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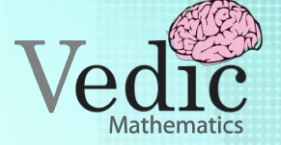
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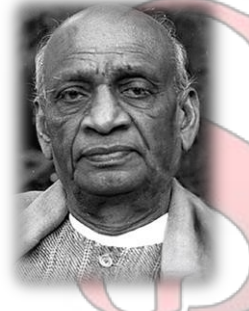


Important Days

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day): Observed annually since 2014, this day commemorates the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and reaffirms the nation's commitment to unity, integrity, and security. Various events, including the 'Run for Unity' and parades, are held across the country.

Birth Anniversaries – Indian Personalities

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (1875–1950): 31 October 1875 – 15 December 1950), commonly known as Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, was an Indian independence activist and statesman who served as the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of India from 1947 to 1950. He was a senior leader of the Indian National Congress, who played a significant role in the Indian independence movement and India's political integration. In India and elsewhere, he was often called Sardar, meaning "chief". He acted as the Home Minister during the political integration of India and the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947. Patel was born in Nadiad city (present-day Kheda district, Gujarat) and raised in the countryside of the state of Gujarat.



Dr. Narinder Singh Kapany (1926–2020): Narinder Singh Kapany (31 October 1926 – 4 December 2020) was an Indian-American physicist and a pioneer in the field of fiber optics. Notably, Kapany is known for coining and popularising the term "fiber optics". Fortune named him one of seven "Unsung Heroes of the 20th Century" for his Nobel



Prize-deserving invention. He was awarded India's second highest civilian award, the Padma Vibhushan, posthumously in 2021. He served as an Indian Ordnance Factories Service (IOFS) officer. He was also offered the post of Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister of India, by the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru.

G. Madhavan Nair (1943): (born 31 October 1943) is an Indian space scientist and a former chairman of ISRO, and Secretary to the Department of Space, Government of India. His tenure saw commencement of Indian Human Spaceflight Programme and launch of extraterrestrial exploration mission Chandrayaan-I. He was Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Technology Patna until he stepped down due to his involvement in a controversial deal relating to sale of radio spectrum bandwidth involving Antrix. He was subsequently barred from holding any private position. Nair was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian honour, on 26 January 2009.



Sarbananda Sonowal (1962): born 31 October 1962) is an Indian politician who has served as Minister of Ports Shipping and Waterways since 2021. He also has been a Member of the Rajya Sabha representing Assam since 2021 and also a member of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs since 2021. He previously served as the 14th Chief Minister of Assam (2016–2021), as a member of Assam Legislative Assembly for Majuli (2016–2021) and for Moran (2001–2004). Sonowal earlier served as the Assam state unit President of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from 2012 to 2014 and again from 2015 to 2016. He also served as the Minister of Sports and Youth





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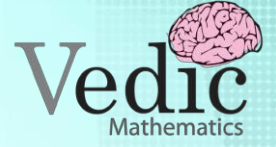
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Affairs, Government of India, from 2014 to 2016 and the Minister of State for Entrepreneurship and Skill Development from 2014 to 2014 and the member of the Lok Sabha from Lakhimpur from 2014 to 2016 and from Dibrugarh from 2004 to 2009. He was also the member of the Asom Gana Parishad from 2001 to 2011.

Death Anniversaries – Indian Personalities

Indira Priyadarshini Gandhi (1917–1984): 19 November 1917 – 31 October 1984) was an Indian



politician and stateswoman who served as the prime minister of India from 1966 to 1977 and again from 1980 until her assassination in 1984. She was India's first and only female prime minister as of 2025, and a central figure in Indian politics as the leader of the Indian National Congress (INC). She was the daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of India, and the mother of Rajiv Gandhi, who succeeded her as prime minister. Her cumulative tenure of 15 years and 350 days makes her the second-longest-serving Indian prime minister after her father.

Sachin Dev Burman (1906–1975): A (1 October 1906 – 31 October 1975) was an Indian music director and singer. He was a member of the Tripura royal family. He started his



career with Bengali films in 1937. He later began composing for Hindi movies and became one of the most successful and influential Indian film music composers. Burman composed the soundtracks for over 100 movies, including Bengali films and Hindi. Apart from being a versatile composer, he also sang songs in folk style of East Bengal and light

semi-classical. His son, R. D. Burman, was also a celebrated music composer for Bollywood films.

Amrita Pritam (1919–2005): 31 August 1919 – 31



October 2005) was an Indian novelist, essayist and poet, who wrote in Punjabi and Hindi. A prominent figure in Punjabi literature, she is the recipient of the 1956 Sahitya Akademi Award. Her body of work comprised over 100 books of poetry, fiction, biographies, essays, a collection of

Punjabi folk songs and an autobiography that were all translated into several Indian and foreign languages. Pritam is best remembered for her poignant poem, Ajj aakhaan Waris Shah nu (Today I invoke Waris Shah – "Ode to Waris Shah"), an elegy to the 18th-century Punjabi poet, and an expression of her anguish over massacres during the partition of British India. As a novelist, her most noted work was Pinjar ("The Skeleton", 1950), in which she created her memorable character, Puro, an epitome of violence against women, loss of humanity and ultimate surrender to existential fate; the novel was made into an award-winning film, Pinjar (2003).

