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19th APRIL 2024 DESCRIPTIVE

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WORLD LIVER DAY: APRIL 19TH

- **World Liver Day** is celebrated every year on **April 19th** to raise awareness about the importance of a healthy liver and the prevalence of liver disease worldwide.
- **Theme:** Be Vigilant, Get Regular Liver Check-Ups and Prevent Fatty Liver Diseases.
- In **2010**, the **European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL)** launched the first ever World Liver Day to commemorate the foundation day of EASL in 1966. Since then, April 19 has been celebrated as World Liver Day every year.
- The liver is an integral part of the human body which helps digest food, removes waste from the body and improves blood flow in the body.





European Girls'
Mathematical
Olympiad

INDIA GOT
2 SILVER &
2 BRONZE MEDALS
IN THE 13TH EGMO 2024



**INDIAN TEAM WON FOUR MEDALS IN THE EUROPEAN
GIRL'S MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD (EGMO) 2024**

- Indian team has secured **2 Silver and 2 Bronze** medals in the **13th European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO) 2024 in Tskaltubo, Georgia.**
- Gunjan Agarwal of Gurgaon and Sanjana Philo Chacko of Thiruvananthapuram won Silver medals.
- Larissa from Hissar and Pune's Sae Patil won Bronze medals at the Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO) 2024.
- The team was led by leader **Sahil Mhaskar**, Deputy Leader Aditi Muthkhod and Observer Ananya Ranade from the Chennai Mathematical Institute.
- This is the **second time** that all four contestants securing medals at EGMO.
- The European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO) is a mathematical olympiad for girls which started in **2012**.

EIGHT INDIANS NAMED IN TIME'S 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL LIST 2024

- Eight Indians are named in the Time's 100 most Influential list 2024 they are;
- Ali Bhatt (Bollywood actor)
- Ajay Banga (the current President of the World Bank)
- Sakshi Malik (India's first and only female wrestler to win an Olympic medal),
- Dev Patel (British actor of Indian descent),
- Priyamvada Natarajan (a professor of Astronomy at Yale University),
- Asma Khan (a British restaurateur of Indian origin),
- Satya Nadella (Microsoft CEO) and
- Jigar Shah (Director of the US Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office)
- The overall list contains **four categories**: Leaders, heroes, artists, and thinkers.



LORD RAM LALL'S FOREHEAD ILLUMINATED WITH 'SURYA TILAK' ON THE OCCASION OF RAM NAVAMI



- **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)**, an Autonomous body under the Department of science and Technology played a crucial role in the **Surya Tilak Project at Ayodhya**.
- Under the Surya Tilak project, sunlight was brought on the forehead of Sri Ram Lalla at 12 noon on the occasion of Sri Ram Navami in the Chaitra month.
- IIA team carried out the calculation of the sun position, design and optimisation of the optical system, and performed the integration & alignment at the site.
- The IIA team led the calculation for identification of the calendar days of Sri Ram Navami for one cycle of 19 years followed by its repetition, estimation of the position in the sky on the calendar dates of the Ram Navami.

- They also led the design of an **opto-mechanical system** to bring the sunlight from the top of the temple to the forehead of the idol, estimation of the size, shape and location of mirrors and lenses in the system for sufficient light to fall on the idol for about 6 minutes.
- The device has been manufactured by **Optica, Bangalore & implementation of the opto-mechanical system** at the site is being done by **CSIR-CBRI (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Building Research Institute)**.
- This year's Ram Navami holds special significance as it marks the first celebration after the **Pran Pratishtha** of the **Lord Ram** idol by PM Modi on **January 22** in **Ayodhya**.

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SAURABH GARG APPOINTED AS SECRETARY OF

THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

- The Central Government has entrusted **IAS officer Saurabh Garg** with the **additional charge of Secretary of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**, upon completion of tenure of **Dr G. P. Samanta**.
- This decision, communicated through an order issued by the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), underscores Garg's extensive experience and expertise in the realm of public administration.
- Garg, a 1991-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Odisha cadre, will serve in this capacity until a regular incumbent is appointed or further directives are issued.
- The Central Government has also extended the **additional charge of Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit – India (FIU-India)** to **IAS officer Vivek Aggarwal for a period of six months**.
- Aggarwal, a 1994-batch IAS officer from the Madhya Pradesh cadre, has been serving in this role since January 2023.





UK set to ban tobacco sales for a 'smoke-free' generation.

UK SET TO BAN TOBACCO SALES FOR A ‘SMOKE-FREE’ GENERATION.

