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### Death Anniversaries – Indian Personalities

**1993 Kolkata Writers' Building March (Martyr's Day Rally):** This day holds significant importance in West Bengal. On July 21, 1993, a protest march led by Mamata Banerjee (then a Congress leader) demanding photo voter ID cards resulted in violence and police firing, leading to the deaths of 13 people. This day is observed as **Martyr's Day Rally** by the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal to commemorate those who died.

### Historical events in India

**1947: Adoption of the National Flag.** On July 21, 1947, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Tricolour (Tiranga) as the national flag of independent India. This was a hugely significant moment in the lead-up to India's independence, symbolizing national unity and sovereignty.

**1993: Kolkata Writers' Building March and Police Firing (Martyr's Day Rally).** This is a very significant and tragic event in the political history of West Bengal. On July 21, 1993, Mamata Banerjee, then a leader of the Indian Youth Congress, organized a large protest march to the Writers' Building (the state secretariat in Kolkata). The protest aimed to demand the introduction of mandatory photo voter ID cards to ensure fair elections, alleging widespread "scientific rigging" by the ruling Left Front government. The march turned violent, and police opened fire on the protestors, resulting in the deaths of 13 people and numerous injuries. This incident became a turning point in West Bengal politics, elevating Mamata Banerjee's profile and solidifying her position as a major opposition leader. The Trinamool Congress (TMC), which Mamata Banerjee later founded,

observes this day annually as "Martyr's Day" (Shahid Diwas) to commemorate the victims.

**2007: Pratibha Patil Becomes India's First Female President.** While the election result was announced earlier, Pratibha Patil was officially sworn in as the 12th President of India on July 25, 2007, making July 21st a key date in the process as the day she was formally elected. Her election marked a historic milestone as she became the first woman to hold the highest constitutional office in India.

**2018: GST on Sanitary Products Removed.** In a significant step towards menstrual hygiene and women's health, the Indian government decided to remove the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on sanitary products on July 21, 2018.

### International Observances

**National Craft for Your Local Shelters Day:** Encourages crafting and donating items to animal shelters.

**No Pet Store Puppies Day:** Aims to raise awareness about puppy mills and encourage adoption from shelters.

**Belgium National Day:** Celebrates Belgium's independence.

### International Birth Anniversaries

**1816: Paul Reuter** - German-English journalist, founder of Reuters news agency.

**1899: Ernest Hemingway** - Influential American novelist and short-story writer, Nobel Prize laureate.







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**1911: Marshall McLuhan** - Canadian philosopher and communication theorist, known for coining the phrase "the medium is the message."

**1938: Janet Reno** - American lawyer and government official, the first female U.S. Attorney General.

### International Death Anniversaries

**1967: Albert Luthuli** - South African anti-apartheid activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

### International Observances

**Belgium National Day:** This is a major national holiday in Belgium, commemorating the inauguration of Leopold I as the first King of the Belgians in 1831, marking their independence.

### Significant International Historical Events

**356 BC: The Temple of Artemis in Ephesus Destroyed.** One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, this magnificent temple was destroyed by arson.

**1798: Battle of the Pyramids.** Napoleon Bonaparte's French forces achieved a decisive victory over the Mamluk army in Egypt, showcasing innovative military tactics during his Egyptian campaign.

**1831: Leopold I Inaugurated as King of Belgium.** Following the Belgian Revolution, Leopold I was crowned the first King of the Belgians, officially establishing the independent Kingdom of Belgium.

**1925: Scopes Monkey Trial Concludes.** In Dayton, Tennessee, high school biology teacher John T. Scopes was found guilty of teaching human evolution in class, a highly publicized case that highlighted the conflict

between science and religious fundamentalism in the United States.

**1944: Failed Attempt on Hitler's Life (20 July Plot aftermath).** While the assassination attempt on Adolf Hitler occurred on July 20th, July 21st saw the swift and brutal execution of Claus von Stauffenberg and other key conspirators, marking a dark chapter in the German resistance.

**1954: Geneva Accords Partition Vietnam.** The Geneva Conference concluded with the signing of agreements that effectively partitioned Vietnam into North and South Vietnam along the 17th parallel, setting the stage for the later Vietnam War.

**1960: Sirimavo Bandaranaike Becomes the World's First Female Prime Minister.** In Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Sirimavo Bandaranaike made history by being sworn in as Prime Minister, becoming the first democratically elected female head of government in the world.

**1961: Gus Grissom's Suborbital Space Flight.** As part of the Mercury program, Gus Grissom piloted the Liberty Bell 7 on a suborbital space flight, becoming the second American in space.

**1970: Aswan High Dam Completed.** After 11 years of construction, the massive Aswan High Dam across the Nile River in Egypt was completed, significantly impacting the region's agriculture, economy, and flood control.

**1972: Bloody Friday in Belfast.** The Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) detonated 22 bombs in central Belfast, Northern Ireland, within an 80-minute period, causing significant casualties and destruction during "The Troubles."

**1983: World's Lowest Recorded Temperature.** At Vostok Station in Antarctica, the lowest temperature







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ever measured on Earth was recorded at  $-89.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-128.6^{\circ}\text{F}$ ).

**2011: Last Flight of the Space Shuttle Atlantis.** The U.S. space shuttle program concluded with the landing of the orbiter Atlantis, marking the end of a 30-year era of space shuttle missions.

### Sports-Related Historical Events Internationally

**1885: The Football Association Legalizes Professionalism (England):** This was a monumental decision that forever changed the landscape of football. The FA officially recognized and allowed professionalism in the sport, moving it away from its purely amateur roots. This paved the way for professional leagues, clubs, and the global commercialization of football.

**1952: Emil Zátopek's Olympic Record (Helsinki Olympics):** The legendary Czechoslovakian long-distance runner Emil Zátopek won the 10,000-meter race at the Helsinki Olympics, breaking his own Olympic record. This was part of his incredible feat at these Games where he famously won gold medals in the 5,000m, 10,000m, and the marathon.

**1959: Pumpsie Green Integrates the Boston Red Sox (USA):** Elijah Jerry "Pumpsie" Green became the first African-American player for the Boston Red Sox, the last Major League Baseball team to integrate. This was a significant moment in the civil rights movement and for racial equality in American sports.

**1968: First International Special Olympics Summer Games:** Held at Soldier Field in Chicago, this was a groundbreaking event for inclusive sports. The games provided a platform for athletes with intellectual

disabilities to compete internationally, leading to the global Special Olympics movement.

**2012: Roger Federer Wins Seventh Wimbledon Title:** Roger Federer defeated Andy Murray in the Men's Singles final at Wimbledon, securing his record-equating seventh Wimbledon title (at the time) and his 17th Grand Slam title overall. This was a significant achievement for one of tennis's greatest players.

