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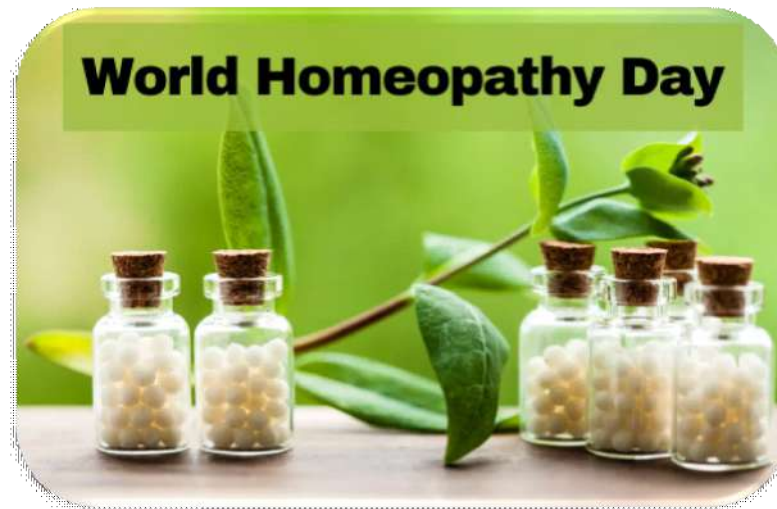
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World Homeopathy Day: April 10th

- World Homeopathy Day observed every year on **April 10th** to create awareness about the homeopathic medicines and promote conversations on advancing this alternative system of medicine.
- **Theme:** “Empowering Research, Enhancing Proficiency: A Homeopathy Symposium”.
- The day denotes the birth anniversary of **Dr. Samuel Hahnemann** who is viewed as the founder of homeopathy.
- Homeopathy provides a holistic way to healing, and dealing not just with physical symptoms but it takes into consideration individual personality traits, lifestyle factors, and hereditary predispositions.
- Its eco-friendly nature lins up with the world wide concerns on sustainability and environmental conservation.



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Manoj Panda appointed as member of 16th Finance Commission

- The government has appointed **Manoj Panda**, former director at the Institute of Economic Growth as the **full time member** of the **16th Finance Commission**.
- “The above member of the Commission shall hold office from the date of assuming office up to the date of submission of Report or 31st day of October, 2025.
- Panda replaces **Niranjan Rajadhyaksha**, Executive Director, Artha Global in the Commission, who quit as a member citing “unforeseen personal circumstances”.
- Previously, Panda served as Director of the Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad and as a Professor and Associate Professor at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai.



- Panda also worked as an economist and senior economist at the New Delhi based National Council of Applied Economic Research.
- He holds a PhD in Economics from the Indian Statistical Institute and was a post-doctoral fellow at Yale University.
- The 16th Finance Commission held its first meeting under the Chairmanship of **Arvind Panagariya** to discuss its terms of reference on February 14.
- The other **full-time members** of the Commission include **Ajay Narayan Jha**, member of 15th FC and former secretary of Expenditure and **Annie George Mathew**, former special secretary of Expenditure. **Soumya Kanti Ghosh**, group chief economic advisor of State Bank of India was appointed as the **part-time member** of the Commission.

Mohammedan Sporting I- league 2023-24 Champion

- **Mohammedan Sporting of Kolkata** won the I-League 2023-24 by defeating **Shillong Lajong Club** 2-1 at the SSA Ground in **Shillong, Meghalaya**.
- The **133-year-old Kolkata-based club** also secured a place in the next season's Indian Super League, subject to meeting the Indian Club Licensing Premier 1 criteria.
- Mohammedan Sporting has also qualified for next year's AFC Cup, which will be organised by the Asian Football Federation.
- Since the start of the **I-league** in **2007-08**, Mohammedan Sporting has never been able to win the I-league. It was the first I-league title for the illustrious Kolkata football club.
- The I-League football tournament is played in a round-robin format where the teams play against each other. The team which secures the maximum points is declared the winner.
- Before the start of the match against Shillong Lajong club, Mohammedan Sporting needed just one point to secure its first-ever title.



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- Alexis Gomez and Evgeny Kozlov scored for Mohammedan Sporting, while Douglas Tardin converted a penalty to score the match's only goal for the Shillong Lajong club.
- Mohammedan Sporting, known as Black and White Brigade.

