

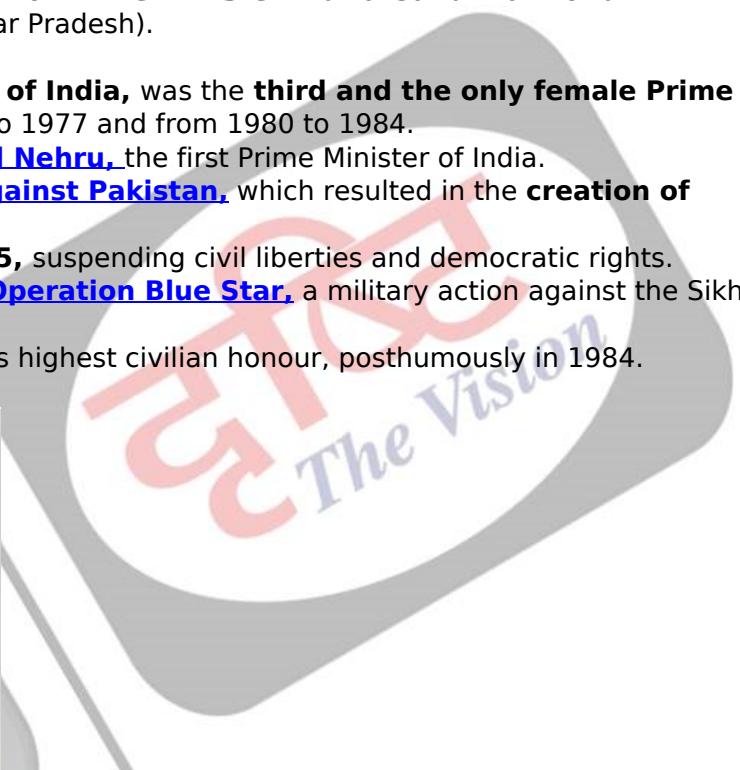


Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Indira Gandhi Birth Anniversary

Recently, the Prime Minister has paid tributes to former **Prime Minister Indira Gandhi** on her birth anniversary (19th November 1917 in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh).

- Indira Gandhi, also known as the **Iron Lady of India**, was the **third and the only female Prime Minister of India**, who served from 1966 to 1977 and from 1980 to 1984.
 - She was the daughter of **Jawaharlal Nehru**, the first Prime Minister of India.
- **She** led India to victory in the **1971 war against Pakistan**, which resulted in the **creation of Bangladesh**.
- She imposed a state of **emergency in 1975**, suspending civil liberties and democratic rights.
- She was assassinated in retaliation for the **Operation Blue Star**, a military action against the Sikh militants in the Golden Temple.
- She was awarded the **Bharat Ratna**, India's highest civilian honour, posthumously in 1984.



Read more: [Indo-Pak War: 1971, Operation Blue Star](#)

Birth Anniversary of Rani Lakshmibai

The Prime Minister has paid tributes to the symbol of the bravery of Indian women power, [Rani Lakshmibai](#) on her birth anniversary (19th November 1828 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh).

- Rani Lakshmibai, originally named Manikarnika was **one of the brave warriors of India's struggle for Independence** and the Queen of the **Maratha-ruled princely state of Jhansi**.
- She married **Maharaja Gangadhar Rao** at the age of 14, adopting the name Laxmibai. Her son died, and she later adopted **Damodar Rao**.
- In 1853, when the Maharaja of Jhansi died, Lord Dalhousie refused to acknowledge the child and **applied the Doctrine of Lapse**, and annexed the state.
 - According to this, any princely state that was under the **direct or indirect control of the East India Company** where the ruler did not have a **legal male heir** would be annexed by the company.
- She was one of the **leading figures of the Indian Revolt of 1857**.
- Rani Lakshmibai **fought bravely against the British** to save her empire from annexation. She died fighting on the battlefield on **17th June 1858**.
- When the **Indian National Army** started its first female unit (in 1943), it was named after the **valiant queen of Jhansi**.



Read more: [Rani Lakshmibai](#)

AI-Driven Martian Oxygen: Revolutionizing Mars Missions

Researchers have devised a groundbreaking method using **AI-driven chemistry to produce oxygen from Martian meteorites**.

- By converting **meteorites into compounds and creating catalysts**, this AI-chemist demonstrated a capacity to produce oxygen under simulated Martian conditions, marking a **crucial leap towards self-sustaining Martian exploration**.
- This innovative approach unlocks the potential for utilizing indigenous resources, steering future missions toward cost-effectiveness and reduced complexity.

Australia Wins ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023

In the final showdown of the Cricket World Cup 2023, **Australia clinched victory against India** by a **margin of six wickets** at the **Narendra Modi Stadium** situated in Ahmedabad.

- The match witnessed a remarkable performance by **Australia's Travis Head**, who secured a century.
- This triumph marked Australia's **sixth World Cup title**, establishing a new record as they had previously secured victories in **1987, 1999, 2003, 2007, and 2015** editions of the tournament.
 - India secured triumph in the World Cup twice, in **1983 and 2011**.

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