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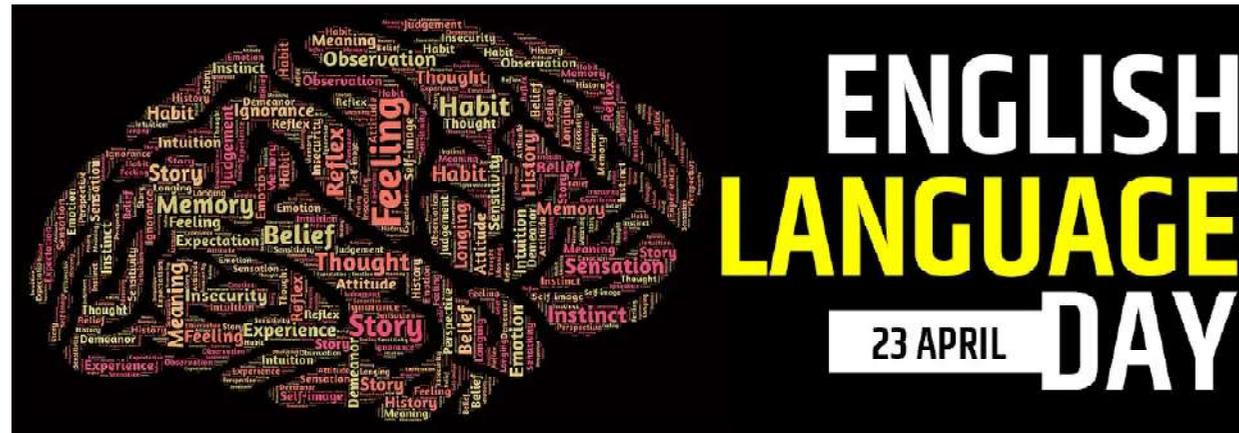
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English Language Day: April 23rd



- **English Language Day** was established by the **UN Department of Global Communications in 2010** to celebrate the diversity of languages and promote the use of all official languages equally within the UN.
- **Theme:** “Use of Technology for Multilingual Teaching: Challenges and Opportunities”.
- English Language Day is celebrated to honour and remember the **English poet and writer William Shakespeare**.
- English is one of the two working languages of the United Nations. The six official languages of the United Nations are English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish and Russian. Among these, English is most prominent
- English originated from a number of dialects (regional language) brought by the **Anglo-Saxon** people who settled in **England** beginning in the **5th century**. These are now called **Old English**.

National Panchayati Raj Day: April 24th

- **The Ministry of Panchayati Raj** in India observes **April 24th** as National Panchayati Raj Day every year.
- **The 73rd Amendment Act of 1992** was enacted on this day, and in that honour, this day is celebrated every year in India.
- India's three-tiered administrative structure is known as the **Panchayati Raj system**. It is a decentralised formation of governance, where local bodies or Gram Panchayats are empowered through self-governance and independence in decision making.
- The first National Development Council recommended establishing a grassroots of democratic governance system in the early 1950s.
- In 1993, by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, the Panchayat system came to be implemented in the rural regions to consider April 24th as National Panchayati Raj Day every year.
- The Minister of Panchayati Raj: Giriraj Singh.



A new oral vaccine for Cholera has been pre-qualified by the WHO

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has pre-qualified a new oral vaccine for **Cholera, Euvichol-S**.
- It has a similar efficacy to existing vaccines but has a simplified formulation.
- It will help in the rapid production and supply of vaccines for Cholera.
- **Euvichol-S** is a simplified formulation of the **oral cholera vaccine (OCV) Euvichol-Plus**.
- This vaccine is manufactured by **South Korea-based EuBiologics Co., Ltd.**
- WHO prequalification list already includes **Euvichol** and **Euvichol-Plus** inactivated oral cholera vaccines produced by **EuBiologics Co., Ltd.**
- EuBiologics is the largest supplier of oral cholera vaccines in the world.
- **Cholera** is an acute **diarrhoeal disease** that is caused by the **bacterium Vibrio cholerae**.