About I-League:

- The **I-League** is a professional **men's football league** started in 2007-08 by the All India Football Federation (AIFF).
- The I-League replaced the **National Football League**. The National Football League was started by the AIFF in **1996** to make Indian men's football professional, raise the standards of domestic football, and make the game popular across the country.
- **Dempo Sports Club** of Goa won the **first I-League** in **2007-08**. It is also the most successful team in the I-League history, winning the title 3 times.
- The **2022-23** champion team was **RoundGlass Punjab**.
- **The Indian Super League**
- The Indian Super League is based on cricket's Indian Premier League (IPL). The AIFF signed a fifteen-year deal with the **Reliance Industries -International Management Group** in **2010** to allow the Reliance Industries -International Management Group to organise and manage the **Indian Super League**.
- The ISL is also based on the city-based club models. In the first season of the league, organised in **2014**, eight clubs participated, and Atletico de Kolkata won. Currently, 12 clubs participate in the ISL. ATK Mohun Bagan of Kolkata is the 2022-23 champion.
- President of All India Football Federation (AIFF) -**Kalyan Chaubey**.

Hindujas to buy 60% stake in India MF unit of Invesco

- The **Hinduja Group** will buy a **60% stake** in **American asset manager Invesco's India mutual fund unit**, marking its entry into the industry even as Jio Financial Services-BlackRock joint venture gears up to disrupt the market.
- The move comes after the bank-to-automobile conglomerate won a court approval for purchase of Reliance Capital and its subsidiaries, covering life, health and general insurance, research and securities broking and asset reconstruction businesses.
- Hinduja and Invesco didn't disclose the deal amount but after the transaction, the US firm will retain a 40% stake in the mutual fund unit.
- **Invesco**, which entered the country's MF industry through a stake-purchase in Religare Asset Management in 2012, is today the **fifth largest foreign player**.



- It manages assets worth Rs 85,393 crore. It had bought 49% in Religare for about Rs 460 crore and four years later purchased the remaining 51% stake.
- Hinduja Group has routed the deal through its Mauritius based arm IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL).
- IIHL, which has more than 600 shareholders, owns IndusInd Bank and Reliance Capital in India, Sterling Bank & Trust in Bahamas, Afrinex Exchange in Mauritius and Beryllus Capital in UK, Switzerland and Singapore.

About Hinduja Group:

Founded: 1914

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman: Gopichand P Hinduja

Sumit Nagal becomes first Indian to win Monte-Carlo Masters singles main draw in 42 years

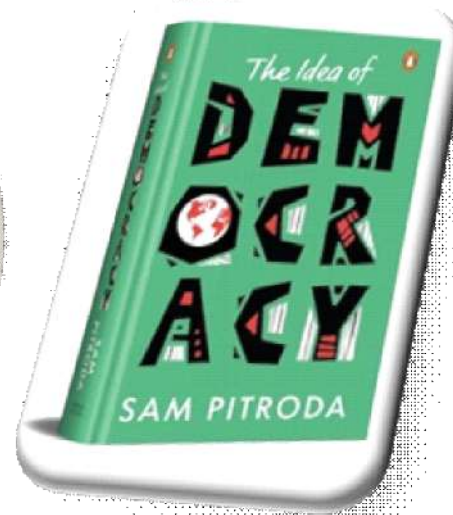
- Sumit Nagal became the first Indian to enter the Monte Carlo Masters singles main draw in 42 years, beating **Facundo Diaz Acosta** of **Argentina** in a three-setter in the final qualifying round.
- Nagal, **ranked 95th in the world**, defeated his world number 55 rival 7-5 2-6 6-2 in a gruelling match that lasted two hours and 25 minutes.
- In the first round of the main draw, he will meet world number 35 Matteo Arnaldi of Italy in the clay court tournament.
- The 26-year-old Nagal was following the footsteps of the legendary Ramesh Krishnan, who had made it to the main draw of the same tournament in 1982.



- Nagal had beaten world number 63 Flavio Cobolli of Italy 6-2 6-3 in the first round of qualifying event.
- Nagal has been in the spotlight since making it to the main draw of the Australian Open in January, where he had beaten Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan before bowing out in the second round.
- He then emerged triumphant in the Chennai Open before playing two more Challenger competitions, along with an ATP 500 competition (Dubai Championship) and two ATP 1000 Masters (Indian Wells and Miami).

Sam Pitroda's New Book 'The Idea of Democracy'

- Renowned author **Sam Pitroda** has written a new book titled '**The Idea of Democracy**', which explores the current state of democracy and its potential challenges in countries like India and the United States.
- The book launch event was attended by Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal and other eminent personalities from the literary industry.
- It provides a detailed analysis of the essence of democracy, its workings, the values it needs to encapsulate, and the forces and safeguards that can help preserve liberal democracy.
- The book aims to stimulate conversations, particularly among the youth, on the meaning of democracy and the role they can play in its survival and thriving in the coming era.



