

## INDEPENDENCE DAY SPECIAL – AUGUST 15, 2018

### IMPORTANT EVENTS WE NEED TO REMEMBER ON THE

### 72<sup>ND</sup> INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

(AUGUST 15, 2018)

- ★ India accomplished freedom from the British control on **August 15, 1947**.
- ★ 2018 marks the 72<sup>nd</sup> year of independence of India.
- ★ Before independence, for several centuries, India was ruled by foreigners, first by Turks from East, then by Mughals and then by British.
- ★ August 15 is celebrated to mark the rise of an independent India, whereas at the same time honour the ones who lost their lives for the freedom of India.

#### ◆ **IMPORTANT EVENTS**

- ★ Following are some of the key events that led to the formation of independent India.

#### **I. GREAT REVOLT OF 1857**

- ★ Revolt was the main cause of igniting the fire of independence amongst the people of India.
- ★ It was a revolt against the East India Company which initiated in Meerut and soon spread out to the other parts of the country.
- ★ Immediate cause of the anger and rebellion was the use of new pattern of enfield rifle.

- ★ Soldiers were forced to bite off the paper across the cartridges to load gunpowder.
- ★ Paper was supposed to contain beef and pork extract that was considered as impious by Hindus and Muslims.
- ★ Revolt that lasted for around a year cost us lives of some great soldiers like **Mangal Pandey** but left a deep impact on the British administration in India.

## II. FORMATION OF INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

- ★ INC was founded in the year **1885** as the first major political party in India.
- ★ INC was set up to act as a bridge between the citizens of India and British administration.
- ★ It was founded by **Allan Octavian Hume**.
- ★ Initially, INC had **17** members and within a span of 3 months, its strength had increased up to **72**.
- ★ Some of the prominent leaders of INC include Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Dadabhai Naoroji, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, amongst others.
- ★ INC soon under the guidance of these leaders, grew up to become a mass movement and played an important role in the freedom of our nation.

## III. RETURN OF GANDHIJI TO INDIA

- ★ Mahatma Gandhi returned to India on **January 9, 1915**.
- ★ His return surely got Britishers a bit worried.
- ★ His notable work in South Africa against the abolition of apartheid had already reached down to their ears.
- ★ Gandhiji took over the INC and began a movement based on the ideas of **non-violence and non-cooperation**.
- ★ He led many prominent movements in India with his first big achievement in Champaran followed by Khilafat Movement, Non Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement and Quit India Movement.

#### IV. LUCKNOW PACT

- ★ Pact was signed in the year **1916**.
- ★ It united the previously divided nation as one.
- ★ It was a pact that brought together the leaders of the INC and the Muslim League to work against the British unanimously.
- ★ Nation was no longer divided into Hindu and Muslims and they all worked together to force the British government to follow more liberal approach towards Indians.
- ★ **Muhammad Ali Jinnah** was the key person in this pact which led to the greater role of Indians in running the government in India.

#### V. JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE

- ★ Incident took place in **1919**.
- ★ It saw indiscriminate killing of thousands of people by British commander **General E.H. Dyer**.
- ★ This led to an increase in anger of Indians and number of freedom fighters such as Bhagat Singh and Chandra Shekhar Azad.
- ★ Police stations were burnt, bombings were done at the council meeting and many such reactions came up.

#### VI. NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT

- ★ Movement was launched by Mahatma Gandhi in **1920**.
- ★ Gandhi urged every Indian to give up or boycott British made goods and use self-made products such as clothes made out of Khadi etc.
- ★ He even emphasised that the Indians should boycott the English values and stick to their Indian morals.
- ★ Movement was suspended by Gandhiji in 1922 following the **Chauri Chaura** incident on **February 5, 1922**.

## VII. GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1935

- ★ It was one of the longest acts of Parliament ever enacted.
- ★ Government of India Act, 1935 gave Indians more power and rights.
- ★ Act was drafted to provide Indians more participation in matters of governance.
- ★ Although the act could not provide what it was expected to deliver, but still the participation of Indians increased as also their power.

## VIII. QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT

- ★ Movement was launched on **August 8, 1942**.
- ★ Demand was the immediate withdrawal of British from India and it resulted in the arrest of most of the INC leaders.
- ★ However, by that time, British had realised that they could no longer hold the spirit of independence from the people of India.
- ★ Underground activities by Usha Mehta, Arun Asaf Ali, Ram Manohar Lohia took place during that time.

## IX. PARTITION OF INDIA

- ★ On August 15, India was divided and Pakistan was formed.
- ★ Region with the majority of Muslims was named as Pakistan and the one where Hindus were in majority was named as India.
- ★ Around **14.5 million** people moved across the border which included around **7 lakhs** of Muslims moving from India to Pakistan, whereas the same number of Hindus moved from Pakistan to India.

**“At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom...”**

**- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**

# The Evolution of Indian Flag



The first national flag in India is said to have been hoisted on August 7, 1906, in the Parsee Bagan Square (Green Park) in Calcutta now Kolkata. The flag was composed of three horizontal stripes of red, yellow and green.



The second flag was hoisted in Paris by Madame Cama and her band of exiled revolutionaries in 1907 (according to some in 1905). This was very similar to the first flag except that the top stripe had only one lotus but seven stars denoting the Sapta Rishi. This flag was also exhibited at a socialist conference in Berlin.



During the session of All India Congress Committee which met at Bezwada in 1921 (now Vijayawada) an Andhra youth prepared a flag and took it to Gandhiji. It was made up of two colours, red and green, representing the two major communities, Hindus and Muslims. Gandhiji suggested addition of a white strip to represent the remaining communities and the spinning wheel to symbolise progress of the Nation.



The third flag went up in 1917. Dr. Annie Besant and Lokmanya Tilak hoisted it during the Home rule movement. This flag had five red and four green horizontal stripes arranged alternately, with seven stars in the saptarishi configuration super-imposed on them. In the left-hand top corner was the Union Jack. There was also a white crescent and star in one corner.



The year 1931 was a landmark in the history of the flag. A resolution was passed adopting a tricolor flag as our national flag. This flag, the forbear of the present one, was saffron, white and green with Mahatma Gandhi's spinning wheel at the center. It was, however, clearly stated that it bore no communal significance and was to be interpreted thus.



On July 22, 1947, the Constituent Assembly adopted it as Free India National Flag. After the advent of Independence, the colours and their significance remained the same. Only the Dharma Charkha of Emperor Asoka was adopted in place of the spinning wheel as the emblem on the flag. Thus, the tricolor flag of the Congress Party eventually became the tricolor flag of Independent India.



# 72 YEARS, 14 PRIME MINISTERS

Indian PMs who unfurled the national flag at the Red Fort, and those who couldn't

NO. OF TIMES

Prime Minister	No. of Times
Jawaharlal Nehru	17
Indira Gandhi	16
Manmohan Singh	10
Atal Bihari Vajpayee	6
Rajiv Gandhi	5
P.V. Narasimha Rao	5
<b>Narendra Modi*</b>	5
Morarji Desai	2
Lal Bahadur Shastri	2
Charan Singh	1
V.P. Singh	1
H.D. Deve Gowda	1
Inder K. Gujral	1



2 PMs didn't get a chance to hoist the flag



**Gulzarilal Nanda\*\***



**Chandra Shekhar**

