

Weekly Current Affairs PDF April 09 to April 15, 2023

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INTERNATIONAL

US, Philippines launch largest joint military exercises

The United States and the Philippines have launched their largest joint military exercises in decades, with over 17,600 military personnel taking part in the drills. The annual drills, called Balikatan, a Tagalog term for shoulder-to-shoulder, will run until April 28 and involve live-fire exercises, including a boat-sinking rocket assault in the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait. The drills are seen by experts as a challenge to China's dominance in the region. "Through this exercise, the Philippine and US forces will sharpen our inter-operability, increase our proficiency and complement our capabilities through collaboration, ensuring we are prepared to respond to real-world challenges together," First US Marine Aircraft Wing commander Major-General Eric Austin said at Tuesday's opening ceremony in Manila. The US has been strengthening its alliances in the Indo-Pacific to counter China's aggressive actions in the region, including those against Taiwan. The drills include 12,200 US military personnel, 5,400 Filipino forces, and 111 Australian soldiers. America's warships, fighter jets, Patriot missiles, HIMARS rocket launchers, and anti-tank Javelins will be showcased, according to US and Philippine military officials. The Balikatan exercises will also test the allies' capabilities in combined arms live-fire, information and intelligence sharing, communications between maneuver units, logistics operations, and amphibious operations. The exercises will include military helicopters landing on a Philippine island off the northern tip of the main island of Luzon, nearly 300 kilometers (180 miles) from Taiwan. Philippine military officials said that the exercises were aimed at bolstering the country's coastal defense and were not directed at any country.

China conducts mid-course missile interception test

China said it carried out a successful ground-based mid-course missile interception test in an apparent sign of progress in its ability to bring down weapons incoming from space. The Defence Ministry says the operation was carried out late Friday night within Chinese territory and achieved "the desired test objective."

The test was "defensive in nature and not targeted against any country," the ministry said, giving no other details such as whether it actually struck an object, how many interceptors were fired and where they landed.

Such systems, which consist of ground-based interceptor missiles and a huge array of radars and fire control systems, aim to bring down ballistic missiles, including ICBMs carrying nuclear or other warheads, while they are flying in space mid-course on the way to their targets.

Referred to by the US as ground-based mid-course defence, or GMD, such systems are hugely complex and expensive to build, test and maintain

US, Japan, South Korea to hold missile defence exercises

The United States, Japan and South Korea said in a joint statement they discussed the regularisation of missile defence and anti-submarine exercises to deter and respond to North Korea's nuclear and missile threats. The announcement was made at the 13th Defence Trilateral Talks held on Friday in Washington DC to exchange assessments of the security environment on the Korean Peninsula and broader region, as well as to consult on concrete ways to deepen trilateral security cooperation,

NATIONAL

Andhra Pradesh's Jagan Mohan Reddy most wealthiest CM in India

A total of 29 of the incumbent chief ministers are crorepaties in India with Andhra Pradesh's Jagan Mohan Reddy having the highest assets totaling ₹510 crore, according to poll affidavits analyzed by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The report stated that West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee has the lowest total assets of about ₹15 lakh,

Out of the 30 CMs analyzed, 29 (97 percent) are crorepaties with the average assets being ₹33.96 crore for every CM, the ADR said.

The top three chief ministers in terms of assets are Andhra Pradesh's Jagan Mohan Reddy (over ₹510 crore), Arunachal Pradesh's Pema Khandu (over ₹163 crore), and Odisha's Naveen Patnaik (over ₹63 crore), according to the ADR.

The three CMs with the lowest declared assets are – West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee (over ₹15 lakh), Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan (over ₹1 crore), and Haryana's Manohar Lal (over ₹1 crore), the ADR said.

After analyzing the self-sworn poll affidavits of all the 30 current chief ministers of states and union territories, the ADR and Election Watch (NEW) said that have arrived at this conclusion.

There are 28 state chief ministers and two union territories -- Delhi and Puducherry -- also have chief ministers. The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir does not have a chief minister currently.

SPORTS

Aman Sehrawat clinches India's first gold medal at Asian Wrestling Championships

Aman Sehrawat clinched India's first gold medal at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2023 in Astana, Kazakhstan. Sehrawat topped the podium in men's 57 kg freestyle category on the penultimate day of the competition. He defeated Kyrgyzstan's Almaz Smanbekov 9-4 to win the gold medal. Aman Sehrawat's victory in Astana ensured the men's freestyle 57kg gold medal stayed with India for the fourth year running.

This was Aman Sehrawat's second podium of the year. Last year, Sehrawat was the first Indian wrestler to win gold at the Under-23 world championships in Spain.

With two freestyle medals India's tally rose to 13 in the competition. The Greco-Roman wrestlers won four medals while the women's wrestlers bagged seven.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

PTC India appoints 3 former IAS officers as independent directors

Power trading solutions provider PTC India has appointed three retired officers of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) as independent directors of the company. The company has also appointed Mahendra Kumar Gupta as a nominee director of NHPC. In a statement, PTC India informed about the appointments of Rashmi Verma, Jayant Dasgupta and Narendra Kumar as independent directors of the company with effect from Thursday. The appointments are subject to the approval of the shareholders, it stated. Rajib K Mishra, Chairman & Managing Director, PTC India, said: "We are delighted to welcome the three new independent directors having credible experience and impeccable career record." Rashmi Verma, a former IAS officer from 1982 batch, has 36 years of experience in various sectors, including tourism and textiles.

In over 37 years of experience, Dasgupta, a 1981-batch retired IAS officer, has served as chief adviser to Bihar State Planning Board and ambassador to the World Trade Organisation. He also served as secretary, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.

Narendra Kumar, a retired IAS officer from 1988 batch, has served as Financial Commissioner, Government of NCT of Delhi, and Managing Director of Delhi State Financial & Development Corporation.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Art Day

Each year, on 15 April, World Art Day celebrations help reinforce the links between artistic creations and society, encourage greater awareness of the diversity of artistic expressions and highlight the contribution of artists to sustainable development. It is also an occasion to shine a light on arts education in schools, as culture can pave the way for inclusive and equitable education.

The World Art Day, a celebration to promote the development, diffusion and enjoyment of art, was proclaimed at the 40th session of UNESCO's General Conference in 2019.

Art - When humans use their creative skills and imagination to create something in visual form, it is called art. Some of the most popular types of art include painting, sculpting, drawing, photography, and calligraphy. These art forms can be used in professional applications, such as architecture, fashion design, wood crafts, and jewelry design. Along with visual arts, there are also the performing arts. Examples of the performing arts include dance, theater, and music.

Himachal Pradesh celebrates its 75th formation day

The 75th anniversary of the formation of Himachal Pradesh is being celebrated across the State today (15 April). This day is celebrated to glorify the State's creation. This time the State level function will be held at Kaza in the tribal Lahul-Spiti district.

Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu is presiding over the State level function being held for the first time in 75 years in Kaza. On this occasion, the Chief Minister will hoist the

national flag and inspect the parade and take the salute from the march past. Cultural teams from various districts of the State will present colourful programmes along with the presentation of Spiti's Chham dance. During the function, the Chief Minister will also honour the people who have rendered excellent services in various fields.