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- **Sam Pitroda** is an internationally respected **telecom inventor, entrepreneur**, development thinker, and policymaker who has spent 50 years in information and communications technology (ICT) and related global and national developments.
- Pitroda has also served as **the founder and first Chairman of India's Telecom Commission**, the Chairman of the National Knowledge Commission, and the Advisor to the Prime Minister of India on Public Information Infrastructure and Innovation.
- Pitroda is a serial entrepreneur, having started several companies in the United States. He holds around 20 honorary PhDs, close to 100 worldwide patents, and has published five books and numerous papers.

Indian Army gets portable Igla-S Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPADS)

- The Indian Army has received the first batch of 24 **Russia-made Igla-S Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS)**, along with 100 missiles, as part of a larger deal that includes domestic production in India.
- The **Igla-S system** is being acquired to enhance the **Indian Army's Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) capabilities**. Sources in the defence establishment revealed that this procurement is a significant one, as opposed to the smaller emergency purchase made in 2021.
- The **Igla-S is a hand-held defence system** that can be operated by an individual or crew.
- It is designed to bring down low-flying aircraft and can also identify and neutralise air targets such as cruise missiles and drones.



- The Igla-S system comprises the 9M342 missile, the 9P522 launching mechanism, the 9V866-2 mobile test station, and the 9F719-2 test set. These components work together to provide a comprehensive air defence solution.
- India signed a contract with Russia in November last year for 120 launchers and 400 missiles. While the first batch has come from Russia, the rest of these systems will be made in India through Transfer of Technology (ToT) from Russia by an Indian company.
- The **Igla-S** acquisition addresses the Indian Army's need to **replace** the outdated **Igla-1M systems**.
- Once the current requirement is fulfilled, the Indian Army plans to replace the older Igla systems with advanced laser-beam riding and infrared VSHORADS. .
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently conducted two flight tests of indigenous VSHORADS missiles, indicating progress in this direction.
- The acquisition of the Igla-S MANPADS marks a significant step in enhancing India's air defence capabilities, particularly in mountainous regions. With plans for indigenous production and future advancements, the Indian Army is poised to strengthen its VSHORAD capabilities in the coming years.

ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 team receives 2024 John L. Jack Swigert Jr award

- India's Chandrayaan-3 mission team has been presented with the prestigious 2024 John L. 'Jack' Swigert Jr. Award for Space Exploration in recognition of it raising the bar for space exploration.
- The award was received by India's Consul General in Houston **D C Manjunath** on behalf of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) during the opening ceremony of the annual **Space Symposium in Colorado, USA**
- As the first nation to land on the Moon's South Pole, Chandrayaan-3, a mission developed by the ISRO, extends humanity's space exploration aspirations to new and fertile areas for understanding and cooperation.
- The award honours the memory of astronaut **John L. "Jack" Swigert Jr.**, one of the inspirations for the creation of the **Space Foundation** in **1983**.



- A Colorado native, Swigert served with retired U.S. Navy Captain James A. Lovell Jr. and Fred Haise on the legendary Apollo 13 lunar mission, which was aborted after the perilous rupture of an oxygen tank while en route to the Moon.
- People around the world watched as NASA overcame tremendous odds and returned the crew safely to Earth. In that spirit of accomplishment, the Jack Swigert Award is presented annually at the Space Symposium by the Space Foundation.

About ISRO:

Founded: 15th August 1969

Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka

Chairman: S Somnath

"Suvidha portal" launched by Election Commission of India(ECI)

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched **"Suvidha portal"**, a groundbreaking platform designed to streamline the application process for various permissions required during election campaigns for candidates and political parties participating in the upcoming 2024 general elections.
- It is a web-based application that provides an option to fill out permission applications.
- The portal serves as a one-stop solution, empowering candidates and political parties to apply by using their mobile number and obtain permissions efficiently and conveniently.
- With a user-friendly interface and robust features, the App simplifies the process, ensuring that all necessary permissions are acquired in a timely manner, thereby enabling seamless campaign activities.



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- The different permissions available on Suvidha platform included “Meetings; candidates and political parties can request permissions for holding meetings with constituents, allowing them to engage with voters directly and discuss their vision and policies.