- UK is set to impose tough measures to stop smoking, which has emerged as one of the biggest causes of cancer deaths in the country.
- The government’s “historic” plans to create a **“smoke-free” generation** in a bid to reduce the number of people dying from smoking-related diseases, a big burden on the country’s publicly funded National Health Service (NHS).
- The bill aims to ensure people turning 15 this year and those who are younger will never be able to legally buy tobacco.
- Currently, it is illegal to sell cigarettes to anyone under the age of 18. The government intends to bar sales to anyone born after January 1, 2009.
- Under the legislation, beginning in **2027**, the legal age limit would increase by one year every year until it is illegal for the entire population.
- The government envisages that smoking among young people would be **eradicated by 2040**.
- Shops in England and Wales caught selling cigarettes and vapes to underage people would face on-the-spot fines of 100 pounds (\$125). Courts may already impose fines of 2,500 pounds (\$3,118).
- **About United Kingdom (UK):**
- **Capital:** London
- **PM:** Rishi Sunak
- **Currency:** pound sterling

WORLD'S FIRST

**MISS AI
BEAUTY PAGEANT**

ANNOUNCED FEATURING AI JUDGES



WORLD'S FIRST 'MISS AI' BEAUTY PAGEANT ANNOUNCED FEATURING AI JUDGES

- For the first time in the world, models and influencers that are solely created through **artificial intelligence** will be competing in a beauty pageant called "**Miss AI**".
- The winner of the contest will receive **total prize money of \$20,000**, making it the world's first AI beauty pageant.
- The contestants will be judged based on their online presence, looks, and the technical skill that was put into creating them.
- This pageant is scheduled to take place on **May 10**, and the winners will be announced later in the month, during an online awards ceremony.
- A release from **World AI Creator Awards (WAICA)** states that the social clout of the contestants will be assessed using these parameters.
- The pageant will be **judged by a panel of four members**, including two AI influencers, **Aitana Lopez and Emily Pellegrini**, who have more than 300,000 and 250,000 followers on Instagram, respectively.
- The other two judges are **human beings, Andrew Bloch**, an entrepreneur and PR adviser, and **Sally-Ann Fawcett**, a beauty pageant historian and author.
- The **first prize is \$5,000 cash**, which will be given to the Miss AI winner (or the creator behind it), along with Fanvue promotion and PR support.

- The organizers welcome creations produced from any type of generator, whether it's DeepAI, Midjourney, or your own tool.
- This event is just the beginning, as more such contests are being planned around the themes of fashion, diversity, and computer-generated men.
- **About Artificial Intelligence (AI):**
- **Established:** 1950
- **Father of AI:** John McCarthy

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SEVERE FLOOD OCCURRED IN UAE DUE TO ARTIFICIAL RAIN



- **The United Arab Emirates (UAE)** experienced its **heaviest rainfall in 75 years**, surpassing any recorded precipitation since data collection began in **1949**.
- While the impact of climate change has been evident from wildfires and heatwaves, there have been speculations on whether cloud seeding.
- **Cloud seeding** is a form of weather modification aimed at enhancing precipitation – could have contributed to the unprecedented rainfall in the desert nation.

- Countries including Thailand, China, Israel, and even India have cloud seeding projects
- Additionally, the country has had to regularly upgrade its drainage infrastructure, especially with the surge in rainfall in the country witnessed in recent years.
- The UAE has long been at the forefront of pioneering innovative solutions to combat its arid climate, including cloud seeding.
- The UAE began experimenting with this technique as early as **1982**.
- Over the years, the nation's artificial rain programme has been strengthened through collaborative scientific research with institutions such as the **National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in the USA, Witwatersrand University in South Africa, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).**
- **About UAE:**
- **Capital:** Abu Dhabi
- **Presidnt:** Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- **PM:** Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
- **Currency:** Dirham

FORMER ENGLAND CRICKETER RAMAN SUBBA ROW PASSED AWAY

- The former **England Test batsman Raman Subba Row** has passed away at the age of 92.
- At the time of his death, he was England's **oldest living men's Test cricketer**.
- Subba Row played first-class cricket for Cambridge University and then joined the powerful Surrey side of the 1950s, which won seven successive County Championships.
- Unable to secure a permanent first-team place at The Oval, he moved to Northamptonshire, where he was appointed captain in 1958.
- Subba Row won the first of his **13 England caps and in 1961** he scored a century in both his first and last Tests against Australia.
- In all, he scored 984 Test runs at an average of over 46. After retiring to pursue a business career, he was the manager of England's tour of India and Sri Lanka in 1981.
- Subba Row also served five years as chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board, the forerunner to the ECB, from 1985.
- He later became one of the International Cricket Council's first match referees, overseeing 160 fixtures.



