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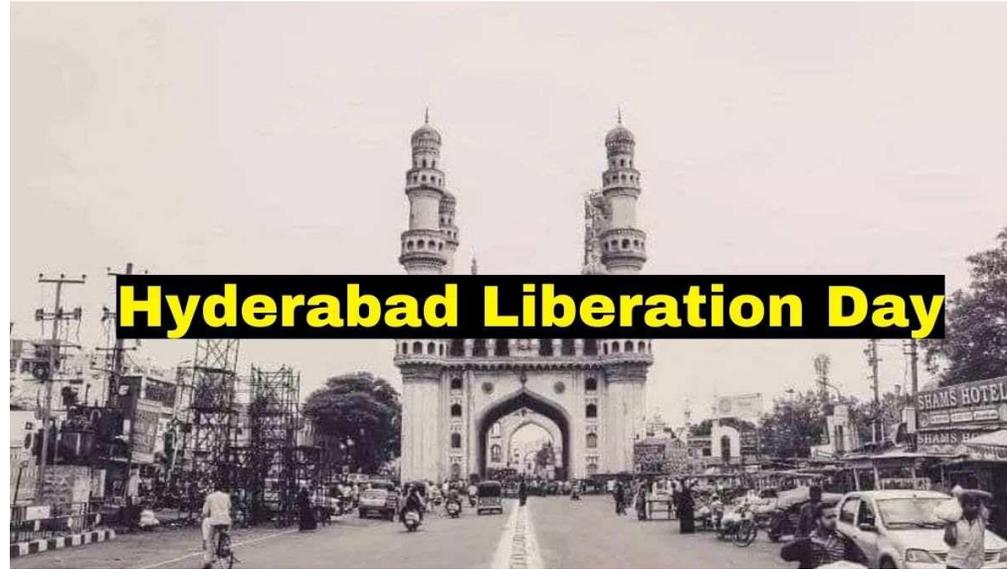
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Hyderabad Liberation Day – 17 September 1948 (Operation Polo)



- After India's independence in 1947, around 565 princely states had to be integrated into the Indian Union. Most rulers voluntarily joined India, but Hyderabad resisted integration.
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's first Home Minister, was instrumental in integrating princely states. He strongly advocated Hyderabad's merger into India, warning against foreign influence.
- The then Nizam, Mir Osman Ali Khan, refused to join India after independence. He wanted Hyderabad to remain independent and even sought international support.
- The Nizam's supporters, particularly the Razakars led by Qasim Razvi, committed atrocities against people who wanted Hyderabad's merger with India.
- To end lawlessness and resistance, the Indian government launched Operation Polo. It was a swift military action carried out between 13–17 September 1948.

- The operation lasted only five days. By 17 September 1948, Hyderabad was fully integrated into India.
- The Nizam surrendered, and Hyderabad state was merged into the Indian Union. This strengthened India's unity and territorial integrity.
- Hyderabad's liberation ended 13 months of uncertainty after Indian independence. It symbolized the triumph of democracy over autocracy and foreign influence.
- Since then, 17 September is observed as Hyderabad Liberation Day to remember the sacrifices of the people and the role of Indian forces.

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Indian Grandmaster Vaishali Rameshbabu became the first woman to win the FIDE Women's Grand Swiss twice on 16 September

- The victory in Samarkand secured her a place in the Women's Candidates Tournament.
- The final round ended in a draw against former world champion Zhongyi Tan of China.
- A prize cheque of \$40,000 was awarded along with the title.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated her, praising her passion and dedication.
- Vaishali noted that both her 2023 and 2025 victories arrived when she most needed them.
- She became the third Indian woman, after Divya Deshmukh and Koneru Humpy, to qualify for the Candidates.
- Her achievement marked a significant milestone for Indian women's chess.
- Additionally, Anandakumar Velkumar won the gold medal in the Senior Men's 1000m Sprint at the Speed Skating World Championships 2025.



The 21st edition of the India–US joint military exercise Yudh Abhyas 2025 concluded in Alaska

- The exercise had begun on September 1 at Fort Wainwright and the Yukon Training Area.
- A battalion of the Indian Army's Madras Regiment and troops of the US 11th Airborne Division participated.
- About 450 soldiers from each side were engaged in the joint training.
- The exercise has grown since 2002 into one of the most advanced bilateral drills India conducts.
- Integrated operations involving infantry, artillery, aviation, electronic warfare, and counter-drone systems were practised.
- Live-fire drills, sniper training, counter-IED tasks, and reconnaissance operations were conducted.
- Training in casualty evacuation, frostbite prevention, and high-altitude physiology was carried out in Alaska's sub-arctic conditions.
- The exercise was described by the Indian Embassy as a hallmark of the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership between India and the US.