It may be recalled that Himachal Pradesh came into existence on the 15th of April 1948 as a Chief Commissioner's State. With this, Himachal Pradesh was created as a province of India. Later on the 25th of January 1950, Himachal was made a 'C' category State. After this, on the 1st of November, 1956, Himachal Pradesh was declared a Union Territory. In 1966, the hilly areas of Punjab were included in Himachal Pradesh. On the 18th of December 1970, Parliament passed the Himachal Pradesh Act and on the 25th of January 1971, Himachal Pradesh came into existence as a full-fledged State and became the 18th State of the country.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

12th Session Of India-Spain Joint Commission For Economic Cooperation In New Delhi

The 12th Session of the India-Spain Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC) took place on April 13. In New Delhi, During the meeting, the two sides discussed a range of issues related to economic cooperation between the two countries, Both sides celebrated this Golden Jubilee edition of India-Spain Joint Commission mechanism which was established in 1972. During the past 50 years, a remarkable enhancement of bilateral trade and investment has taken place. With an investment of USD 3.7 Bn, 250 Spanish Companies are active in India and 40 Indian Companies are present in Spain working in different sectors such as IT, Pharma, Renewable Energy, Automobiles, Infrastructure etc.

Ms. Xiana emphasised the importance of India-Spain relationship and the Spanish partnership in India's development stories. Spanish side has reaffirmed the further cooperation in the various sectors including in the field of Civil Aviation such as Automation, Surveillance and NavAids, High Speed Railways, Railways networking, Signalling, Traffic management etc.

Both sides also agreed for further cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy, Shipping, Ports, Tourism, Infrastructure, Food Processing, Pharmaceuticals, Technology, Innovation, and Defence sector.

The status of various MOUs were also reviewed including those of important interest for bilateral relations such as MOUs on Migration and Mobility, Agreement on Social Security, Cyber Security etc.

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INTERNATIONAL

Ghana becomes first country to approve Oxford's malaria vaccine

Ghana has made history by becoming the first country to approve a highly effective malaria vaccine developed by scientists at the University of Oxford in the UK. The vaccine, called R21/Matrix-M, has exceeded the World Health Organization's target of 75% efficacy, making it a significant milestone in the fight against malaria.

The mosquito-borne disease kills more than 600,000 people each year, most of them children in Africa, and scientists have been trying for years to develop vaccines. This is the first time a major vaccine has been approved first in an African country before rich nations. The first malaria vaccine, Mosquirix from British drugmaker GSK, was endorsed by the WHO last year after decades of work. But a lack of funding and commercial potential thwarted the company's capacity to produce as many doses as were needed.

GSK has committed to producing up to 15 million doses of Mosquirix every year through to 2028, well under the roughly 100 million doses a year of the four-dose vaccine the WHO says is needed, long term, to cover around 25 million children.

Ghana, Kenya and Malawi were all involved in the pilot program for the roll-out of Mosquirix, and have begun introducing it more widely in recent months.

Since it began in 2019, 1.2 million children across the three countries have received at least one dose of the Mosquirix vaccine

The WHO said last month that, in the areas where the vaccine has been given, all-cause child mortality has dropped by 10 per cent, a sign of its impact. The research has also found that the effectiveness of GSK's vaccine is approximately 60 percent, and significantly wanes over time, even with a booster dose.

Juice mission blasts off to Jupiter to look for signs of life

The European Space Agency (ESA) has launched a new space mission to study the moons of Jupiter. On 14 April 2023, the Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (Juice) mission blasted off from French Guiana, on the north-eastern shoulder of South America.

The discovery of sub-surface saltwater oceans on Jupiter's moons has pushed them high up the list of solar system venues to explore for signs of life and habitability. If hydrothermal vents – found on ocean floors all over Earth – exist on the Jovian moons, they may provide enough warmth for life to thrive in the darkness.

Juice will spend eight years winding its way to its destination hundreds of millions of miles from Earth. Its route to Jupiter will be far from direct, drawing on multiple gravity assists around Earth and Venus to propel it towards its goal. On arrival in 2031, the spacecraft will survey Jupiter and its icy moons with a suite of 10 advanced instruments.

Among the questions scientists hope to answer is why Jupiter's Great Red Spot is shrinking, why its third largest moon, Io, is the most volcanically active body in the solar system, and whether there could be, or has ever been, life on Jupiter's ocean-bearing moons.

TCG Anadolu, Turkey's Largest Warship and World's 1st Drone Carrier

Turkey commissioned its largest warship in a much-anticipated inauguration ceremony.

The TCG Anadolu, being touted as the world's first Unmanned Combat Aerial Aircraft (UCAV) carrier, saw the prototype of the latest Bayraktar TB3 sitting on its deck.

The ship will be Turkey's first aircraft carrier and the first ship in the world with an air wing made primarily of unmanned aircraft, Turkish media Daily Sabah reported. The ship was delivered to the Turkish Navy three months before the official inauguration ceremony.

On the day of the inauguration, the prototype of Turkey's recent UAV from the Bayraktar family, the latest Bayraktar TB3, was lifted off to the carrier's flight deck. A video of the startling maneuver was published online. The Bayraktar TB3 is set to become operational from this deck by 2024.

This development comes weeks after Selcuk Bayraktar, the CTO of Baykar Technologies, shared pictures of the Bayraktar TB3 on the production line. According to the reports, the TB3 will fly alongside the Bayraktar Kizilelma, a carrier-capable “unmanned fighter jet” which will become operational by 2025.

NATIONAL

Telangana CM KC Rao to Unveil 125-Ft Tall Statue of B R Ambedkar In Hyderabad

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao will unveil the 125-ft tall statue of B R Ambedkar in Hyderabad on April 14 to celebrate on a grand scale the birth anniversary of the architect of the Constitution. Flower petals would be showered from a helicopter on the statute paying floral tributes to Ambedkar. His grandson Prakash Ambedkar is invited as the sole chief guest at the event

The Chief Minister previously said that the statue to be inaugurated by him will be India's tallest statue of Ambedkar. It has been built next to the State Secretariat, opposite to Buddha statue, and located beside the Telangana Martyrs Memorial. He said it will inspire people every day and motivate the entire State administration.

Arrangements are made to ensure that over 35,000 people from all 119 constituencies attend the Ambedkar statue unveiling meeting with 300 people from each constituency. As many as 750 state-run Road Transport Corporation buses will be operated to bring the public to the event.

PM Modi Inaugurates Northeast's 1st AIIMS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday dedicated to the nation newly built AIIMS Guwahati on the first day of Assam's spring festival - Rongali Bihu. It is pertinent to note that the hospital is the first AIIMS in northeast India. PM Modi inspected the campus of AIIMS Guwahati and subsequently inaugurated it and three medical colleges at Nalbari, Nagaon and Kokrajhar. As per an official PMO release, the operationalization of AIIMS, Guwahati will mark a momentous occasion for the state of Assam and the entire Northeast region.

Notably, the foundation stone of this Hospital was also laid by the Prime Minister in May 2017, the release added. AIIMS Guwahati is a state-of-the-art hospital with a capacity of 750 beds including 30 AYUSH beds and has been built at a cost of more than Rs 1120 crores.