JAMMU & KASHMIR'S SRINAGAR TO BE TAGGED AS WORLD CRAFT CITY

- **The World Crafts Council International (WCCI)**, a **Kuwait-based** organisation working on recognition and preservation of traditional crafts across the globe, has picked **Srinagar** for mapping its **craft clusters** before its final nomination as the **World Craft City (WCC) from India** this year.
- A three-member team of the WCCI, which is headed by **Saad Al-Qaddumi**, is in Srinagar to inspect craft clusters, processes involved, and the status of artisans.
- The jury members arrived in Srinagar on April 16 and will leave April 19.
- **About J&K:**
- **Capitals:** Srinagar (Winter); Jammu (Summer)
- **Lt. Governor:** Manoj Sinha



DRDO CONDUCTED FLIGHT-TEST OF INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGY CRUISE MISSILE

- **Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO)** conducted a successful test flight of the **Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM)** from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in **Chandipur, Odisha**.
- The missile showcased excellent performance, closely monitored by various sensors and the Indian Air Force.



- The flight path of the missile was meticulously monitored by a range of sensors including **Radar, Electro-Optical Tracking System (EOTS)**, and Telemetry, ensuring comprehensive coverage.
- The Indian Air Force's **Su-30-Mk-I aircraft** actively monitored the flight, enhancing the surveillance capabilities.
- The missile successfully followed its intended path using waypoint navigation and demonstrated a very low-altitude sea-skimming flight, showcasing its precision and versatility.
- The successful flight test established the reliable performance of the indigenous propulsion system developed by **Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) in Bengaluru**, marking a significant milestone for Indian defense R&D.
- The ITCM is equipped with advanced avionics and software to ensure enhanced performance and reliability.
- Developed by the **Bengaluru-based DRDO laboratory Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE)** in collaboration with other laboratories and Indian industries,.
- **About DRDO:**
- **Founded:** 1958
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Chairman:** Samir V Kamat

GMR HYDERABAD AIRPORT WINS AWARD FOR “BEST AIRPORT STAFF”

- **GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL)** has been honored with the ‘**Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024**’ award by **Skytrax**.
- The announcement took place during the **Passenger Terminal EXPO 2024 in Frankfurt, Germany**.
- The exceptional quality of service provided by the airport’s staff across various fronts, as evaluated through meticulous audits and assessments.
- The award is a testament to the commendable performance of the airport’s staff, who excel in attitude, friendliness, and efficiency across all customer-facing roles.
- **About Skytax:**
 - Skytrax, a globally renowned air transport rating organization with a legacy dating back to **1989**, conducts comprehensive assessments of airports and airlines worldwide.
 - Utilizing a star rating system ranging from 1 to 5 stars, Skytrax evaluates diverse aspects that significantly impact the passenger journey





SPACE TESTING HUB

**SET UP BY DRDO
FOR INDIAN NAVY**

INAUGURATED IN KERALA



INDIAN NAVY INAUGURATED DRDO'S SPACE TESTING HUB IN KERALA

- A state-of-the-art **Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterization and Evaluation (SPACE)** was inaugurated by Secretary of Defence (R&D) and Chairman of DRDO **Dr Samir V Kamat** at the Underwater Acoustic Research Facility, **Kulamavu, in Idukki, Kerala.**
- **About SPACE:**
- The **Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory** of DRDO set up the SPACE.
- This facility is a center for **testing and evaluating sonar systems** used by the Indian Navy on different types of vessels, including **ships, submarines, and helicopters.**
- The facility is made up of two structures: a floating platform on the water's surface and a submersible platform that can be lowered up to 100 meters.
- Using modern scientific instrumentation, it will be suitable for survey, sampling, and data collection of air, surface, mid-water, and reservoir floor parameters.

IIT KANPUR & AFMS TO COLLABORATE ON

DEVELOPING TECH FOR MONITORING SOLDIERS' HEALTH IN TOUGH TERRAINS

- The **Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaborative research and training with **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur**.
- The MoU was signed by **Director General Armed Forces Medical Services Lt Gen Daljit Singh** & Officiating Director, IIT Kanpur **Prof S Ganesh**.
- Under this MoU, AFMS and IIT Kanpur will team up to undertake research and develop new technologies to address health problems faced by soldiers in difficult terrains.



- IIT Kanpur will also provide technical expertise for developing AI diagnostic models, at Armed Forces Centre for Computational Medicine established in Armed Forces Medical College, which is first of its kind amongst medical colleges in India.
- On this occasion, Lt Gen Daljit Singh informed that AFMS is dedicated to provide highest level of medical care to soldiers and collaboration with institutes of national importance like IIT is a significant step towards this commitment.
- The **Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS)** came into effect from 1948.