Uttarakhand gets first NVIDIA-powered AI-HPC facility

- On 16 September, a state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence, Skill Development, and Innovation was inaugurated at Graphic Era University, Dehradun, by Union Minister Jitendra Singh.
- The center hosts Uttarakhand's first NVIDIA-powered AI and High-Performance Computing (HPC) hub.
- The hub is equipped with an NVIDIA DGX B200 system with eight GPUs and 1.74 TB of GPU memory.
- The facility has been developed at a cost of over ₹10 crore.
- Research in healthcare, agriculture, the environment, smart cities, and advanced industries is expected to be boosted.
- An Apple iOS Development Center has also been established at the facility in collaboration with Apple and Infosys.
- The minister described the center as a step towards the Digital India, Startup India, and Skill India missions.
- The importance of ethics in AI innovation was stressed, with a warning against deepfakes and misuse.
- Graphic Era University was noted as India's first generative AI-ready campus, powered by AWS.
- The university holds NAAC A+ accreditation and ranks 48th in NIRF 2025.



Mohammed Siraj and Orla Prendergast named ICC Players of the Month for August

- On 15 September, Mohammed Siraj of India was named ICC Men's Player of the Month for August 2025.
- His award came after a stellar match-winning effort in the final Test of the series against England at The Oval.
- Siraj took three wickets on the final day, helping India win the match by six runs and level the series 2-2.
- He finished with nine wickets in the match, including figures of 4/86 in the first innings and 5/104 in the second.
- He beat New Zealand's Matt Henry and West Indies' Jayden Seals to claim the award.
- On the other hand, Orla Prendergast of Ireland was named ICC Women's Player of the Month for August 2025.
- She was the Player of the Series in Ireland's 2-1 T20I victory over Pakistan, scoring 144 runs and taking four wickets.
- In the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Europe Qualifier, she scored 244 runs and picked up seven wickets in the month.
- Prendergast won the award ahead of Pakistan's Muneeba Ali and Netherlands' Iris Zwilling.
- ICC had introduced the ICC Player of the Month awards in January 2021.
- It recognizes the best performances of both male and female cricketers across all forms of international cricket.



India's economy grew by 7.8% in Q1 FY26, as per a report by CareEdge Ratings

- The economic growth in Q1 FY26 exceeded the forecasted growth of 6.6%.
- Manufacturing growth increased to 7.7%, up from 4.8% in the previous quarter.
- The services sector showed strong performance in all areas.
- Trade, hotels, transport, commerce, and broadcasting grew by 8.6%.
- Financial, real estate, and professional services saw a 9.5% increase.
- Public administration and defense grew by 9.8%. Agricultural growth slowed to 3.7%.
- Industrial growth was impacted by a 3.1% decline in mining.
- GVA growth reached 7.6%. The gap between GDP and GVA was positive, as indirect taxes grew faster than subsidies



Anandkumar Velkumar made history by winning India's first gold medal at the Speed Skating World Championships in China

- He won the senior men's 1,000m sprint with a time of 1:24.924.
- Earlier, Velkumar had already won India's first senior-level medal at the Worlds by taking bronze in the 500m sprint.
- India also celebrated a junior gold medal when Krish Sharma won the 1,000m sprint in his category.
- The championship started in Beidaihe on September 13 and will run until September 21.
- In 2021, Velkumar became the first Indian to win a medal at the Worlds by earning silver in the junior men's 15,000m elimination race.
- He also helped India win a bronze medal in the men's 3,000m event at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou.
- India's success at the World Games included Rishabh Yadav's bronze in compound archery and Namrata Batra's silver in wushu.
- With these recent wins, India's total medal count at the World Games has reached eight.
- This total includes one gold, two silvers, and five bronzes.
- This is India's most successful performance at the World Games so far.
- It surpasses the previous best of two medals won in 1989.



Apollo Tyres is now the main sponsor for India's national cricket teams

- This includes the men's, women's, senior, and junior teams.
- The sponsorship will last for two and a half years.
- Apollo's logo will appear on the teams' jerseys during this period.
- The BCCI conducted a competitive bidding process to select the sponsor.
- Apollo Tyres won with a bid reportedly worth ₹579 crore.
- Canva and JK Tyres also submitted bids of ₹544 crore and ₹477 crore, respectively.
- The BCCI had set base rates of ₹3.5 crore per bilateral match.
- For ICC tournament matches, the base price was ₹1.5 crore.
- Apollo's winning bid offered ₹4.5 crore for bilateral games.
- It also offered ₹1.72 crore for each ICC event match.
- The deal will start with the Women's ODI World Cup on September 30.
- The BCCI said the agreement shows the growing commercial appeal of Indian cricket.
- The new tender was issued after Dream11 pulled out of its sponsorship deal.
- Dream11 exited due to new restrictions on fantasy gaming under the Online Gaming Bill.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched development projects worth around ₹40,000 crore in Purnea, Bihar

