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[V■■■■■■■■](#)

[@V_Shuddhi](#)



‘Flag Hoisting’ vs ‘Unfurling’ ■■

Know the difference between 15 August & 26 January Flag Ceremony

On Independence Day, is the National Flag hoisted or unfurled?

Many people believe that the terms ‘Hoisted’ & ‘Unfurled’ are synonyms,



but there is a significant difference between the two.

On 15th August, Prime Minister ‘Hoists’ the national flag to honour the historical event of India’s Independence.

On Republic Day, the President of India ‘Unfurls’ the flag on Rajpath before presiding over a parade.

1 - The positioning of the flag matters a lot! One can spot the difference between ‘unfurling’ and ‘hoisting’ in the positioning of the flag.

When the national flag hoists on independence day, it is tied and sits at the bottom of the pole.

It is the Prime Minister who raises the national flag up and hoists it

Whereas, when the flag is unfurled on Republic Day, it is closed and tied at the top of the pole.

The President unfurls it without pulling the flag up as it takes place on Independence Day.

Why the President unfurls and Prime Minister hoists?

The prime minister, who is the head of the government, 'hoists' the flag on Independence Day.

On the other hand, the President of India 'unfurls' the Tricolour on Republic Day as the

constitutional head and 'first citizen' of the country.

but why is this order followed in India?

Of course, there is also the matter of History, on the first Independence Day, there was no President. Lord Mountbatten was still the Governor General of India,

the position that was equivalent to the President and preceded it before the office was abolished.

Obviously, the coloniser would not hoist the flag of a newly independent nation, and the job, therefore, fell to the one person who, it was agreed, would be the

representative of the people of India – the Prime Minister.

There are certain rules that need to be followed while handling the national flag.

1 - One has to ensure that the national flag never touches the ground. Even before it is hoisted, while it lays at the bottom of the

pole, the flag is kept away from ground level — as a mark of respect to the Tricolour.

2 - When carrying a flag, it should always be held in the right hand, as this is the position of authority.

3 - When the Indian flag is flown on Indian soil while hosting

an international event, the rule is that the 'Tricolour' should be the starting point of all flags. When flags are placed in a 'straight line', the rightmost flag is the Indian flag, followed by other national flags in alphabetical order.