- In **2022, 473,000 cholera cases** were reported, double from 2021
- Further increase of cases by **700 000 was estimated for 2023.**
- Currently, **23 countries** are reporting cholera outbreaks with most severe impacts seen in the Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

About World Health Organization (WHO):

Founded: 7th April 1948

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Director-General: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Supreme Court granted permission to a rape survivor for terminating 30-week pregnancy

- **The Supreme Court** granted permission to a **14-year-old** alleged **rape survivor** for terminating her nearly **30-week pregnancy**.
- A bench led by **Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud** directed the dean of the Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College and General Hospital (LTMGH) to perform the procedure.
- The Supreme Court changed the Bombay High Court's decision of rejecting the plea filed by the minor's father for terminating her pregnancy.

Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act:

- It was enacted to provide for the termination of certain pregnancies by registered medical practitioners
- As per the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act**, the maximum limit for pregnancy termination is **24 weeks for married women** and in **special categories**.
- The **special categories** include **rape survivors and other vulnerable women such as minors**.
- **Medical termination of pregnancy (MTP)** has been legalized in **India since 1971**.



AFMS signed an agreement with IIT Delhi

- **Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS)** has signed MoU for collaborative research and training with **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi**.
- Director General AFMS, Lt Gen Daljit Singh and Director IIT Delhi Prof Rangan Banerjee signed the MoU.
- The MoU covers **research and innovation to develop novel medical devices**.
- Its scope includes focus on solving health issues specific to serving soldiers in varied terrains.
- IIT Delhi's robust biomedical research ecosystem is ideal for providing the technical expertise needed for research into the diverse medical challenges faced in the Armed Forces.
- Joint PhD programme development, faculty exchange, and collaborative academic activities will all fall under the purview of this Memorandum of Understanding.
- The Armed Force Medical Services (AFMS) is an inter-Services organization.
- **AFMS** comes under the **Ministry of Defense**. It came into existence in **1948**.



India faced double wrath of heatwave and water disasters in 2023: WMO

- **The World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** has released a report titled: **The State of the Climate in Asia 2023**.
- As per the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), in 2023, **Asia remained the world's most disaster-hit region** due to weather, climate and water-related hazards.
- The extreme heat and severe floods devastated many parts of India.
- A major and prolonged heatwave affected many regions of **South-East Asia** in **April and May**.
- India recorded its **warmest March** since records have been kept.
- **The 2022 heatwave** triggered an extreme **Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)** in **northern Pakistan** and **forest fires in India**.
- The heatwave has reduced India's wheat crop yields.
- **In 2023**, the annual mean near-surface temperature over **Asia** was **the second-highest on record is 0.91 degrees Celsius**.
- According to the report 79 disasters linked with hydro-meteorological hazards struck Asia in 2023, with floods and storms accounting for over 80 per cent of incidents, resulting in more than 2,000 fatalities and affecting nine million people.



- This report highlighted the significant threats of climate change in Asia, including India.

About World Meteorological Organization (WMO):

Founded: 23rd March 1950

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

President: Abdulla Al Mandous

Member countries: 193 countries

Razorpay launched 'UPI Switch' in Partnership With Airtel Payments Bank

- Digital payments platform **Razorpay** launched its own **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) infrastructure, or UPI switch**, in partnership with **Airtel Payments Bank**.
- According to Razorpay, the efficacy of UPI transactions relies heavily on the UPI infrastructure deployed by banks.
- These banks connect with the existing UPI infrastructure to facilitate seamless communication between the **core banking systems and UPI technology during UPI transactions**.
- This infrastructure is powered by **technology service providers (TSPs)** for banks and plays a crucial role in processing UPI transactions at scale.
- In this Boosting success rates by **4-5 per cent**, the solution is designed to handle up to **10,000 transactions per second (TPS)** at any given time.
- The **'UPI Switch'** will also enable **5 times faster access to UPI** (Unified Payments Interface) innovations for businesses.
- This UPI switch will serve as a platform driving UPI innovations while supporting existing solutions like **Turbo UPI** and **third-party payment solutions**.



- In **May 2023**, **Razorpay** introduced **‘Turbo UPI,’** enabling customers of online merchants to make UPI payments directly without redirection to a third-party UPI app during checkout.
- In September, it launched **‘UPI Autopay on QR’** in collaboration with **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, simplifying challenges associated with maintaining and expanding subscription-based businesses.