- These projects cover transport, energy, aviation, and irrigation sectors.
- Modi said these projects will greatly improve connectivity and infrastructure in the Seemanchal region.
- He announced that more than 40,000 families have received permanent homes under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.
- On Engineers' Day, Modi inaugurated the new terminal at Purnea Airport.
- The terminal was completed in less than five months.
- He also flagged off the airport's first commercial flight.
- This officially connected Purnea to India's aviation network.
- In railways, Modi flagged off one Vande Bharat train, two Amrit Bharat trains, and one passenger train.
- He inaugurated the Araria–Galgalia rail line and laid the foundation for the Vikramshila–Kataria line.
- Approvals were given to double the Bhagalpur–Dumka–Rampurhat and Mokama–Munger rail lines.
- A 2,400 MW thermal power plant in Pirpainti, Bhagalpur, was inaugurated.
- Modi laid the foundation for the Kosi–Mechi river link project to improve irrigation and manage floods.
- He announced a ₹475 crore plan to support makhana farming.
- An announcement of release of ₹500 crore Community Investment Fund to support self-help groups was made by PM Modi.



Over Rs 342 crore released by the Centre under 15th Finance Commission grants for rural local bodies in Tamil Nadu and Assam

- The first installment of untied grants amounting to ₹127.586 crore was released to Tamil Nadu for the financial year 2025-26.
- This includes 2,901 eligible Gram Panchayats, 74 eligible Block Panchayats, and 9 eligible District Panchayats.
- ₹214.542 crore has been disbursed to Assam for the financial year 2024-25.
- This includes all 2192 eligible Gram Panchayats, 156 eligible Block Panchayats, and all 27 eligible Zilla Parishads.
- The Central Government, through the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Ministry of Jal Shakti, recommends the release of grants to the States under the 15th Finance Commission for Rural Local Bodies (RLBs)/Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
- This is subsequently released by the Ministry of Finance.
- The allocated grants are recommended and released in two installments in a financial year.
- However, the untied grant will be utilized by the RLBs/PRIs for location-specific requirements, under twenty-nine (29) subjects contained in the 11th Schedule of the Constitution, excluding salaries and other establishment costs.
- Tied grants can be used for basic services like sanitation, maintaining ODF status, household waste management, human excreta, and fecal sludge treatment.
- They can also be used for drinking water supply, rainwater harvesting, and water recycling.



Carlos Felipe Jaramillo Appointed World Bank VP for EAP

- World Bank Group appointed Carlos Felipe Jaramillo as Vice President for the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) Region.
- Lead the Bank's engagement with 23 countries across East Asia and the Pacific.
- Manage an active portfolio exceeding US\$32 billion.
- Before this appointment, Jaramillo served as,
- Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean (2020–2025), overseeing US\$41.5 billion in operations across 31 countries



Sarada Hoffman, Kalakshetra Bharatanatyam Guru, Dies at 96

- Sarada Hoffman, affectionately known as Chinna Sarada or simply Sarada teacher, passed away
- She devoted her life to the classical Indian dance form Bharatanatyam and was a pillar of the Kalakshetra Foundation, one of India's most prestigious dance institutions.
- Under the guidance of Rukmini Devi Arundale
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1996, one of India's highest national honours in the arts.
- She was the first recipient of the 'Rukmini Devi Medal for Excellence in the Arts', instituted by the Centre for Contemporary Culture, New Delhi.



ADR Report Reveals 21% of Legislators in India Have Dynastic Backgrounds

- **An Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) analysis revealed that about 21% of sitting MPs, MLAs, and MLCs in India come from dynastic political backgrounds, with the Lok Sabha having the highest share at 31% and State Assemblies the lowest at 20%.**
- **Out of 5,204 legislators studied, 1,107 (21%) belong to established political families, highlighting the strong influence of dynastic politics in India.**
- **State-wise data shows Uttar Pradesh leading in absolute numbers with 141 dynastic members (23%), followed by Maharashtra with 129 (32%), Bihar with 96 (27%), and Karnataka with 94 (29%).**
- **In terms of proportion, Andhra Pradesh tops with 34% dynastic representation, followed by Maharashtra (32%) and Karnataka (29%), underlining the prevalence of dynastic politics in key States.**