The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of the Assam Advanced Health Care Innovation Institute (AAHII). A AHII, to be built at a cost of about Rs. 546 crore, will facilitate cutting-edge inventions and R&D in medicine and healthcare, identify the nation's unique problems related to health and promote the development of new technologies for solving those problems

The Bharat Gaurav Tourist train tour on Ambedkar Circuit flagged off from New Delhi today,14 April

The Bharat Gaurav Tourist train tour on Ambedkar Circuit was flagged off on April 14 by Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Minister of Tourism, Culture and DONER, & Dr. Virendra Kumar, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment today from Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway

Station. Passengers of the Yatra will visit prominent places associated with the life of Baba Saheb B R Ambedkar

The special Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train will be on an eight-day tour starting from Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station with visits covering the important places associated with the life of Baba Saheb Ambedkar including New Delhi, Mhow, Nagpur and Buddhist sites like Sanchi, Sarnath, Gaya, Rajgir and Nalanda.

To popularise this special initiative, a group of stakeholders including tour operators, tour guides, journalists, Buddhist associations, Gautam Buddha University members and Yuva Tourism Club members, have been invited for a first-hand experience of this specially organised trip.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Ambedkar Jayanti

Ambedkar Jayanti or Bhim Jayanti is observed on 14 April to commemorate the memory of B. R. Ambedkar, Indian politician and social reformer. It marks Ambedkar's birthday who was born on 14 April 1891. His birthday is also referred to as 'Equality Day' by some in India.

Ambedkar Jayanti processions are carried out by his followers at Chaitya Bhoomi in Mumbai and Deeksha Bhoomi in Nagpur. It is a customary for senior national figures, such as the President, Prime Minister and leaders of major political parties, to pay homage at the statue of Ambedkar at the Parliament of India in New Delhi. It is celebrated throughout the world especially by dalits, adivasi, labour workers, women and also those who embraced Buddhism after his example. In India, large numbers of people visit local statues commemorating Ambedkar in procession with lot of fanfare. In 2020, the first online Ambedkar Jayanti was celebrated in the world

Since 2015, It has been a public holiday in most Indian states all government institutions including schools and universities are closed on this day.

Bohag Bihu or Rongali Bihu

Bohag Bihu or Rongali Bihu is one of the biggest festivals of Assam and marks the first day of Hindu unisolar calendar, and the beginning of Assamese new Year. The 7-day festival will be celebrated from April 14, 2023 (Friday) to April 20, 2023 (Thursday) this year. Bihu is celebrated thrice in a year. Bohag Bihu marks the beginning of the seeding period and falls in the second week of April every year. The other two - Kati Bihu and Magh Bihu are celebrated in October and January respectively. Rong means joy in Assamese and Rongali Bihu is the time for joy and happiness for Assamese community as they celebrate each day of the festival with great fervour and enthusiasm.

Bohag Bihu signals the start of the seeding season. During Bohag Bihu celebrations, traditional musical instruments like dhol, pepa, gogona, toka, taal are played and young men and women dance to the traditional tunes. The first day of the Hindu solar calendar is celebrated in states of Punjab as Baisakhi, Tamil Nadu as Puthandu, Vishu in Kerala, Pohela Baisakh in West Bengal and so on. While the traditions of the spring harvest festival across the country differ slightly, the spirit remains the same.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

All India Management Association's (AIMA) 13th Managing India Awards ceremony

Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman of Aditya Birla Group, won the prestigious 'Business Leader of the Decade' award at All India Management Association's (AIMA) 13th Managing India Awards ceremony on Tuesday. The annual event to facilitate the titans of the industry, held in New Delhi, also recognised contributions of several other leaders and institutions.

Birla, who is credited for taking control of the diversified group and successfully consolidating its operations since his early days, won the award for his contributions to the Indian industry over the last decade. Tata Steel Chairman T V Narendran was facilitated with 'AIMA-JRD Tata Corporate Leadership' award. Leading engineering services company ABB India bagged the 'MNC in India of the Year' award.

Rahul Kanwal, News Director, India Today and Aajtak and Executive Director of Business Today, won the award for his 'Outstanding Contribution to Media' in the latest edition of AIMA Managing India Awards. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India, was recognised for 'Outstanding PSU of the Year' award.

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NATIONAL

World's 'most criminal countries' ranking: India behind US, UK at 77 spot

World of Statistics has shared the ranking of the world's "most criminal countries". On the list, Venezuela has been ranked top, followed by Papua New Guinea (2), Afghanistan (3), South Africa (4), Honduras (5), Trinidad (6), Guyana (7), Syria (8), Somalia (9) and Jamaica (10), respectively.

India stood at 77 spots while the US and UK were ahead of India in the criminal ranking country. The USA was at 55th number and the UK at 65th rank, according to the World of Statistics.

Turkey, Germany, and Japan were among the least criminal countries, ranking at 92nd, 100th, and 135th ranks.

Overall crime rate is calculated by dividing the total number of reported crime of any kind by the total population, then multiplying the result by 100,000 – Because the crime rate is typically reported as 'X' number of crime per 100,000 people.

Solar Energy Corporation Gets Miniratna Category-I Status

State-owned Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) has got the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE). A communication to this effect has been issued by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, a ministry statement said on Wednesday.

SECI has been accorded the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) on Monday, 10th April, 2023, it stated. Incorporated in the year 2011, SECI is the primary implementing agency for renewable energy schemes/projects of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy towards fulfilment of India's international commitments.

Till date, SECI has awarded Renewable Energy (RE) project capacities of over 56 GW. SECI is also active in setting up of projects through its own investments as well as for other public sector entities as Project Management Consultant (PMC). SECI enjoys highest credit rating of AAA by domestic rating agency ICRA.

SPORTS

India's Antim Panghal clinches silver at Asian Wrestling Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan

India's Antim Panghal has won the silver medal at the 2023 Asian Wrestling Championships after losing to Japan's Akari Fujinami in the 53-kg category in Astana, Kazakhstan. Fujinami, the reigning world champion, successfully defended her Asian crown in a comfortable fashion. The 19-year-old led 4-0 in the opening minute before closing out the match in the first round.

Four other Indian wrestlers including Anshu Malik (57kg), Sonam Malik (62kg), Manisha (65kg) and Reetika (72kg) added to India's medal tally by winning their bronze medal bouts.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

BrokerApp, A New Face Of The Real Estate World

Neeraj Sharma, a leading businessman in the real estate business, has launched India's first social media platform for brokers called BrokerApp, a cutting-edge mobile application designed exclusively for real estate brokers.

The app can be a revolutionary platform in the world of real estate as it comes with various features such as free property listing, access to high slabs, a global presence with a wide network of real estate agents, intelligent search to find brokers, projects, and more. The app is available for Android and iOS users, and users can download it from their respective App / Google Play store.

When asked the founder, Neeraj Sharma about this app, he said- "We're thrilled to launch BrokerApp and provide brokers with a powerful tool to grow their businesses. Our goal is to make the process of buying and selling in the real estate market as seamless as possible, and BrokerApp is a big step in that direction. In the upcoming time, we are expecting BrokerApp to become one of the world's best real estate apps."

BrokerApp has set a very high benchmark in its launch event for sure but we're yet to see how it performs in the market and whether the realtors and real estate agents will grow with the help of the app or not.

OBITUARY

Veteran Actor Uttara Baokar Passes Away At 79

Veteran film and television actor Uttara Baokar passed away in Pune. She was 79. Sources close to the actor's family told news agency PTI that she left for the heavenly abode following a prolonged illness. Baokar, who was ailing since the last year, breathed her last at a hospital on Tuesday. Her last rites were performed on Wednesday morning, reported PTI.