About Airtel Payment Bank:

Founded: 1st April 2010

Headquarters: New Delhi

CEO: Anubrata Biswas

Novak Djokovic, Aitana Bonmati Win Top Honours at Laureus Sports Awards

- **Novak Djokovic**, the World No.1 tennis player from **Serbia**, was honoured with the **Laureus World Sportsman of the year 2024** award at the **Laureus World sports awards 2024**.
- **Aitana Bonmati**, a **Spanish** professional and **first footballer** who plays for Barcelona Football club (FC) and Spain women's national team won the **Laureus Sportswoman of the year 2024** award.
- The **25th edition of Laureus World Sports (LWS) Awards 2024** held at the **Palacio de Cibeles, in the centre of Madrid, Spain**.
- This is the **5th time that Novak Djocovic** has been honoured with the **Laureus World sports awards 2024**.
- Previously he won this award in 2012, 2015, 2016 and 2019. In 2023, he won his record 10th Australian Open title, 3rd French Open and 4th US Open.
- **Aitana Bonmati** was a part of Spanish women's football team that won the FIFA women's world cup 2023 held in Australia and New Zealand.
- She also won the Golden Ball for Best Player at the 2023 FIFA World cup
- The **2024 Laureus Sport for Good Award** was presented to **Fundacion Rafa Nadal**, Spain's Multi Sport Organization.



- **Spain's Women's Football team** was honoured with **the Laureas World Team of the year**, this is first all-female team to win the Award.
- Laureus World Breakthrough of the year Award - **Jude Bellingham** (English Footballer)
- LWS Person of the year with a Disability - **Diede de Groot** (Wheelchair Tennis Player from Netherland)
- LWS Come back of the year award - **Simone Biles** (American artistic gymnast)
- LWS world Action Sportsperson of the year award - **Arisa Trew** (13 year-old Australian skateboarding star)

Famous Bangladesh singer Rezwana Choudhary honored with Padma Shri

- **Renowned Bangladeshi singer Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya** received the prestigious **Padma Shri Award** in the field of **Art**.
- The President of India Droupadi Murmu presented the Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri Awards for the year 2024 at the Civil Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
- She is an accomplished professional **singer from Bangladesh**, she is a devoted practitioner of **Rabindra Sangeet**. She sang “**Vaishnav Jan To**” to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Bannya is currently Professor and founding chair of the Department of Dance at the University of Dhaka.
- She runs ‘Shurer Dhara’, a prestigious music school in Dhaka with a focus on Rabindra Sangeet. She has written a few books on Rabindra Sangeet as well.

About Bangladesh:

Capital: Dhaka

PM: Sheikh Hasina

President: Mohammed Shahabuddin

Currency: Taka



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26th World Energy Congress held in Rotterdam, Netherlands

- India is showcasing its innovative technologies and power generation practices, at **the 26th World Energy Congress**, being held in **Rotterdam, Netherlands**, from **22nd -25th April 2024**.
- **The India Pavilion** at the Congress aims to be a hub for showcasing innovative technologies and power generation practices, reinforcing India's commitment to environmental conservation on the global stage
- Central Public Sector Enterprises under **the Ministry of Power, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas** are participating in **the India Pavilion**, giving a collective testimony to India's leadership in global energy transition.
- The Pavilion has been jointly inaugurated by Secretary, Ministry of Power, Government of India, Shri Pankaj Agarwal and Ambassador of India to the Netherlands Mrs. Reenat Sandhu.
- Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power, Shri Srikant Nagulapalli and CMDs and other senior officials of participating organizations such as NTPC, POWERGRID, PFC, REC, NHPC, SECI, IREDA, ONGC, and World Energy Council India were also present at the inauguration.



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- **Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP28 President Dr. Sultan Al Jaber** was recognised with an award by the **World Energy Council** for his leadership in advancing the energy transition through the delivery of the historic UAE Consensus.
- Dr. Al Jaber received the '**Global Energy Transition Impact Award**'- **one of four** inaugural **World Energy Leadership Awards** - at the World Energy Congress.
- The award was given in honour of his work on the UAE Consensus and for launching Net Zero energy transition alliances across multiple energy sectors.

National Award-winning Tamil Director Durai passed away

- Director **Durai**, who directed several films including '**Pasi**', passed away at the age of 84.
- Durai has directed **46 films in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi languages**, and worked on many platforms as a veteran scriptwriter, director, and producer in the Tamil film industry.

