

# IACE

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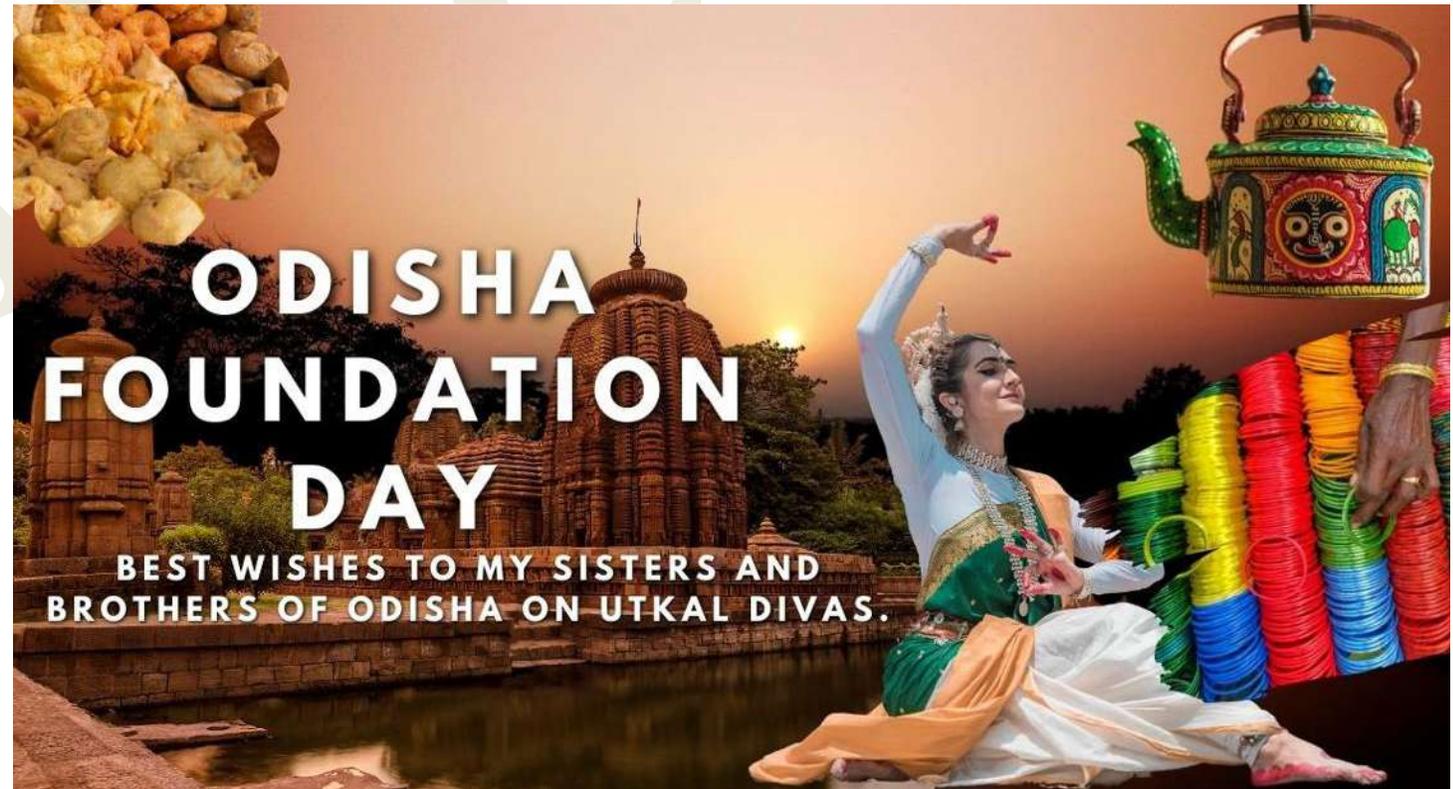
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## Odisha state formation Day: April 1<sup>st</sup>

- On April 1<sup>st</sup>, **Odisha Day** is celebrated to commemorate the formation of the state of Odisha
- Utkal Divas is not just a celebration of Odisha's formation but also a celebration of its rich heritage and culture.
- Odisha Day, also known as Utkal Divas is celebrated annually to mark the formation of the state of Odisha on **April 1, 1936**. This day marks the separation of Odisha from the combined **Bihar and Orissa** province during British rule in India.
- Odisha Day, also known as **Vishuva Milan**, is observed as a restricted holiday in the state.