Baokar, who studied acting at the National School of Drama (NSD), played various roles in different plays such as 'Padmavati' in 'Mukhyamantri', 'Mena' in 'Mena Gurjari', 'Desdemona' in Shakespeare's 'Othello', mother in playwright Girish Karnad's 'Tughlaq',

among others. She also worked in TV shows as well namely 'Udaan', 'Antaral', 'X Zone', 'Rishtey Kora Kaagaz', 'Nazarana', 'Jassi Jaissi Koi Nahin', 'Kashmakash Zindagi Ki' and 'Jabb Love Hua'.

Additionally, She won the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actress for Mrinal Sen's 'Ek Din Achanak'.

IMPORTANT DAYS

104 Years Of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

More than a century ago on April 13, 1919, India witnessed its deadliest massacre when General Reginald Dyer's forces opened fire on an unarmed crowd which had gathered in Jallianwala Bagh of Amritsar to protest against the Rowlatt Act. Between 400 to 1,000 people were murdered and over 1,200 injured before the soldiers ran out of ammunition after around ten minutes of fire.

The Rowlatt Act was a repressive law passed by the British colonial government in the same year which gave them the power to imprison anyone suspected of sedition without trial. The Act sparked massive outrage among people and thousands of protesters had gathered in the Jallianwala Bagh on April 13, 1919 to oppose the law. Hundreds of people were killed when Dyer and his forces invaded the venue and blocked the sole exit, trapping the crowd inside.

After the incident, General Dyer was removed from the duty after the Hunter Commission submitted its report. He died July 23, 1927, due to a cerebral haemorrhage. Dyer reportedly said on his deathbed, "So many people who knew the condition of Amritsar say I did right...but so many others say I did wrong. I only want to die and know from my Maker whether I did right or wrong."

In 1951, the government of India built a memorial to honour the victims of the massacre. Today, India marks the 104th anniversary of the dreadful day.

World Sarcoidosis Awareness Day

On April 13th, World Sarcoidosis Day draws attention to this inflammatory disease. It takes place during Sarcoidosis Awareness Month, every April. The rare disease is characterized by the growth of tiny collections of inflammatory cells in any part of your body, generally the lungs and lymph nodes. Even today, the cause of Sarcoidosis is unknown, but experts believe it might result from the body's immune system responding to a particular substance, perhaps infectious agents, chemicals, or dust. As it is too often misdiagnosed, the day aims to better understand how Sarcoidosis impacts people.

In April 2008, the Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research declared Sarcoidosis Awareness Month. Eleven years later, the organization launched World Sarcoidosis Awareness Day in conjunction with the April observance. They hosted the first World Sarcoidosis Awareness Day on April 13th, 2019.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Second W20 meet begins under India's G20 Presidency in Jaipur

A two-day Second Women 20 International Meeting has started today (April 13) in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Women 20 is an official G20 engagement group, and the meeting is focusing on the theme of "Women-Led Development: Leveraging Women's Untapped Potential to

Accelerate an Inclusive and Sustainable Future. Addressing the inaugural session, Sherpa of India in G 20 Amitabh Kant said that women led development is the key priority of India because we see women as drivers of prosperity and inclusive development. He said that women must set the agenda of development and they should be agents of growth.

Talking to the media, Mr. Amitabh Kant said that India has set new dimensions in digital inclusion. Women's bank accounts were opened, those accounts were linked with Aadhaar, and money for various schemes is being directly transferred to their accounts. A large number of women are also getting loans under Mudra Yojana. This has empowered women. He said that these experiences are being shared in the meeting so that other countries also get the benefit of this experience.

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NATIONAL

Prime Minister Modi flagged off Rajasthan's first Vande Bharat Express train

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Rajasthan's first Vande Bharat Express train today via video conferencing. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra attended the programme.

The inaugural train will run between Jaipur and Delhi Cantt. railway station. The regular service of the train will start between Ajmer and Delhi Cantt. Tomorrow (13 April), with stops at Jaipur, Alwar and Gurgaon. The train will improve the connectivity to major tourist destinations in Rajasthan, including Pushkar and the Ajmer Sharif Dargah, among other places that draw visitors in bulk around the year.

The new Vande Bharat Express will cover the distance between Delhi Cantt. and Ajmer in 5 hours 15 minutes. The fastest train on the same route, Shatabdi Express, takes 6 hours 15 minutes from Delhi Cantt. to Ajmer. That means, the new Vande Bharat Express will be faster by 60 minutes as compared to the present fastest train running on the same route. The Ajmer-Delhi Cantt. Vande Bharat Express will be the world's first semi-high-speed passenger train on high-rise overhead electric (OHE) territory.

Today, more than 500 school students will be given the opportunity to travel free of cost in the inaugural special Vande Bharat train.

Sehore Sharbati wheat and various handicraft products from Madhya Pradesh gets GI tag

Madhya Pradesh's popular Sharbati wheat, also called The Golden Grain, has bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Efforts were on to get it the GI tag for a very long time. While Sehore district is the largest producer of Sharbati wheat in the country, Madhya Pradesh is its largest producer and exporter.

Flour made from Sharbati wheat is considered to be of the highest quality in the country. Farmers also get the highest level of prices for the most productive sharbati wheat in the district.

As the name suggests, Sharbati variety wheat is slightly sweeter in taste probably due to the presence of slightly more amount of simple sugars like glucose and sucrose as compared to other wheat varieties.

Recently, several handicraft products of Madhya Pradesh also received the GI tags, including wrought iron crafts of Dindori, batik print of Ujjain, handmade carpet of Gwalior, stone craft of Bhedaghat in Jabalpur and handloom sarees and fabrics of Waraseoni.

SPORTS

Nisha Dahia wins Silver in Asian Wrestling Championships in Kazakhstan

India's Nisha Dahia won silver at the Asian wrestling championships in Astana, Kazakhstan yesterday. This is the biggest-ever medal of her career in the women's 68kg category. Nisha, on a fine injury comeback, reached the final but fell to Japan's Ami Ishii 10-0 and finished as a runner-up. Nisha had defeated China's Feng Zhou 7-6 in the semi-finals. Another Indian wrestler, Priya Malik clinched a bronze in 76 kg category. She defeated Japan's Mizuki Nagashima in the repechage round. Overall, India have won six medals so far.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

LIGO India, a major breakthrough initiative to probe Gravitational Wave

On the path of establishing India's efforts towards becoming a developed nation, the central government has given a nod to set up Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO), the country's biggest facility to probe the universe through the detection of gravitational waves. Science and Technology is a key aspect of the progress and development of any nation and LIGO is one such initiative in realising a major scientific breakthrough in India.

Gravitational waves are ripples in space-time created by some of the Universe's most destructive and energetic processes or produced by cataclysmic events such as colliding black holes, massive stars exploding and colliding neutron stars. In his general theory of relativity, Albert Einstein predicted the existence of gravitational waves, which encapsulates the understanding of how gravitation works.

About LIGO - LIGO is the world's most powerful observatory and a large-scale Physics experiment carried out to detect Gravitational waves. It is a planned Gravitational-Wave Observatory that will operate as part of a worldwide network to capture and measure gravitational waves coming straight from space.

OBITUARY

Keshub Mahindra passes away at the age of 99

Keshub Mahindra, former chairman of Mahindra & Mahindra, passed away at the age of 99 on Wednesday April 12. He served as the chairman of the flagship company of the Mahindra Group for 48 years between 1963 and 2012. After that, he was the chairman emeritus of the firm.

