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Important Days

National Epilepsy Day: Observed annually on



National Epilepsy Day

November 17th in India, this day is dedicated to raising awareness about epilepsy, a neurological disorder, and to reducing the stigma associated with it.

Birth Anniversaries – Indian Personalities

Gemini Ganesan (1920–2005) : (17 November 1920 – 22 March 2005), better known by his stage name Gemini Ganesan, was an Indian actor who worked mainly in Tamil cinema. He was referred as Kaadhal Mannan (King of Romance) for his romantic roles in films. Ganesan was one of the "three biggest names of Tamil cinema", the other two being M. G. Ramachandran and Sivaji Ganesan. While Sivaji Ganesan excelled in dramatic films and M. G. Ramachandran was popular as an action hero, Gemini Ganesan was known for his romantic films. A recipient of the Padma Shri in 1971, he had also won several other awards including the Kalaimamani, the MGR Gold Medal, and the Screen Lifetime Achievement Award. He was one of the few college graduates to enter the film industry then.



Yusuf Pathan (1982) : Born 17 November 1982 is an Indian former cricketer and politician of the Trinamool Congress. Pathan made his debut in first-class cricket in 2001/02 as a right-handed batsman and a right-arm off-break bowler. His younger brother, Irfan Pathan was also an Indian

cricketer. Pathan retired from all forms of cricket in February 2021. He was a member of the Indian team that won both the 2007 T20 World Cup and the 2011 Cricket World Cup. As of June 2024, Pathan is a Member of Parliament from the Baharampur Lok Sabha constituency of West Bengal.

Death Anniversaries – Indian Personalities

Lala Lajpat Rai (1865–1928) : (28 January 1865 – 17 November 1928) was an Indian revolutionary, politician, and author, popularly known as Punjab Kesari (Lion of Punjab). He was one of the three members of the Lal Bal Pal trio. He died of severe trauma injuries sustained in October 1928 during a baton charge by police in Lahore, when he led a peaceful protest march against the all-British Simon Commission. Lajpat Rai was born on 28 January 1865 into an Agrawal Jain family as the eldest son of six children of Munshi Radha Krishna, an Urdu and Persian government school teacher and Gulab Devi Aggarwal at Dhudike in the Faridkot district of the Punjab Province of British India (now in Moga district, Punjab, India). He spent much of his youth in Jagraon. His house still stands in Jagraon and houses a library and museum. He also built the first educational institute R.K. High school in Jagraon.



Balasaheb Thackeray (1926–2012) : (23 January 1926 – 17 November 2012), also known as Balasaheb Thackeray, was an Indian cartoonist and politician who founded the original Shiv Sena, a right-wing Marathi regionalist and a Hindu nationalist party, active mainly in the state of Maharashtra. Thackeray began his professional career as a



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xxcartoonist with the English-language daily, The Free Press Journal in Bombay, but he left the paper in 1960 to form his own political weekly, Marmik. His political philosophy was largely shaped by his father Keshav Sitaram Thackeray, a leading figure in the Sanyukta Maharashtra (United Maharashtra) movement, which advocated for the creation of a separate linguistic state for Marathi speakers. Through Marmik, Bal Thackeray campaigned against the growing influence of non-Marathis in Mumbai. He had a large political influence in the state, especially in Mumbai.

The Mother (Mirra Alfassa) (1878–1973): (21 February 1878 – 17 November 1973), known to her followers as

The Mother or La Mère, was a French-Indian spiritual guru, occultist and yoga teacher, and a collaborator of Sri Aurobindo, who considered her to be of equal yogic stature to him and called her by the name "The Mother" or "Shri Maa". Alfassa was born in Paris in 1878 to a bourgeois Sephardi Jewish family from Turkey. In her youth, she traveled to Algeria to practice occultism along with the occultist Max Théon. After returning to Paris, Alfassa guided a group of spiritual seekers. In 1914, she traveled to Pondicherry, India, and met Sri Aurobindo. She identified him as "the dark Asiatic figure" of her visions, and called him Krishna. During this first visit, she helped publish a French version of the periodical Arya, which serialised most of Sri Aurobindo's post-political prose writings.

Srinivas Kumar Sinha (1926–2016): (7 January 1926 – 17 November 2016) was an Indian Army General who

served as the Vice Chief of Army Staff. After his retirement, he served as Governor of the states of Jammu and Kashmir, and Assam. Srinivas Kumar Sinha was born on 7 January 1926 in Patna, Bihar in a Kayastha family. He was

the son of Mithilesh Kumar Sinha, IP, Inspector-general of police of the state of Bihar and the grandson of the first Indian Inspector General of India in the British Raj, Alakh Kumar Sinha. He graduated with Honours from Patna University in 1943 at the age of 17 and joined the Indian Army soon thereafter. He was recognised as the Best Cadet of the Officers' Training School, Belgium, the war-time equivalent of the Sword of Honour.