### ➤ About Odisha:

- **Capital:** Bhubaneswar
- **Chief Minister:** Naveen Patnaik
- **Governor:** Raghubar Das





## RBI celebrates 90<sup>th</sup> formation day

- On April 1<sup>st</sup> 2024, RBI celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> formation day.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will address a ceremony marking “90 years of the Reserve Bank of India” in Mumbai, which will also be attended by Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** and RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>)**.
- The RBI commenced operations on **April 1, 1935**, based on the recommendations of the **Hilton Young Commission**.
- **Sir Osborne Smith** was the first governor of the Reserve Bank, serving from April 1, 1935, to June 30, 1937. A professional banker, he served for over 20 years with the Bank of New South Wales and 10 years with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia before coming to India.
- After the Partition of India, the RBI served as the central bank of Pakistan until June 1948, when the State Bank of Pakistan commenced operations
- Sir Benegal Rama Rau, a member of the Indian Civil Service, was the longest-serving governor of RBI, serving from August 1949 to January 1957
- Manmohan Singh, who was RBI governor from September 16, 1982, to January 14, 1985, went on to become the finance minister of the country and then prime minister (2004-2014).
- In 2018, **Urjit Patel** became the first governor to resign in **43 years**, possibly over differences with the government regarding the RBI’s surplus distribution.
- RBI headquarters located in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.



# INDIAN NAVY RESCUES HIJACKED IRANIAN VESSEL

## Navy rescues Hijacked Iranian Fishing Vessel with Pakistan crew

- Responding to yet another piracy attack, the Indian Navy intercepted and rescued a Hijacked Iranian Fishing Vessel **Al Kambar 786** and its **23-member Pakistani** crew in the Arabian Sea.
- “The nine armed pirates, who had boarded the fishing vessel around 90 nautical miles south-west of Socotra, were forced to surrender after more than 12 hours of intense coercive tactical measures”.
- After receiving inputs about the hijacking, the Navy swung into action by first diverting patrol vessel **INS Sumedha** to intercept **Al-Kambar** in the early hours of Friday.
- INS Sumedha was subsequently joined by guided-missile frigate INS Trishul in the maritime security operation.
- “The crew of 23 Pakistani nationals has been safely rescued. Indian naval specialist teams are presently undertaking thorough sanitisation and seaworthiness checks of Al-Kambar in order to escort her to a safe area for resuming normal fishing activities”.
- The Navy completed 100 days of stepped-up operations under the aegis of “**Operation Sankalp**” in the **Gulf of Aden** and adjoining areas, Arabian Sea, and off the east coast of Somalia amid the continuing attacks by Houthi rebels and Somali pirates that have disrupted sea trade in the region.

## Microsoft and OpenAI plan to invest \$100 billion for “Stargate” AI supercomputer

- Microsoft and OpenAI are working together on building an artificial intelligence supercomputer called “Stargate” that could cost as much as \$100 billion.
- **Stargate** will be the biggest in a series of supercomputers that Microsoft and OpenAI plan to build over the next six years, with Microsoft executives aiming to launch Stargate as early as 2028.
- Microsoft is expected to finance the project, which would be 100 times more expensive than some of the biggest current data centres.
- The supercomputer plan is currently in the middle of the third phase with Stargate being part of the fifth and final phase.
- A significant part of the cost for the upcoming phases will come from acquiring AI **specialized server chips**.
- **About Open AI:**
  - **Founded:** 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015
  - **CEO:** Sam Altman
  - **President:** Greg Brockman



## **Prof. Meena Charanda honored with 'International Culture Award'**

- Professor Meena Charanda, Principal of **Kalindi College**, Delhi University, was given the 'International Culture Award' for the year 2024.
- Prof. Meena Charanda has been given this honor for her remarkable work in the field of education and social service.
- She was presented with this honor at a program at the India International Center on March 30, 2024.
- Professor Charanda was given a memento, plaque, shield and citation from the university in the award.
- K Yogesh, Chairman of Socrates Social Research University (Trust), has said that a 5-member committee was formed for the International Culture Award – 2024.