Recently, Forbes revealed that he was India's oldest billionaire, with a net worth of \$1.2 billion.

Under Mahindra, the company went under a great deal of diversification. When he started working there in the company in 1947, its main business was manufacturing the iconic Willys Jeeps. Now, the group is a conglomerate with interests spanning automobile, energy, software services, real estate, hospitality and defence.

About: Keshub Mahindra - Born on October 9, 1923, in Shimla, Mahindra completed his graduation from Wharton at the University of Pennsylvania, USA. In 1945, his father, JC Mahindra, co-founded the company. In 1947, Keshub joined the company and assumed the role of chairman in 1963.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Aparesh Kumar Singh, the new chief justice of Tripura High Court

Justice - Aparesh Kumar Singh, a justice of the Jharkhand high court, has been appointed as the chief justice of the Tripura high court with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office.

On January 25, the collegium approved the nomination of Justice Jaswant Singh, a judge of the Orissa high court, as chief justice of the Tripura high court. However, a week after Justice Singh's appointment, on February 19, 2023, Justice Singh announced his retirement from the service. The collegium then recommended that Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh be appointed chief justice of the Tripura high court. Since Justice Indrajit Mahanty retired from the Tripura High Court on November 10 of last year, the position of chief justice has been vacant.

About: Tripura High Court - The Tripura High Court was set up in March, 2013, along with the full-fledged High Courts in Meghalaya and Manipur. All the northeastern states, excluding Sikkim, were earlier under the Guwahati High Court.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day for Human Space Flight

Every year on April 12th, International Day for Human Space Flight celebrates the first human space flight anniversary. It's also a day to reaffirm the importance of space science and technology.

In 1957, the Soviet Union launched the first human-made satellite was launched into outer space. The satellite was called Sputnik I. Four years later, another historic event took place. On April 12th, 1961, Yuri Gagarin carried out the first human space flight. Gagarin was a Soviet citizen, pilot, and cosmonaut. His space capsule, Vostok 1, was the first to complete an orbit of Earth. His journey around the earth took over 108 minutes. Gagarin's journey marked an important milestone in the Space Race.

Other important space exploration milestones include -

June 16, 1963 – Valentina Tereshkova was the first woman to orbit the earth.

July 20, 1969 – Neil Armstrong became the first human to set foot upon the moon.

July 17, 1975 – The U.S. and the Soviet Union achieved the first international human mission in space.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

RRI signs MoU with Indian Navy for developing secure maritime communications using Quantum Technology

Quantum technologies will soon be used to develop secure maritime communications in a joint effort by the Raman Research Institute (RRI) and the Indian Navy.

RRI, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Weapons and Electronics Systems

Engineering Establishment (WESEE), the R&D establishment of the Indian Navy, during a ceremony held in New Delhi recently. The MoU, which is for a period of five years, was signed between Professor Tarun Souradeep, Director, RRI, and Vice Admiral Sandeep Naithani, Chief of Materiel, Indian Navy.

Under this agreement, RRI's Quantum Information and Computing (QulC) lab will lead the research efforts towards developing quantum key distribution techniques that the Indian Navy could leverage in the nation's efforts towards securing free space communications.

Three-day International Conference on Defence Finance and Economics to begin in New Delhi: April 12

The Defence Minister of India Mr. Rajnath Singh will inaugurate a three-day International Conference on Defence Finance and Economics in New Delhi, starting 12 April.

The conference will provide a unique platform to policymakers, academicians and government officials to share their insights and experiences on Defence Finance and Economics in the present evolving security challenges.

Delegates from USA, UK, Japan, Australia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Kenya will participate in the conference.

Ministry of Defence said, the objective of the conference is to disseminate the best practices, experiences and expertise of various countries. It will also facilitate collaborations with foreign governments, international institutions and global leaders in promoting government's vision of Aatmanirbharta in the Defence sector.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Nilesh Sambare Receives Maratha Udyog Ratna Award 2023

Nilesh Bhagwan Sambare, the founder of Jijau Educational and Social Foundation, was recently honored with the "Maratha Udyog Ratna" award at the "Maratha Entrepreneurs Conference 2023". The conference was organized by the "Maratha Entrepreneurs Development and Guidance Institute Maharashtra State". Nilesh Sambare received the award for his noteworthy achievements in the industry sector and his dedicated work in remote areas like Palghar.

Nilesh Sambare, also known as Appa, received the "Maratha Udyog Ratna" award for his noteworthy achievements in the industry sector and his dedicated work in underprivileged communities in Palghar.

The award was presented by prominent entrepreneurs from Maharashtra, including Suresh Haware, Purushottam Khedekar, Nirmalkumar Deshmukh, Dr. Sachin Bhadane, and Vijay Ghogare.

About: Jijau Educational and Social Organization - The Jijau Educational and Social Organization is a non-profit group with a focus on uplifting underprivileged communities in five districts of India, namely Palghar, Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri, and Sindhudurg. Nilesh Sambare founded the organization in 2008, and it has been providing education, healthcare, employment, and agriculture-related assistance using its own funds for the past 14 years, without accepting any donations.

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NATIONAL

Exercise Cope India 23 between the Indian Air Force, United States Air Force begins

Exercise Cope India 23 has started between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the United States Air Force (USAF) on Monday. This 11 days exercise is being held at Air Force Stations Arjan Singh (Panagarh), Kalaikunda and Agra. The exercise aims at enhancing mutual understanding between the two Air Forces and sharing their best practices, Both sides will field the C-130J and C-17 aircraft, with the USAF operating an MC-130J, as well. The exercise also includes the presence of Japanese Air Self Defence Force aircrew, who will participate in the capacity of observers.

This exercise is being held after a gap of 4 years because of Covid – 19 pandemic, The previous edition of the exercise was held in 2019 at air basis in Kalaikunda and Panagarh.

OBITUARY

Theatre veteran Jalabala Vaidya passes away

Jalabala Vaidya, legendary theatre actor, died in Delhi on Sunday after a battle with respiratory ailments, said her daughter and theatre director Anasuya Vaidya Shetty. She was 86.

Born in London to Indian author and freedom fighter Suresh Vaidya and English classical singer Madge Franckeiss, Jalabala Vaidya started out as a journalist, writing for various national newspapers and magazines in Delhi.

She was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi's Tagore Award, the Delhi Natya Sangh Award, the Andhra Pradesh Natya Akademi Honour, Honorary Citizenship of the City of Baltimore, USA, and in February, the Delhi Government's Varisht Samman for her lifelong contribution to the performing arts.

Jalabala Vaidya was briefly married to well-known journalist and columnist, C.P. Ramachandran, but soon after, met and married her lifelong partner in the arts and life, poet-playwright Gopal Sharman.

She co-founded the Akshara National Classical Theatre in New Delhi with Sharman. It is an exquisite arts complex and much-loved hub of theatre performances, designed and built by Sharman, where she played the lead role in more than 20 plays, including 'Full Circle', 'Larflarflarf', 'The Ramayana', 'Let's Laugh Again' 'The Bhagavad Gita', 'The Cabuliwala', 'Gitanjali', 'The Strange Case of Billy Biswas', etc.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

VLCC appoints Vikas Gupta as CEO with immediate effect

Beauty and skincare brand VLCC has appointed Vikas Gupta as CEO with immediate effect. The announcement comes after investment firm Carlyle, a global investment firm, announced a strategic partnership with VLCC through the acquisition of a majority stake in the company in December 2022.

