Indian Woman Pilot of Indian Airlines: **Durba Banerjee**
- First Indian Woman to fly an aircraft: **Sarla Thakral**
- First Indian Woman to win a Gold in Asian Games: **Kamaljeet Sandhu**
- First Indian Woman to win the Booker Prize: **Arundhati Roy**
- First Woman Musician to get 'Bharat Ratna': **M.S. Subbulakshmi**
- First Indian Woman to go into space: **Kalpna Chawla**