## Joyshree Das Verma appointed as the President of FICCI Women's Organization

- Joyshree Das Verma took over as the **41<sup>st</sup>** new chairperson of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) Ladies Organisation (FLO), North East Chapter.
- Verma took over as the new chairperson from **Smita Agarwal**.
- She has been appointed by Israel as its Honorary Consul for Northeast India. Verma is also the Director of HR firm Kaapro Management Solutions Pvt Ltd.
- Established in 1983, FLO is a division of FICCI, which is the apex body of Industry and Chambers of Commerce in India, and it is one of the most prestigious pan-India business organisations with 12 chapters in various parts.
- **About FICCI:**
- **Founded:** 1927
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **President:** Subhrakant Panda





## International Year of Millets

**Closing  
event**



## Closing ceremony of International Millet Year (IMY) 2023 held in Italy

- The **Food and Agriculture Organization** (FAO) held the closing ceremony of the International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 on March 29th, 2024, at the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy.
- In March 2021, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets after a proposal by India, which was supported by over 70 countries.
- The closing ceremony served as a forum to review the achievements and lessons learned from the International Year of Millets.
- Millets are a type of grain that can grow in arid lands with minimal inputs and are resilient to changes in climate.
- This makes them an ideal solution for countries looking to increase self-reliance and reduce dependence on imported grains.
- **About FAO:**
  - **Founded:** 16<sup>th</sup> October 1945
  - **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy
  - **Director General:** Qu Dongyu.

## Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden win prestigious Miami Open 2024

- The men's doubles duo of India's Rohan Bopanna and Australia's Matthew Ebden clinched a historic victory in the final of the Miami Open tennis tournament in Miami Gardens, **Florida, United States**.
- The duo of Bopanna and Ebden sealed a solid win over **Croatia's Ivan Dodic** and **America's Austin Krajicek** in a marathon final by 6-7, 6-3, and 10-6 to get hold of the trophy.
- Bopanna, who made his 17th Australian Open appearance in this edition, comfortably wrapped up his maiden Grand Slam men's doubles title victory. He became the **oldest Grand Slam champion**.
- His previous Grand Slam victory came in mixed doubles with Gabriela Dabrowski of Canada at the 2017 French Open.





## **WHO Launches CoViNet Monitor Emerging Corona Viruses**

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has introduced a new initiative, **Coronavirus Network (CoViNet)**, aimed at enhancing global surveillance and response capabilities against coronaviruses.
- CoViNet is designed to facilitate and coordinate global expertise and capacities for the early detection, monitoring, and assessment of various coronaviruses.

- Beyond focusing on SARS-CoV-2, CoViNet will also assess other coronaviruses, including Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) with a particular emphasis on enhancing laboratory capacity and surveillance.
- MERS-CoV is a zoonotic virus (transmitted between animals and people). It has been identified and linked to human infections in dromedary camels in several Member States in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia.
- The establishment of CoViNet builds upon the foundation laid by the WHO Covid-19 reference laboratory network, initially set up during the early stages of the pandemic in January **2020**.
- CoViNet includes **36 labs from 21 countries** across all **six WHO regions**, with **three Indian** labs: Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Virology in Pune, and Translational Health Science and Technology Institute.
- It emphasises a comprehensive One Health approach encompassing human, animal, and environmental health.
- **About WHO:**
- **Founded:** 7<sup>th</sup> April 1948
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Director General:** TedrosAdhanom Ghebreyesus

## Shigmotsav-2024' started for tourists in Goa

- Shigmo is Goa welcoming the spring season, the Konkani way. This year, the festival will be celebrated from March 26 to April 8, 2024.
- The Shigmo festival, deeply rooted in Konkani heritage, maintains a distinct identity separate from Portuguese influences despite Goa's colonial history.
- While Portuguese colonial rule left a significant mark on Goa culture, including aspects of language, religion, and architecture, Shigmo's traditions and practices remain rooted in indigenous Konkani culture.
- The festival's focus on Hindu mythology, traditional dances, and folklore reflects pre-colonial customs and beliefs.
- The Shigmo festival starts with Holi and spans fourteen days, from the 9th moon day to the full moon day.
- In this the people honoured the valiant warriors with traditional folk dances and reenactments of mythological tales, creating a grand celebration.
- **About Goa:**
- **Capital:** Panaji
- **Chief Minister:** Pramod Sawant
- **Governor:** P. S. Sreedharan Pillai