He won awards in different fields like:

1978 - Tamil Nadu State Film Award for Best Director - Oru Veedu Oru Ulagam

1979 - National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Tamil - Pasi[3]

1979 - Filmfare Award for Best Film - Tamil - Pasi [5][6]

1980 - Best Film Award for Pasi at Tashkent Film Festival

1982 - Kalaimamani

- He served as a **jury member** of the **58th National Film Awards** (India) in 2011.
- As of **2011**, he was the **vice president of the South Indian Film Writers' Association**.



South Korea set to launch first ever homegrown nanosatellite

- **South Korea** is set to launch a homegrown **earth observation nanosatellite** into space, as part of its plan to create the country's **satellite constellation by 2027**.
- The nanosatellite, **the first unit of the envisioned satellite constellation**, will be launched from Rocket Lab's spaceport in **Mahia, New Zealand**.
- **The satellite**, named **NEONSAT-1**, will be launched on **Rocket Lab's Electron rocket** along with the **Advanced Composite Solar Sail System** created by the **U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration**.
- **NEONSAT** stands for **New-space Earth Observation SATellite constellation for national safety**.
- **NEONSAT-1**, less than **100 kilograms** in weight, will be **the first among 11 nanosatellites** to form a satellite constellation to monitor and take images of the **Korean Peninsula** and its surrounding waters.
- South Korea plans to launch five more nanosatellites into space in **June 2026 and five more in September 2027**.

About South Korea:

Capital: Seoul

PM: Han Duck-soo

President: Yoon Suk Yeol

Currency: won



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Tata Power Solar Systems and Indian Bank partner to boost residential rooftops

- **Tata Power Solar Systems** announced its partnership with state-owned **Indian Bank** to promote the adoption of **solar rooftop** among residential consumers.
- The collaboration aims to facilitate financing solutions under the popular **Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana scheme** for installations up to **3 KW**, as well as extend support for installations ranging from **3 to 10 KW** under the regular scheme.
- Under the framework of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana initiative, residential consumers can avail of loans up to **Rs 2 lakh** at an annual interest rate of **7 per cent**, in compliance with government regulations.
- With a nominal margin money requirement of 10 per cent and collateral-free financing, homeowners can embark on their solar journey with ease.
- Furthermore, the tenure for **repayment extends up to 10 years**, offering flexibility and convenience.
- Eligible applicants can access loans up to **Rs 6 Lakh**, with a margin money requirement of **20 per cent**. Interest rates ranging from **8.4 per cent to 10.8 per cent per annum** ensure competitive financing options.

Tata Power Solar
Systems and Indian
Bank Collaborate for
Residential Solar
Rooftops Financing



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About Indian Bank:

Founded: 15 August 1907

Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Chairman:

MD& CEO: Shanti Lal Jain

Tagline: Your Own Bank/ Apka Apna Bank

India successfully tests new 250 km strike range air-launched ballistic missile

- **The Indian Air Force (IAF)** has successfully carried out a test firing of a new version of an air-launched **medium-range ballistic missile** that is capable of hitting targets at a distance exceeding **250 km**.
- The missile, also referred to as **ROCKS or Crystal Maze 2 (CM-2)**, originated from **Israel** and underwent a test launch from a **Su-30 MKI fighter jet in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
- The missile boasts a strike range of over 250 km and is capable of targeting enemy long-range radar and air defence systems.
- **CM-2 represents** a new generation extended stand-off range **air-to-surface missile**, designed to strike high-value stationary and relocatable targets in GPS-denied environments, like the one India faced during the Kargil War.
- The deployment strategy of the **ROCKS involves** releasing the missile well outside the **surface-to-air** defended area, followed by a high-velocity trajectory to minimise the risk to aircraft and missiles.



BharatPe launches 'All-In-One' payment device 'BharatPe One'

- Indian fintech major **BharatPe** launched **BharatPe One**, an all-in-one payment product that integrates POS (point of sale), QR code, and speaker into one device.
- The device offers dynamic and static QR code, tap-and-pay and traditional card payment options for debit and credit cards.
- The company plans to launch the product in about **100 cities** in the first phase. It will further scale it to around **450 cities over the course of the next 6 months**.
- The Android-powered device is equipped with an HD touchscreen display and can be used with 4G and Wi-fi connections

About BharatPe

Founded: April 2018

Headquarters: New Delhi

CEO: Nalin Negi



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