About Election Commission of India (ECI):

Founded: 25th January 1950 (National Voters’ Day)

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chief Election Commissioner of India: Rajiv Kumar

Qutub Minar lights up in remembrance of Rwanda Genocide Of 1994

- The Qutub Minar has been illuminated in the colours of the Rwandan national flag on April 7.
- It has been illuminated in solidarity with the Rwanda Genocide of 1994 which claimed the lives of 8,00,000 people.
- On this occasion, Dammu Ravi of the Ministry of External Affairs represented India at the 30th commemoration of the genocide in Kigali.
- Rwanda observed 30 years of the genocide by armed Hutu extremists. 1994 Rwanda Genocide (Kwibuka 30) is one of the bloodiest massacres of the 20th century.
- In July 1994, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) rebel group captured Kigali.
- Out of 8 lakh people died, most of them were Tutsis and moderate Hutus.



- Dammu Ravi, the Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs (Economic Relations), is on a visit to Rwanda, Uganda, and Kenya from April 7-12, accompanied by the Additional Secretary (East and Southern Africa), Puneet R Kundal.

About Rwanda:

Capital: Kigali

PM: Édouard Ngirente

President: Paul Kagame

Currency: Rwandan Franc

Tata launches India's first private earth observation satellite

- **Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)** announced the successful deployment of its sub-meter resolution **optical satellite, TSAT-1A**, into space by **SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket**.
- The satellite was placed in space as part of the Bandwagon-1 mission and was launched from the **Kennedy Space Center, Florida, US**.
- TSAT-1A has been assembled in TASL's Assembly, Integration and Testing ("AIT") plant at its Vemagal facility in Karnataka.
- This achievement follows the collaboration signed between TASL and Satellogic in November 2023.
- It collaborates with Satellogic's expertise to develop and integrate an advanced earth observation satellite in India and TASL's capability to undertake complex system integration.



- TSAT-1A will provide high-resolution optical satellite images with increased collection capacity, dynamic range, and low-latency delivery through its multispectral and hyperspectral capabilities.
- Besides TSAT-1A, the Bandwagon-1 mission also carried 11 other spacecraft.
- According to SpaceX, these include Korea's 425Sat, HawkEye 360's Clusters 8 & 9, Tyvak International's CENTAURI-6, iQPS's QPS-SAR-7 TSUKUYOMI-II and Capella Space's Capella-14.
- The TSAT-1A satellite is a sub-meter resolution earth observation satellite. According to the company the satellite has 0.5-0.8-metre resolution, which can be enhanced to 0.5-0.6-metre super-resolution using the software.
- The satellite is basically a remote-sensing satellite.

About Tata Advanced System Limited:

Founded: 2007

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairman: Banmali Agrawala

Renowned Poet Mamta G. Sagar won World Literature Prize from WOW

- **Mamta G. Sagar**, a Bengaluru-based Kannada poet, writer, academic and activist, has recently won the **World Literary Prize** from the **World Organization of Writers (WOW)** for her contributions to the world of literature.
- Dr Sagar, a facilitator at Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design, and Technology, known for her involvement in diverse forms of transdisciplinary creative writing and cultural industries, received the award at a ceremony in **Abuja, Nigeria**.
- In addition to this award, Dr. Sagar, who has always actively engaged in community-based projects centred around poetry, has also been honoured with the LIFFT award, the gold medal, and a diploma for her outstanding achievements in the field of literature.
- Some of the themes she has addressed in her work, over the years, include identity politics, feminism, and cultural diversity.



Government of India to develop plant for recycling Lithium-ion batteries & E-waste in Uttarakhand

- **The Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the science & technology ministry has partnered with a private entity to establish a commercial plant for recycling lithium-ion batteries (LIB) and e-waste using indigenous technology in Uttarakhand.
- This move aims to enhance circularity and lessen the country's reliance on imported critical mineral resources.
- Presently, a large portion of LIBs, about 95%, end up in landfills without recycling, while only 5% undergo the process.
- The lithium-ion battery recycling market is expected to grow significantly, reaching close to **\$15 billion by 2030**, showing a compound annual growth rate of 21.6%.



- In 2021, the market size was \$3.8 billion. Improper disposal of LIBs through landfilling and incineration poses environmental and health risks. Effective recycling will not only provide secondary raw materials for cell manufacturing domestically but also help in averting health hazards.
- Moreover, e-waste poses a substantial challenge, with approximately 78% of it not being collected in India. This results in valuable secondary raw materials like gold, silver, copper, and rare earth elements being left in dump yards or landfills.
- **India** is currently the **third-largest generator** of **e-waste globally**.
- The Technology Development Board recently sealed a deal with **Remine India Private Limited** to establish the recycling plant in **Sitarganj, Uttarakhand**, with a total project cost of **Rs 15 crore**.

