

Today In *History*

Find Out What happened On March 31

Important events of March 31

- **1774:** *The first office of the postal service opened in India.*
- **1843:** *Balwant Pandurang Kirloskar (Annasaheb), first musical playwright of Marathi, was born.*
- **1867:** *Prarthana Samaj was established by Ranade, Bhandarkar and others at Mumbai in 1864.*
- **1870:** *For the first time in America, a black citizen voted.*
- **1871:** *Gangadhar Balkrishna Deshpande, freedom fighter and loyal Congress leader 'Lion of Karnataka', was born.*
- **1889:** *The Eiffel Tower was inaugurated. It took two years, two months, and two days to build.*
- **1901:** *The first Mercedes car was built. The car was named after the daughter of the Austrian political official for whom it was built.*
- **1904:** *British slaughter hundreds of Tibetans.*
- **1913:** *Foundation stone of 'Gateway of India' was laid by Sir George Sydenham Clarke.*
- **1917:** *America purchased the Danish West Indies and named it Virgin Islands.*
- **1921:** *Royal Australian Air Force was established.*
- **1942:** *During the 2nd World War, Japan was heavily successful in Burma and Andaman which posed a danger to the Indian Security.*
- **1959:** *Dalai Lama fled China & was granted political asylum in India.*
- **1964:** *Tram-way service ended in Mumbai (Bombay). This last electric tram left Bori Bunder (CST) for Dadar at 10 p.m., crowds lined the route all the way at that late hour to bid farewell to the common man's transport medium.*
- **1966:** *Russia launched Luna-10, the first artificial satellite of the moon.*
- **1977:** *N. K. Mukarji was appointed as the Cabinet Secretary of India. He held this office till 31-03-1980.*
- **1979:** *Malta declared independence from Britain.*
- **1980:** *Nirmal Mukherjee, the last Indian Civil Service Officer, retired from service as Cabinet Secretary.*
- **1983:** *500 people died in the devastating earthquake that hit the Colombian city of Popayán.*
- **1986:** *Bombay Telephone Nigam renamed as Mahanagar Telephone Nigam.*

- **1990:** *Bharat Ratna, India's highest award, was given to Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar (1841-1956) (Posthumous).*
- **1992:** *Delhi beat Tamil Nadu in 1st innings to win cricket Ranji Trophy.*
- **1992:** *Madhav Singh Solanki, External Affairs minister, resigns on Bofors letter issue.*
- **1992:** *The PM to look after foreign affairs.*
- **1992:** *The new five-year Export-Import policy relaxes restrictions.*
- **1993:** *J.N. Dixit, Foreign Secretary, visits Myanmar and signs agreements on trade, control of drug trafficking and separatist movements along the borders.*
- **1993:** *Kidnapped cardiac surgeon Dr. Abdul Ahad Guroo killed in Srinagar.*
- **1993:** *Major changes in exim policy announced.*
- **1994:** *Argentina President Carlos Menem visits India.*
- **1994:** *U.R. Rao, retiring ISRO Chairman, announces agreement with Russia for supplying 7 cryogenic engines.*
- **1994:** *The Supreme Court orders closure of 11 industrial units around Taj Mahal.*
- **1996:** *Karnataka defeat Tamil Nadu in first innings to win Ranji Trophy.*
- **1997:** *Forex reserves touch a record \$ 22.36 billions.*
- **1997:** *Lakhubhai Pathak, prominent NRI businessman who had accused Narasimha Rao of cheating \$ 100,000, died in London.*
- **1997:** *The Bombay Stock Exchange crashes by 300 points.*
- **1997:** *Vaslav Clark was appointed the new NATO military commander.*
- **1998:** *T. N. Mishra became the director of Central Bureau of Investigation (till 04/01/99).*
- **1999:** *The PIO card, conferring privileges on persons of Indian origin settled abroad, is formally launched.*
- **2001:** *Sachin Tendulkar completed 10,000 runs in ODIs.*
- **2005:** *The United Nations stopped the supply of grain to North Korea.*
- **2007:** *Michael Phelps won six golds in the World Swimming Championships.*
- **2008:** *12 people were killed in a bomb blast near a Pakistani Air Force bus.*
- **2011:** *According to census data, India's population has increased to 121 crore (1 billion 21 crore) in 2011. This is 17.64 percent more than the calculation done ten years ago.*

Famous People born on March 31

- **1504:** *Guru Angad Dev, the second Guru of the Sikhs, was born.*
- **1519:** *Henry II, the King of France.*
- **1596:** *René Descartes, a French philosopher, mathematician, and scientist.*
- **1843:** *Annasaheb Kirloskar, a Marathi playwright.*
- **1860:** *Rama Shankar Vyas, one of the outstanding Hindi writers, was born.*
- **1865:** *Anandibai Gopalrao Joshi, the first Indian female doctor.*

- **1871:** *Gangadharrao Deshpande, an Indian Independence activist.*
- **1882:** *N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, a Member of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution.*
- **1922:** *American actor and singer Richard Kiley was born.*
- **1934:** *Kamala Das, a famous English and Malayalam writer, was born.*
- **1938:** *India's famous female politician and former Chief Minister of Delhi Sheila Dikshit was born.*
- **1945:** *Meira Kumar, an Indian politician, and former diplomat.*
- **1963:** *Sujatha Mohan, an Indian playback singer.*
- **1972:** *Evan Williams, an American technology entrepreneur. He is co-founder of Twitter and founder of "Blogger and Medium".*
- **1987:** *Indian chess grandmaster Koneru Humpy was born.*