Prior to joining VLCC, Gupta was the CEO of SuperStore by Nykaa. Before that he was the chief customer and marketing officer for Flipkart between 2019-21, VLCC said in its release.

Gupta started his career as a management trainee with Hindustan Unilever (HUL) in 1998 and spent 21 years with Unilever, leading brand marketing for Lux, Dove, Dirt Is Good brands and was executive director of home care for Unilever Indonesia, VLCC. Amit Jain, managing director and head, Carlyle India Advisors said, "We are excited to welcome Vikas as the Group's CEO. He brings multi-decadal, global experience in building leading consumer brands and digital platforms."

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Safe Motherhood Day

Every year National Safe Motherhood Day is celebrated on April 11 with an aim to raise awareness of good healthcare and safety of all mothers or expecting mothers. It is an initiative undertaken by the government of India, aimed at reducing maternal and neonatal death rates.

The annual observance of National Safe Motherhood Day started with the efforts of the White Ribbon Alliance India (WRAI), which works to draw the attention of the government towards the importance of good healthcare facilities for mothers, especially during pregnancy.

The WRAI's main objective was to spread awareness about the importance of healthcare habits and the availability and accessibility of healthcare programmes for women during pregnancy, childbirth, and post-natal care.

Thus, due to WRAI's continuous efforts, the Indian government declared April 11 as National Safe Motherhood Day in 2003. The day also marks the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, the wife of Mahatma Gandhi, and a great freedom fighter and social reformer.

Since then, the day has been observed by people with various awareness programmes and events being conducted throughout the nation.

196th birth anniversary of Jyotirao Govindrao Phule

The nation is remembering renowned social reformer, thinker, writer and anti-caste activist Mahatma Jyotiba Phule on his 196th birth anniversary. Jyotiba Phule, who played a significant role in eradicating untouchability and promoting girl education, was born on April 11, 1827. Rajasthan government has declared a public holiday across the state on the occasion. It has been an optional holiday till now. Effective 2023, 11 April will be a compulsory state government holiday in Rajasthan.

About Jyotirao Govindrao Phule: Jyotirao Govindrao Phule was born in Maharashtra. Belonging to Mali caste, which the varna system classified as Shudra, Phule's family was employed in farming and gardening. He dedicated his life towards education and upliftment of oppressed, eradication of untouchability and the caste system. Jyotiba Phule and his wife, Savitribai Phule, strongly promoted the women's education in India. They were the first to facilitate schooling for women in India in Pune around 173 years ago.

World Parkinson's Day

Every year on April 11th, World Parkinson's Day raises awareness for this progressive nervous system disorder. It's also a day to help the general public understand the reality of this disease for those who have it.

According to recent statistics from the Parkinson's Foundation, over 10 million people in the world have this disease. This neurodegenerative disorder occurs when neurons in the brain break down or die. When these nerve cells die, it reduces dopamine levels in the brain. Dopamine is a neurotransmitter that sends messages from one nerve cell to another. Low dopamine levels cause abnormal brain activity, which results in impaired movement. This is why tremors are usually the first symptom of Parkinson's disease.

The first World Parkinson's Day (WPD) was held in April 1997. It was set up by the European Parkinson's Disease Association (now known as Parkinson's Europe) and co-sponsored by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The date commemorates the birthday of Dr James Parkinson.

Each year there are now many World Day celebrations around the world as people come together on 11 April to raise awareness of Parkinson's. Activities include online awareness campaigns, webinars, conferences, wellbeing events, fundraisers and much more.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

ICICI Bank to offer EMI facility for UPI transactions above Rs 10,000

ICICI Bank has introduced an equated monthly instalment (EMI) facility for UPI payments made by scanning QR code. The facility will be available for customers who are eligible for the bank's 'buy now pay later' scheme – PayLater.

Customers can pay transaction amount above Rs 10,000 in the form of instalments in three, six, or nine months. The EMI facility for PayLater will shortly be extended for online shopping as well, the bank said in a statement. The facility can be availed of across a host of categories such as electronics, groceries, fashion apparel, travel, and hotel bookings.

Bijith Bhaskar, Head- Digital Channels & Partnership, ICICI Bank, said "We have seen that maximum payments these days are made through UPI. In addition, we have observed that customers are increasingly opting for UPI transactions from PayLater, the Bank's 'buy now, pay later' service.

ICICI Bank introduced PayLater facility in 2018 to enable customers to buy small ticket items immediately in a completely digital and paperless manner. PayLater facility enables customers to shop online, pay bills, and pay to any merchant UPI ID at physical stores instantly.

Kotak General Insurance ties up with actyv.ai to sell insurance products to MSMEs

Kotak Mahindra General Insurance has announced its partnership with actyv.ai to offer bitesized insurance products to new-age micro, small and medium enterprises. Kotak General Insurance will leverage actyv.ai's AI-powered platform to provide insurance solutions to support the business sustainability of small businesses, the company said in a press statement.

Through actyv.ai's technology stack and Kotak General Insurance's customized insurance products, this partnership will offer innovative insurance products to the enterprise and close to one lakh supply chain partner ecosystem to focus on driving growth without worrying about business risks,

Kotak's head of multi-line business Jagjeet Singh Siddhu said his company was excited to join hands with actyv.ai to offer small OTC products like shopkeeper policy, critical illness and personal accident policy via end-to-end digital platform. "We believe that technology

plays a vital role in selling BFSI products to masses and businesses. This partnership will offer basic insurance to the last mile of the industrial value chain like never before."

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NATIONAL

HM Amit Shah to launch Vibrant Villages Program in Kibithoo border village in Arunachal Pradesh

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah will be on a two-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh from April 10. On the first day of the visit, he will launch the 'Vibrant Villages Programme' in Kibithoo, a border village in the Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh. He will also inaugurate nine Micro Hydel Projects of the Arunachal Pradesh government constructed under the "Golden Jubilee Border Illumination Programme" in Kibithoo. These electricity projects will empower people living in border villages.

The Union Home Minister is also to inaugurate the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) projects to augment infrastructure at Likabali (Arunachal Pradesh), Chapra (Bihar), Nooranad (Kerala) and Vishakapatnam - Andhra Pradesh. He will also interact with ITBP personnel at Kibithoo. An exhibition of the products made by women members of Self-Help Groups of border districts will also be organized. Mr. Shah will visit exhibition stalls to acquaint with and appreciate the efforts of women of border villages. Tomorrow, the Union Home Minister will visit Namti field and pay homage at the Walong War Memorial.

President Murmu presents National Grassroots Innovation Awards and also inaugurated the FINE-2023

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday presented NIF's 11th Biennial National Grassroots Innovation and Outstanding Traditional Knowledge Awards at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Center (RBCC). She also inaugurated the Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE)-2023 at Sports Ground near RBCC - Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Center.

Addressing the award ceremony, the President said that citizens at the grassroots level have the potential to come up with science and technology based innovative solutions and serve the nation to the best of their abilities. The National Innovation Foundation (NIF) plays a vital role in encouraging and supporting such innovators. She said that NIF has created a database of more than 32,5000 technical ideas, innovations and traditional knowledge practices from more than 625 districts of the country. She was also happy to note that NIF has recognized 1093 grassroots innovators and school students at the national level in its various award ceremonies.

Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated Yoga Mahotsav in Dibrugarh

Sarbananda Sonowal, the Union Minister for AYUSH, inaugurated the International Yoga Mahotsav at the Dibrugarh University Playground to mark the upcoming International Day of Yoga 2023, which is just 75 days away.

Union Ayush minister Sarbananda Sonowal stressed that every household should practice yoga to lead a healthy and peaceful life.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion of the Yoga Mahotsav at Dibrugarh today, Mr. Sonowal thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for popularising Yoga globally. He also announced to set up a 100 bedded yoga and naturopathy hospital at Dibrugarh.

MoU has also been signed between Dibrugarh University and Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga for promotion of Yoga among students.

Last year, 125 Cr people participated in yoga practices, and this year the plan is to make it even bigger.

UP gets World's first Asian King Vulture Conservation and Breeding Center

Uttar Pradesh has set up a state-of-the-art Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Center (JCBC) for the critically endangered Asian king vulture, the first of its kind in the world.

It is located in the Maharajganj district of Uttar Pradesh and is spread over 1.5 hectares.

The JCBC is designed to maintain a sustainable population of Asian king vultures by breeding them in captivity and releasing them into the wild. The Asian king vulture is protected under the Wildlife Protection Act and is listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. The use of diclofenac in veterinary medicine in India has led to a population decline in recent years, and the JCBC aims to have at least 40 vultures in captivity over 15 years to ensure the sustainable conservation of the species. The Forest Department has partnered with the Bombay Natural History Society for technical guidance.

Wildlife Protection Act: The Wildlife Protection Act is a law enacted in India in 1972 with the primary objective of protecting the wildlife and their habitats in the country. The Act prohibits hunting, poaching, capturing or killing any wild animal listed under Schedules I to IV of the Act, without prior permission from the authorities

SPORTS

Indian GM Gukesh wins title at World Chess Armageddon Asia & Oceania event

Teenaged Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh stunned former world rapid champion Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan in the final to win the World Chess Armageddon Asia & Oceania event

After a missed chance in game 1, Gukesh lost the next game against Abdusattorov to use his "extra life" and start the match all over again. The first game of the 'new' match was a draw after a perpetual check from Gukesh. He won the next game to emerge champion. Both Gukesh and Abdusattorov have earned a spot at the Armageddon's Grand Finale held in September.

The 16-year-old Indian won in a field that included former world classical champion Vladimir Kramnik, Daniil Dubov, Yangyi Yu (China), Vidit Gujrathi and Karthikeyan Murali (both India) and Param Maghsoodloo (Iran), apart from Abdusattorov.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Homeopathy Day

World Homeopathy Day is celebrated on April 10 to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of homeopathy, German physician Samuel Hahnemann.

Samuel Hahnemann, a distinguished scholar and doctor from France, is the founder of homeopathy. He was born in Paris on April 10, 1755. While desperately trying to earn a living during his first 15 years as a doctor, he made a discovery. He held that in order to treat a patient's sickness, the ingredients that cause the disease's symptoms must be administered. This year will be the 268th birth anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann.

World Homeopathy Day is observed to comprehend the difficulties and potential solutions for advancing homeopathy. The day seeks to raise awareness of homeopathy as a medical system and work towards increasing its rate of success.

In India, World Homeopathy Day is celebrated under the aegis of the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India. Homeopathy is considered one of India's most popular medical systems. These medicines are safe to use as it is claimed that they rarely cause side effects. On the occasion, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, CCRH under the Ministry of AYUSH is organising a scientific convention in New Delhi. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will inaugurate the scientific convention. The theme of this convention is 'Homoeoparivar-Sarvajan Swasthya, One Health, One Family'.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Indian-American mathematician CR Rao awarded International Prize in Statistics

Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao, a prominent Indian-American mathematician and statistician, will receive the 2023 International Prize in Statistics, the equivalent to the Nobel Prize in the field, for his monumental work 75 years ago that revolutionised statistical thinking.

Rao's work, more than 75 years ago, continues to exert a profound influence on science, the International Prize in Statistics Foundation said in a statement.

Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao, born in Karnataka in 1920, is an Emeritus Eberly professor in the statistics department at Pennsylvania State University. He played a significant role in establishing the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata and has been associated with the institute since 1941. Rao holds PhD and ScD degrees from Cambridge University.

In addition to being awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1968 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2001, Rao was the recipient of the SS Bhatnagar Prize in 1963 and was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1967. He also received the Wilks Medal of the American Statistical Association in 1979 and the US National Medal of Science in 2002.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Odisha Receives Investment Intent Of Rs 26,000 Cr As Patnaik Meets Japanese Industrialists

Odisha received investment intent of Rs 26,000 crore in various sectors as Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik met Japanese industrialists in Tokyo on Wednesday.

The investment intent was received in sectors such as logistics, steel, Green Hydrogen, and IT/ITeS.

An MoU for collaboration in the skill development sector was also signed between Nihon-Utkal and IIIT, Bhubaneswar, an official release issued by the chief minister's office said.

The business meeting was attended by representatives of more than 200 leading companies in Japan and the Indo-Pacific region.

They were offered an opportunity to explore various avenues of collaboration with the state government and local companies in Odisha, Patnaik also held a meeting with the senior leadership of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), who iterated their commitment to supporting infrastructure development in Odisha.

Addressing the business meeting, Patnaik said, "Odisha is one of the fastest-growing states in India. We are fast emerging as a major industrial destination in India because of our natural resources and strategic location."

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INTERNATIONAL

SpaceX launches NASA's TEMPO air quality monitoring instrument

NASA's high-resolution air pollution monitoring instrument TEMPO lifted atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida at 10 AM IST on Friday.

The Tropospheric Emissions: Monitoring of Pollution (TEMPO) instrument is on its way to a geostationary orbit where it will monitor major air pollutants across North America. TEMPO will take important scientific observations, including that of ozone, nitrogen oxide, sulphur dioxide and formaldehyde levels.

TEMPO is a payload on the satellite Intelsat 40E. The satellite separated from the rocket about 32 minutes into launch. It will only begin its science activities in late May or early June, according to NASA.

Using TEMPO data, scientists will be able to study rush hour pollution, the potential for improved air quality alerts, the impact of lightning on the ozone layer, the movement of pollution from forest fires and volcanoes and even the effects of fertiliser application. "The TEMPO mission is about more than just studying pollution – it's about improving life on Earth for all. By monitoring the effects of everything from rush-hour traffic to pollution from forest fires and volcanoes, NASA data will help improve air quality across North America and protect our planet," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson,

NATIONAL

PM, Modi launched International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) in Karnataka.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday launched the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) during his visit to Karnataka. He also released a commemorative coin on the completion of 50 years of Project Tiger. PM Modi and other dignitaries gave standing ovation to Tiger at the inaugural session of commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger. During the programme, he released the publication 'Amrit Kaal Ka Vision for Tiger Conservation', a summary report of 5th cycle of Management Effective Evaluation of Tiger Reserves. He also released a summary report of All India Tiger Estimation (5th cycle). After the launch, PM Modi said, - Project Tiger leads the way in the protection and conservation of big cats. It is part of Indian culture to protect nature. The success of Project Tiger is a matter of pride not only for India but for the whole world. India has

completed 75 years of independence; and at the same time, 75% of the world's tiger population is in India.