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ANANTH TECHNOLOGIES FOUNDER PAVULURI SUBBA RAO

WINS ARYABHATTA AWARD

- **Ananth Technologies** founder **Dr. Pavuluri Subba Rao**, has been honored with the esteemed **Aryabhata Award** by the **Aeronautical Society of India (ASI)**.
- Dr. Rao was also named a Distinguished Fellow by the ASI.
- The Aryabhata Award recognizes Dr. Rao's exceptional lifelong contributions to advancing **astronautics in India**.
- He received this prestigious award from a distinguished panel including **Shri S Somanath**, President of ASI and Chairman of ISRO, and **Dr. Kiran Kumar**, former Chairman of ISRO.
- Dr. Rao's dedication to the Indian space program began at ISRO, where he worked as a scientist.
- In **1992**, he founded **Ananth Technologies Limited** with the mission of indigenously designing and developing cutting-edge avionics for both ISRO and India's Defense sector.
- Ananth Technologies Center of Excellences are there in **Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Thiruvananthapuram**.
- Ananth Technologies has played a vital role in India's space achievements, contributing to **98 satellites and 78 launch vehicles** to date.



GENERAL MANOJ PANDE INAUGURATES HIGH-TECH IT LAB

AT ACADEMY OF ARMED FORCES IN UZBEKISTAN

- In a significant step forward in strengthening bilateral ties between **India and Uzbekistan**, **General Manoj Pande**, the Chief of the Army Staff, inaugurated a **high-tech IT Laboratory** at the **Uzbek Academy of Armed Forces, Uzbekistan**
- The Army Chief is in Uzbekistan on a visit from April 15-18.
- This development marks a milestone in the defence cooperation between the two nations, following a commitment made during the Defence Ministers' meeting in September **2018**.
- The project gained momentum with approval in **2019**, funded through the Ministry of External Affairs' 'c' initiative.
- It has been learnt that the bids exceeded the envisaged budget of **Rs 6.5 crore**. Therefore, a sum of **Rs 8.5 crore** was allotted for the project.
- **About Uzbekistan:**
- **Capital:** Tashkent
- **PM:** Abdulla Nigmatovich Aripov
- **President:** Shavkat Mirziyoyev
- **Currency:** Uzbekistani Som



NSE TO LAUNCH DERIVATIVES ON NIFTY NEXT 50 INDEX STARTING APRIL 24

- **The National Stock Exchange (NSE)** announced that it will launch derivatives contracts for the **Nifty Next 50 index** from April 24 following approval from the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, amid rising competitive pressure from rival BSE.
- The Nifty Next 50, also known as **Junior Nifty**, becomes the **fifth index** to be added to the **futures and options (F&O) space**.
- After relaunching the Sensex and Bankex derivatives contracts, the exchange has steadily been gaining market share and acceptance from wider market participants.
- Currently, F&O contracts are traded on the **Nifty 50, Nifty Bank, Nifty Financial Services Index**, and **Nifty Midcap Select indices**.
- The Nifty Next 50 index consists of **50 companies** from the **Nifty 100**, excluding the ones on the Nifty 50 index.
- The Nifty 50 index has the highest weighting towards the financial services sector at **23.76 per cent**, followed by capital goods and consumer services at 11.91 per cent and 11.57 per cent, respectively.



NSE

- The market capitalisation of index constituents stands at Rs 70 trillion representing about 18 per cent of the total market capital of the stocks listed on NSE as of March 29, 2024.
- The aggregate daily average turnover of index constituents stood at Rs 9,560 crore, accounting for around 12 per cent of cash market turnover in FY24
- Recently, NSE tweaked the lot sizes for its index derivatives and stocks to lower the ticket size. The total turnover for the index derivatives on NSE stood at Rs 3.77 trillion in April, so far.
- **About National Stock Exchange (NSE):**
- **Founded:** 1992
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman:** Girish Chandr Chaturvedi
- **MD&CEO:** Ashishkumar Chauhan

DINESH KUMAR TRIPATHI APPOINTED AS NEXT CHIEF OF THE NAVAL STAFF

- The Government has appointed Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, presently serving as the **Vice Chief of the Naval Staff**, as the **next Chief of the Naval Staff** with effect from **April 30, 2024**.
- The present Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral **R Hari Kumar** retires from service on **April 30, 2024**.
- Born on May 15, 1964, Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi was commissioned into the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy on **July 01, 1985**.
- A Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist, he has had a long and distinguished service spanning nearly 39 years.
- Prior to taking over as the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, he had served as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command.
- DK Tripathi has commanded Indian Naval Ships **Vinash, Kirch and Trishul**.
- As a Rear Admiral, he has served as the Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Policy and Plans) and the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet.
- In the rank of Vice Admiral, he has served as Commandant of the prestigious Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala.

