

# 15 August, 2024: Current Affairs

## National

### 78th Independence Day Celebrated; PM Modi Delivers Longest Speech



On August 15, during the 78th Independence Day celebrations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hoisted the national flag at the Red Fort. In his 11th Independence Day address as Prime Minister, he delivered his longest speech, lasting 103 minutes. Notably, he has delivered speeches exceeding 90 minutes four times (2016, 2019, 2022, 2023). His shortest address was 65 minutes long in 2014, the year he first became Prime Minister. Narendra Modi is the third Prime Minister to hoist the flag at the Red Fort for the 11th time, following Pandit Nehru, who did so 17 times, and Indira Gandhi, who hoisted the flag 16 times.

## Environment and Conservation

### \*\*India Adds Three New Sites to the Ramsar List, Bringing the Total to 85\*\*



Before Independence Day, India added three more sites to its Ramsar list, increasing the total to 85. The newly added sites are Nanjanayan Bird Sanctuary and Kochuveli Bird Sanctuary from Tamil Nadu and Tawa Reservoir from Madhya Pradesh. With this addition, the Ramsar sites in India now cover an area of 1,358,068 hectares.

## International News

### **\*\*Thailand's Constitutional Court Removes Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin\*\***



Thailand's Constitutional Court dismissed Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin for appointing a former lawyer who had been jailed 16 years ago to his cabinet. The decision followed a petition by at least 40 former senators, who accused Thavisin of violating Thailand's constitution and not adhering to ethical standards. The court voted 5-4 to remove him from office.

## Health News

### **\*\*WHO Declares Mpox a Global Health Emergency for the Second Consecutive Year\*\***



The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared Mpox, a viral infection originating from the Democratic Republic of Congo, as a global health emergency for the second year in a row. The disease, which spreads through contact with an infected person, has resulted in more than 17,000 suspected cases and over 500 deaths in Africa this year.

## Defense News

## **\*\*First Phase of Multinational Air Exercise 'Tarang Shakti' Concludes\*\***



On August 14, the first phase of the Indian Air Force's (IAF) largest multinational air exercise, 'Tarang Shakti,' concluded. The second phase will be held from August 29 to September 14 in Jodhpur, involving 18 countries, including Australia, Bangladesh, Greece, Singapore, UAE, and the USA. A total of 150 aircraft from the Indian Air Force and international forces will participate.

## **\*\*Successful Test of Indigenous Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MP-ATGM)\*\***



On August 13, India successfully tested the indigenous Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MP-ATGM) at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer. Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), this missile is designed to neutralize enemy tanks and armored vehicles and can be launched from the shoulder, with a range of 200 meters to 2.5 kilometers.

## **Sports News**

### **\*\*Morne Morkel Appointed as Bowling Coach for the Indian Cricket Team\*\***



The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) appointed 39-year-old former South African fast bowler Morne Morkel as the bowling coach for the Indian cricket team. Morkel will join the team on September 1 and his first assignment will be the Test series against Bangladesh starting on September 19. He replaced the former coach Paras Mhambrey, whose tenure had already ended.

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