About Uttarakhand:

Capital: Dehradun (Winter) , Gairsain (Summer)

Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhama

Governor: Gurmit Singh

Zimbabwe launched a new gold-backed currency “ZiG”

- **A new gold-backed currency called ZiG has been introduced by Zimbabwe.**
- The meaning of the name ZiG is “**Zimbabwe Gold**”. The new ZiG banknotes will come in denominations between **Rs. 1 and Rs. 200**.
- Coins would also be introduced to address the shortage of American coins.
- It is the latest effort to stabilize an economy that has been moving from crisis to crisis for the past 25 years.
- **ZiG** replaced the **Zimbabwe dollar, RTGS**, which has lost three-quarters of its value so far this year.
- In March, annual inflation reached 55% – a seven-month high.



- Zimbabweans have 21 days to exchange old, inflation-hit notes for the new currency.
- However, the US dollar, which accounts for 85% of transactions, will remain legal tender and will continue to be preferred by most people.
- The new currency is being implemented with immediate effect and banks will be required to convert existing Zimbabwe dollar balances into ZiG.

About Zimbabwe:

Capital: Harare

President: Emmerson Mnangagwa

Currency: ZiG

Indians founded highest unicorns outside country: Hurun report

- Indians have founded more offshore **unicorns** than any other country, cofounding **109 unicorns** outside of India compared with **67 in India**, according to the **Global Unicorn Index 2024**, a ranking of the world's start-ups founded in the 2000s.
- Unicorns are basically startups worth at least a billion dollars and not yet listed on a public exchange.
- According to the report by the Hurun Research Institute, India was **placed third globally** with 67 unicorns, led by on-demand delivery start-up **Swiggy** and fantasy sports platform **Dream11** worth \$8 billion each, and Razorpay worth \$7.5 billion.
- Of the unicorns founded outside of India, significantly all were in the **US (95)**, led by the Bay Area, with **four** in the **UK**, **three** in **Singapore**, and **two** in **Germany**.



- The most active city for unicorns outside of the US and China was London, followed by Bengaluru, Paris and Berlin.
- According to the report, the world's most successful unicorn investors, led by **Tiger Global, Softbank** and **HongShan**, highlighted the symbiotic relationship between startups and strategic investment.
- The world's unicorns come from **53 countries**, up from 48 last year, spread around 291 cities, up from 271. The US led with **703 unicorns**, followed by **China with 340**.
- Hurun found **1,453 unicorns** across the **world**, a new world record and up 7 per cent or 92 unicorns.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen wins Japanese Grand Prix 2024

- Triple world champion **Max Verstappen** of **Red Bull** dominated the Japanese Grand Prix, leading a one-two finish for his team alongside teammate **Sergio Perez**.
- Verstappen was in control throughout the race after starting from pole position, claiming his **third win** from the first four races of the 2024 season.
- Verstappen was back to his best after a brake issue in the previous race in Australia saw him retire. He stamped his authority on the race from the start, leading Perez to the first turn and maintaining his lead for the entire race.
- **Carlos Sainz** of **Ferrari** took **third place**, ahead of his teammate Charles Leclerc, who started from eighth on the grid. McLaren's Lando Norris finished fifth, while Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso was sixth.



- The race was briefly red-flagged on the second lap after a collision between Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo and Williams' Alex Albon, with both drivers crashing into the wall but escaping unscathed. Sauber's Zhou Guanyu also retired with a gearbox issue later in the race.

About Japan:

Capital: Tokyo

PM: Fumio Kishida

Currency: Japanese Yen

GUJCOST designed as Nodal Centre for ISRO's START programme

- **Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST)** has been designated as the nodal centre for the **Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START)** programme of ISRO.
- This initiative aims to cultivate a deeper understanding of space science and technology among postgraduate and final-year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology.
- The registration for the inaugural online programme, Exploration of Solar System, ends on April 19.
- The event will take place from April 24 to May 10. Details for the same are on GUJCOST website.
- The **START programme**, launched by ISRO in March, offers an introductory-level online training platform. Encompassing a vast spectrum of space science research areas, including planetary exploration, astronomy, heliophysics, atmospheric science, and microgravity research.



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Mendis and Bouchier emerged as the ICC players of the month

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has named **Sri Lankan cricketer Kamindu Mendis** as the **ICC Men's Player of the Month for March 2024**. Mendis' historic batting performances in the first Test against Bangladesh in Sylhet were instrumental in Sri Lanka's comfortable victory.
- On the women's side, **England's Maia Bouchier** has been awarded the **ICC Women's Player of the Month for March 2024**. Bouchier's exceptional performances in the T20I series against New Zealand were crucial in securing a 4-1 series victory for the visitors.

About ICC:

Founded: 15 June 1909

Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates;

CEO: Geoff Allardice;

Chairman: Greg Barclay.



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