## Indian Air Force will start Mega Exercise 'Gagan Shakti'

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is going to conduct the country's largest air military exercise in the name of 'Gagan Shakti-2024'.
- All the Air Force stations of the country will participate in the ten-day 'Gagan Shakti-2024' exercise.
- This exercise will be organized at the field firing range at **Pokhran Field Firing Range in Rajasthan** from 1 April 2024.
- About 10 thousand airmen of the Air Force will participate in this ten-day exercise.
- According to the instructions issued by the Defence Ministry, both the Western and Northern fronts will be included in this.
- It is held **every five years** as per defence establishments.
- 'Gagan Shakti' was last held in 2018. In this, the Indian Air Force flew more than 11,000 sorties during the two-phase air exercise
- Later this year, the Indian Air Force will host a mega exercise that is expected to bring together **12 global air forces**.  
Named '**Tarang Shakti**'.
- **About Indian Air Force (IAF):**
- **Founded:** 8<sup>th</sup> October 1932
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Air Chief Marshal:** VR Chaudhari



## India's GeM became the 3rd largest e-commerce platform in the world

- India's '**Government e-Market**' (GeM) portal is the world's third largest e-commerce platform for public procurement after **Korea's On-Line e-Procurement System (KONEPS)** and **Singapore's GeBIZ**.
- GeM ended this financial year with a gross merchandise value (GMV) of over Rs 4 lakh crore. This is almost 100% more than the GMV at the end of the last financial year. This demonstrates its unique potential to promote digital inclusion.
- Launched in August 2016, GeM recorded total orders worth Rs 17,445 crore in 2018-19.
- This gradually increased to around Rs 1.07 lakh crore in 2021-22. In the last financial year (FY23), the order value (GMV) was slightly more than Rs 2.01 lakh crore.
- Whereas both public and private sector companies can sell their products and services through GeM. In this, buyers can be only government institutions including Gram Panchayat.
- Defence procurement is one of the major business activities of this platform. The assembly of the BrahMos missile is being done through GeM as a service contract.
- GeM provides a level playing field to domestic businesses, especially small businesses, which are physically away from popular markets.
- **About GeM:**
- **Founded:** 2016
- **CEO:** Prashant Kumar Singh

## Saudi Arabia to preside over UN forum on women's rights, gender equality

- The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) unanimously appointed **Saudi Arabia** to chair its **69th session in 2025**.
- Saudi ambassador to the UN, **Abdulaziz Alwasil**, was elected as chair
- The decision by the United Nations to appoint Saudi Arabia as the chair of a gender equality forum has been criticized by women's rights advocates.
- The Saudi government announced “**Saudi Vision 2030**” is aims for “a strong, thriving, and stable Saudi Arabia that provides opportunity for all.”
- The Saudi Vision 2030 also included priorities and targets that focused on women’s full participation at all levels and investing their energies in a manner consistent with their enormous capabilities.
- **About Saudi Arabia:**
- **Capital:** Riyadh
- **PM:** Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud
- **Currency:** Saudi Riyal



## ‘MEGHAYAN-24’: SNOM & INMAC Organised METOC Seminar at Southern Naval Command

- The METOC seminar 'Meghayan-24' was organized by the School of Naval Oceanology & Meteorology (SNOM) and the Indian Naval Meteorological Analysis Centre (INMAC) at the Southern Naval Command.
- It was organized in commemoration of **World Meteorological Day**, with the theme ‘**At the Frontline of Climate Action**’ set by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for 2024.
- An indigenous mobile application named **INDRA** (Indian Naval Dynamic Resource for Weather Analysis) was launched to disseminate weather-related information and forecasts, facilitating quick decision-making in naval operations.
- Developed in collaboration with **BISAG** and the **Directorate of Naval Oceanology and Meteorology**, the application aims to empower optimal decision-making.

**METOC seminar  
'Meghayan-24'  
conducted by  
SNOM and  
INMAC at Southern  
Naval Command**



## India's Gem & Jewellery exports poised to reach \$100 billion soon: Mukesh Ambani

- The India Gem & Jewellery industry would achieve exports of \$100 billion in a few years and Indian-designed jewellery would make its mark globally.
- Ambani was speaking at the the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council's (GJEPC) 50th India Gem & Jewellery Awards (IGJA) held in Mumbai.
- It has also become a major generator of large-scale employment opportunities”.
- “As a result, the industry is poised to achieve exports of \$100 billion in the coming years from **\$40 billion** currently.”
- **Russell Mehta**, MD, **Rosy Blue** (India), was awarded with the **Lifetime Achievement Award** for his contribution and “serving as an inspirational model in the world of Gems & Jewellery.”
- GJEPC presented a total of **24 IGJ Awards**: 14 - Industry Performance Awards; 7 - Special Recognition Awards; 2 - Felicitation Awards; and 1 - Banks supporting the Gems & Jewellery Industry Awards.

