

The 2024 Paris Olympics concluded with USA leading the medals tally with 126 medals (40 gold, 44 silver, 42 bronze). China was a close second with 91 (40,27,24) and Japan in third place with 45 (20,12,13). Australia, France, and Great Britain won more than 45 medals, but finished 4th, 5th, and 6th because they won less golds than Japan. Disappointingly India finished 71st with 6 (0,1,5).

World Elephant Day was observed on 12 August. First marked in 2012, it focusses attention on the plight of the African and Asian elephants, threatened by poaching, habitat-loss and mistreatment in captivity. Revered in mythology and tradition, it is estimated that there are only about 25,000 Asian elephants remaining in India today.

The world's oldest lunisolar calendar may have been discovered at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Gobekli Tepe in south-eastern Turkiye. The site is possibly the oldest permanent human settlement anywhere in the world.

India celebrated its 77th Independence Day on 15 August. PM Modi addressed the nation from the ramparts of Delhi's Red Fort. He spoke about the roadmap for a 'viksit' Bharat by 2047, in the presence of thousands of guests including the Indian Olympic contingent from the Paris Games.

Mpox, formerly known as monkeypox, is a viral infection characterised by painful lesions. This week the World Health Organization declared an international public health emergency in the face of rising cases that are spreading beyond the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where the virus is endemic. Sweden confirmed a first case of mpox clade I, the first outside Africa.

King Maha Vajiralongkorn has endorsed Paetongtarn Shinawatra, 37, as Thailand's prime minister, the youngest-ever. Her billionaire father served as PM (2001-06) as did her aunt Yingluck Shinawatra (2011-14). Another aunt's husband Somchai Wongsawat also served as PM in 2008.

Citizens across India protested continuing crime against women, even as the CBI investigation into the assault and murder of a young doctor in Kolkata continued. Public outrage has led to the Supreme Court taking suo motu cognisance of the case.

Instituted in 2021, Partition Horrors Remembrance Day was observed on 14 August in commemorating the victims and sufferings of people during the 1947 partition of India. This cataclysmic event which eventually resulted in the creation of 3 countries- India, Pakistan and Bangladesh- left upwards of 1 crore people displaced and lakhs of violent deaths.



Compiled by
Seema Chari and
Kunal Savarkar



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