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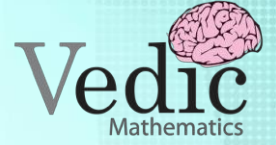
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Death Anniversaries – International Personalities

Harry Houdini (1926): The celebrated Hungarian-American illusionist and escape artist.

International Historical Events

Epoch-Making Events

1517: The Start of the Protestant Reformation

According to tradition, Martin Luther posted his Ninety-five Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church in Germany. This act is widely regarded as the catalyst for the Protestant Reformation, permanently fracturing Western Christianity and profoundly changing the political and religious landscape of Europe.

1922: Benito Mussolini Becomes Premier of Italy

Following the March on Rome, Benito Mussolini was appointed Prime Minister (Premier) of Italy, marking the beginning of the Fascist era.

1940: The Battle of Britain Ends

The longest and largest sustained aerial bombing campaign against Great Britain by the German Luftwaffe concluded. The British victory prevented Germany's planned invasion (Operation Sea Lion) and was a major turning point in World War II.

Post-War and Global Events

1956: The Suez Crisis Begins

The United Kingdom and France began bombing Egypt to compel the reopening of the Suez Canal, escalating the international crisis following Egypt's nationalization of the canal.

1961: Joseph Stalin's Body Removed

International Observances

Halloween : A major cultural celebration in many Western countries, observed on the eve of the Christian feast of All Saints' Day.

World Cities Day : A United Nations international day that aims to promote the international community's interest in global urbanization and foster cooperation in addressing its challenges.

Birth Anniversaries – International Personalities

Chiang Kai-shek (1887): Chinese soldier and statesman who led the Republic of China.

Johannes Vermeer (1632): Highly revered Dutch painter of the Baroque period (*Girl with a Pearl Earring*).

John Keats (1795): One of the principal poets of the English Romantic movement.

Juliette Gordon Low (1860): Founder of the Girl Scouts of the USA.





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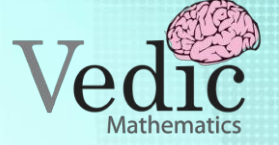
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Sports-related Historical Events Internationally

2023: Lionel Messi Wins Eighth Ballon d'Or On October 31, 2023, Argentine football star Lionel Messi won his record-extending eighth Ballon d'Or award for the world's best male football player, largely in recognition of leading Argentina to the 2022 FIFA World Cup title.

1999: Walter Payton's Death American professional gridiron football player Walter Payton, considered one of the greatest running backs in NFL history, died on October 31, 1999.

1938: Seabiscuit Defeats War Admiral In one of the most famous horse races in American history, on October 31, 1938, the legendary underdog racehorse Seabiscuit defeated the Triple Crown winner War Admiral in a special match race at Pimlico Race Course.

1903: Purdue Wreck Disaster A tragic railroad train collision in Indianapolis, known as the Purdue Wreck, occurred on October 31, 1903. It killed 17 people, including 14 members of the Purdue University football team, who were traveling to play a game against Indiana University.

1903: Hampden Park Opening The historic Hampden Park football stadium in Glasgow, Scotland, was officially opened on October 31, 1903.

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In the Soviet Union, Joseph Stalin's body was removed from public display in Lenin's Mausoleum in Moscow's Red Square and reburied within the Kremlin walls as part of Nikita Khrushchev's de-Stalinization program.

1968: Vietnam War Bombing Halt

U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered a complete cessation of all American air, naval, and artillery bombardment of North Vietnam, effective November 1st, citing progress in the Paris peace talks.

1992: Catholic Church Acknowledges Galileo Error

Pope John Paul II officially expressed regret and acknowledged the error committed by the Catholic Church's 17th-century condemnation of astronomer Galileo Galilei.

2011: Day of Seven Billion

The United Nations Population Fund designated this date as the approximate day the world's population reached seven billion people.

Sports-related Historical Events In India

1966: Mihir Sen Swims the Panama Canal On October 31, 1966, legendary Indian long-distance swimmer Mihir Sen successfully swam the length of the Panama Canal. He was the first Asian to complete this feat and had previously been the first Indian to swim the English Channel.

Contemporary/Recent Events (e.g., 2023, 2025):

2023 Cricket World Cup: On October 31, 2023, Pakistan played Bangladesh in a league match of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

Indian Football: The AIFF Super Cup (domestic knockout football competition) has sometimes had matches scheduled around this date, such as the major derby between Mohun Bagan SG and East Bengal FC.





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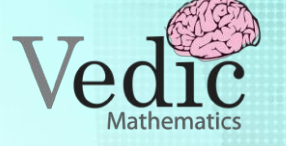
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