PM Modi had also met Bomman and Bellie, the couple who featured in the Oscar-winning documentary 'The Elephant Whisperers'. He said, "The Elephant Whispers documentary that won an Oscar also reflects our legacy of the wonderful relationship between nature and creatures

Union Minister of MoSJ&E, Dr Virendra Kumar Inaugurated Second Composite Rehabilitation Centre (CRC) in M.P

Union Minister of MoSJ&E, Dr Virendra Kumar Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, inaugurated and dedicated the services of Composite Regional Centre (CRC) for Skill Development, Rehabilitation and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) on 8th April at Old Tehsil Bhavan, Mahalangate in Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh. During inauguration program attended by senior officials of Central and State Government Dr Virendra Kumar stressed the needs to provide continuous and planned services to the persons with disabilities with skill development in different domain areas. He appreciated the efforts of the Ministry in making accessible environment in buildings and public places. He also said that CRC will become a hub for innovation, education, and meet the needs for manpower and research to enable a better and quality life for persons with disabilities so that persons with disabilities will be able to contribute to the development of society.

It is also planned to bring together experts from diverse fields of rehabilitation of persons with disabilities under one roof and accelerate the services, create breakthroughs and tackle some of the most pressing challenges facing society today by persons with various types of disabilities in and around chhatrapur. The program was blessed by Shri Om Prakash Sakhlecha, Minister of Science and Technology, Medium Small-Scale Industries, and Minister in-charge Chhatarpur District, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh. Speaking during the function Shri Om Prakash Sakhlecha, said that there is need towards meeting the demands of participation of persons with disabilities in "Atma nirbhar Bharat". He thanked the Union Minister of MoSJ&E, Dr Virendra Kumar Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment for his efforts in starting the CRC-Chhatrapur in Madhya Pradesh. Guest of honour will be Shri Pradyumn Singh, MLA, Badamalhera, Nagrik Apurthi Nigam, Shri Rajesh Prajapati, MLA Chandla, Shri Rajesh Shukla, MLA Bhijawar.

Ukraine Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister on India visit

Ukraine's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Emine Dzhaparova is on a four-day official visit to New Delhi, starting today. (From April 9 – 12) In her first visit since the Russian invasion began in February 2021, the Ukrainian minister will meet delegates of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Dzhaparova is also expected to extend an invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Ukraine.

Dzhaparova will hold talks with Verma, during which both sides are expected to discuss bilateral relations and exchange views on current situation in Ukraine and global issues of mutual interest. Dzhaparova will also call on Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Meenakshi Lekhi and meet Deputy National Security Adviser Vikram Misri.

In a telephonic conversation with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in October last year, Prime Minister Modi said there could be "no military solution" and that India was ready to contribute to peace efforts.

"Over the last 30 years of establishing diplomatic relations, bilateral cooperation between the two countries has made significant progress in the areas of trade, education, culture and defence," the MEA said. "The visit will be an occasion to further mutual understanding and interests,

Anti-submarine rockets developed by 2 Pune labs successfully tested from INS Chennai

The Extended Range Anti Submarine Rocket (ER-ASR) designed by two Pune-based facilities of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was successfully test-fired for the first time from Navy's INS Chennai earlier on April 3. DRDO officials said the rocket has been designed to replace the existing Russian-origin Rocket Guided Bombs (RGBs).

The ER-ASR was designed and developed by Pune-based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL). It is designed to intercept submarines at specific depths.

The rocket system will be deployed in anti-submarine operations and will be fired from an indigenised rocket launcher mounted onboard various Indian naval ships. ER-ASR can be fired in single or in salvo mode depending on the tactical mission requirements. DRDO officials said the maiden successful test from the ship is a step towards enhancing the capability of the Indian Navy in anti-submarine warfare and towards achieving 'Atma Nirbharta' in defence.

DRDO officials said that ER-ASR has been designed to replace the existing Russian origin RGB rockets which are already fitted in ships. While the RGB has a range of five kilometers, the ER-ASR can achieve a range over eight kilometers.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Easter Sunday: 2023

Easter also called Pascha or Resurrection Sunday, is a Christian holiday that celebrates the belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the New Testament of the Bible, the event is said to have occurred three days after Jesus was crucified by the Romans and died in roughly A.D. 30.

The name "Easter" is believed to have originated from the Old English word "Ēastre," which was the name of a pagan festival celebrating the arrival of spring. The Christian holiday of Easter was established in the 4th century and was intended to replace the pagan celebration with a Christian one.

Easter is significant to Christians because it represents the victory of Jesus Christ over sin and death. It is seen as a symbol of hope, renewal, and new beginnings.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

FM Nirmala Sitharaman to attend Spring Meetings of IMF-World Bank

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will be on an official visit to the USA, beginning April 10, 2023 for attending the annual spring meetings of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), along with G20 meetings.

These meetings are scheduled to take place from April 10 to April 16, 2023, in the WBG and IMF Headquarters in Washington DC. The spring meetings will be attended by finance ministers and central bankers from across the world.

She will be also hosting the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting under India's G20 Presidency. Sitharaman and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das, will jointly chair the 2nd G20 FMCBG meeting on April 12-13, 2023.

The focus of these sessions will be to deliberate on issues such as addressing food & energy insecurity, managing global debt vulnerabilities, strengthening Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), mobilising finance for climate action, advancing financial inclusion, and accelerating progress on international tax and financial sector issues. The meeting will take stock of the progress made on outcomes envisaged under India's G20 Finance Track agenda.

RANKING

Mumbai ranked 19th spot globally among cities with world's best public transport

Mumbai secured 19th spot globally to rank among cities with world's best public transport. Germany's Berlin was ranked as the city with the best public transport system globally, followed by Czech Republic's capital Prague, while Mumbai secured the 19th spot and was the top-ranked Indian city, according to the survey published by the London based 'Time Out'. a media outlet that focuses on hospitality business and labels itself as a global brand 'dedicated to city life'.

The list that has been released by Time Out, the publisher of global city guides. The publisher polled 20,000 people in 50 cities to find out how they feel about their local mass transit systems.

The list showed a not-so-surprising pre-dominance of Asian cities in the list for best public transport system. European cities also took a chunk of the accolades, with Germany's capital city Berlin topping the list.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

More than 408.2 mn loans amounting to Rs 23.2 trn sanctioned under PMMY

The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) sanctioned more than 408.2 million loans amounting to Rs 23.2 trillion till March 24, 2023, said the finance ministry on its 8th anniversary on Saturday.

PMMY aims to facilitate easy collateral-free credit of up to Rs 10 lakh to micro-entrepreneurs for income-generating activities.

Under the scheme, loans have been divided into three categories based on the need for finance and the stage in maturity of the business. These are Shishu (loans up to Rs 50,000), Kishore (loans above Rs 50,000 and up to Rs 5 lakh), and Tarun (loans above Rs 5 lakh and up to Rs 10 lakh).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said PMMY has played a vital role in funding the unfunded and ensuring a life of dignity as well as prosperity for countless Indians.

"Today, as we mark eight years of Mudra Yojana, I salute the entrepreneurial zeal of all those who benefitted from it and became wealth creators," he added.

Approximately 69 per cent of the total loans have been sanctioned to women entrepreneurs & 51 per cent loans have been sanctioned to SC/ST and OBC categories of borrowers.

Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman said the scheme has helped in the generation of large-scale employment opportunities at the grassroots level and also has proved to be a game changer while boosting the Indian economy.