Historical event for India

1932: Third Round Table Conference Began

The Third Round Table Conference in London began on November 17, 1932. This conference was the last of a series of three meetings organized by the British government to discuss constitutional reforms in India. Crucially, the Indian National Congress did not attend this conference, as its prominent leaders, including Mahatma Gandhi, were imprisoned following the relaunch of the Civil Disobedience Movement, making its outcome less representative.

1948: Constituent Assembly Debates : On November 17, 1948, the Constituent Assembly of India met in New Delhi to continue debates on the Draft Constitution. The discussions on this day focused on key articles, including aspects of Article 1 which defined the Territory of the Union and the accession of Princely States.

1966: Rita Faria Wins Miss World: Rita Faria of India was crowned Miss World in London on November 17, 1966. She became the first Asian woman to win the Miss World title. After her reign, she declined film roles and pursued a career as a doctor, completing her medical studies.





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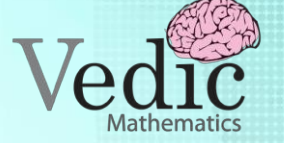
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International Observances

International Students' Day : This day is an international observance of the student community, commemorating the 1939 Nazi storming of the University of Prague. This brutal act involved the execution of nine student leaders, the mass arrest of over 1,200 students who were sent to concentration camps, and the closure of all Czech universities. The day honors the students who resisted the Nazi occupation and advocates for student rights, freedom, and democratic values worldwide.



Birth Anniversaries – International Personalities

Stanley Cohen (1922–2020): American biochemist who won the 1986 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the discovery of growth factors.

Death Anniversaries – International Personalities

Queen Mary I of England (1516–1558): Queen of England and Ireland from 1553 until her death. Her reign is known for the temporary restoration of Roman Catholicism.

Auguste Rodin (1840–1917): Influential French sculptor, considered the progenitor of modern sculpture, known for works like *The Thinker* and *The Kiss*.

International Historical Events

1558: The Start of the Elizabethan Era (England)

Queen Mary I of England died, and she was succeeded by her half-sister, **Elizabeth I**. This marked the beginning of the **Elizabethan Era**, a period characterized by a flourishing of English drama (William Shakespeare), exploration, and significant religious and political stability after decades of turmoil.

1869: The Suez Canal is Inaugurated (Egypt)

The **Suez Canal**, an artificial sea-level waterway connecting the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea was officially opened for international navigation. It drastically reduced the travel distance and time for ships moving between Europe and Asia, having a profound impact on global trade and geopolitics.

1970: Lunokhod 1 Lands on the Moon (Soviet Union)





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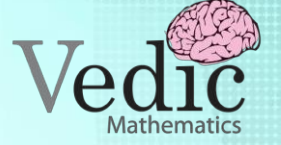
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Sports-related Historical Events Internationally

The Soviet Union's Lunokhod 1 robotic rover landed on the Moon, becoming the first wheeled remote-controlled robot to roam the surface of an extraterrestrial body.

1973: "I Am Not a Crook" (United States)

During the height of the Watergate scandal, U.S. President Richard Nixon delivered his famous quote, "I am not a crook," to 400 Associated Press managing editors in Orlando, Florida, in an attempt to defend himself against allegations of corruption.

1989: The Velvet Revolution Begins (Czechoslovakia)

A student demonstration in Prague commemorating International Students' Day (which itself commemorates the 1939 Nazi crackdown) was violently suppressed by riot police. This crackdown triggered a series of massive, non-violent protests and demonstrations across Czechoslovakia, which rapidly escalated into the Velvet Revolution, leading to the peaceful overthrow of the Communist government and the transition to a democratic state.

Other Significant Events

1777 (United States): The Articles of Confederation, the first government document of the United States, were submitted to the states for ratification.

1800 (United States): The U.S. Congress held its first session in the partially completed United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

1939 (Czechoslovakia): International Students' Day is observed on this date to commemorate the execution of nine Czech student leaders by the Nazis following protests against the German occupation.

1993 (United States/North America): The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives.

1968 - The Infamous "Heidi Game" (NFL, USA): One of the most famous scheduling mistakes in sports broadcasting history occurred on this day. The New York Jets vs. Oakland Raiders NFL game was being broadcast on NBC. Due to a pre-arranged schedule, the network cut away from the game with 1:05 left to begin the children's movie *Heidi*. In those final 65 seconds, the Raiders scored two touchdowns to win the game, leaving millions of viewers who had switched channels or were still watching the football broadcast completely unaware of the dramatic finish. The ensuing outcry led to the institution of rules preventing NFL games from being preempted for scheduled programming.

1869 - The First Major Cycle Race (England/Europe): The first major long-distance cycle race took place on this day. The winner was James Moore of England, who covered a distance of 1,200 km (about 750 miles) from Paris to Rouen.

2015 - Death of Jonah Lomu (Rugby, New Zealand): Jonah Lomu, a legendary New Zealand rugby union player often cited as rugby's first global superstar, died on this date. He revolutionized the wing position with his unprecedented combination of speed and size.

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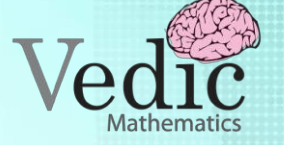
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