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Today in History on 12 APR

➤ **2014: Famous lyricist Gulzar was awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.**

In 2014, famous lyricist and writer Gulzar was awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Award. This award was given for his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema. Gulzar received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2013 and this award was given to him in 2014. Gulzar is a famous poet, lyricist, author, screenwriter and film director. He has been honored with many awards, including the Sahitya Akademi Award, Padma Bhushan and Dadasaheb Phalke Award.



➤ **2013: French Senate legalises gay marriage.**

In 2013, a law legalising gay marriage was passed in France. On 18 May, President François Hollande

signed the law into law, making France the 14th country to legalise gay marriage. In April, France's National Assembly and Senate passed a bill legalising gay marriage. The conservative opposition party UMP filed a court challenge to the law, which was rejected by the Constitutional Council.



➤ **1998: Girija Prasad Koirala became the Prime Minister of Nepal.**

Koirala assumed the post of Prime Minister after the collapse of the coalition government led by Surya Bahadur Thapa. Koirala first led a minority government of the Nepali Congress until 1998, after which he led a three-party coalition government with the Communist Party of Nepal (UML) and the Nepal Sadbhavana Party. Koirala, who was active in politics for over sixty years, was a pioneer of the Nepali labour movement, having launched the first political labour movement on Nepali soil, known as the Biratnagar Jute Mill Strike in his hometown Biratnagar.





➤ 1981: Space Shuttle Columbia was first launched into space.

In 1981, the space shuttle Columbia was first launched into space. It was launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Center on April 12, 1981. This mission ushered in the era of reusable space transportation and marked the beginning of the Space Shuttle program. Columbia's first mission laid an important foundation for the future of the Space Shuttle program and enabled NASA to go into space more frequently and more affordably in the future.



➤ 1621: Birth of Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur.

In 1621, Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur was born. His father was Sikh Guru Hargobind and he was the sixth Sikh Guru. Guru Tegh Bahadur raised his voice against the Mughal ruler Aurangzeb for religious freedom and was martyred in Delhi in 1675. Considered a theist and fearless warrior, he was a learned spiritual scholar and poet whose 115 hymns are included in the Guru Granth Sahib, the main scripture of Sikhism.



Important NEWS on 12 APR

➤ Rajesh Unni Honored With National Maritime Varuna Award

Rajesh Unni, founder of Synergy Marine Group, was honored with India's highest maritime recognition, the National Maritime Varuna Award, during the 62nd National Maritime Day celebrations in Mumbai. The award, presented by the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS), acknowledges

individuals for their extraordinary contributions to the maritime sector.



➤ De-extinction of the Dire Wolf by Colossal Biosciences

Colossal Biosciences, a biotech firm based in Dallas, has made history by reviving the extinct dire wolf (*Canis dirus*) after 12,500 years using CRISPR gene-editing and DNA from ancient fossils. Three dire wolf puppies—Romulus, Remus, and Khaleesi—were born using gray wolf cells and domestic dog surrogates. Though hailed as a major de-extinction milestone, the breakthrough faces ecological and ethical concerns over authenticity and modern adaptability.



➤ Strengthening India-Russia Bilateral Investment Ties through Strategic Projects

At the 8th Session of the India-Russia Working Group on Priority Investment Projects (IRWG-PIP) in New Delhi, India and Russia agreed on six new strategic projects to boost bilateral investment. Co-chaired by Amardeep Singh Bhatia (India) and Vladimir Ilichev (Russia), the session emphasized trade, technological collaboration, and economic development. The 2nd India-Russia Investment Forum, with 80+ participants, showcased growing interest in joint ventures.



➤ Neelam Dhungana Appointed Acting Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank

Dr Neelam Dhungana Timsina, Senior Deputy Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB), was appointed as the Acting Governor following the completion of Maha Prasad Adhikari's five-year term on April, 2025. The appointment was made by the Ministry of Finance, led by Deputy Prime Minister

Bishnu Prasad Paudel, under the Nepal Rastra Bank Act.



➤ BlackRock Backs \$750 Million Adani Private Bond Issue

BlackRock, along with other US and European investors, participated in a \$750 million private bond issue by the Adani Group to fund Renew Exim's acquisition of ITD Cementation. This marks a cautious return of investor confidence despite ongoing legal challenges, including a \$256 million bribery case involving Gautam Adani. The group opted for private placements over public offerings due to legal uncertainties. BlackRock acquired about one-third of the bond, with other investors like Sona Asset Management, Jefferies, and JPMorgan also participating, reflecting a renewed focus on Adani's growing stake in India's infrastructure sector.

➤ Juspay Becomes India's First Unicorn of 2025: \$1 Billion Valuation Achieved

Juspay, a Bengaluru-based payments infrastructure provider, became India's first unicorn of 2025 after raising \$60 million in a Series D funding round, led by Kedaara Capital, with participation from SoftBank and Accel. This funding pushed Juspay's valuation past the \$1 billion mark. The company plans to enhance its technology through AI and expand into international markets, including APAC, Latin America, Europe, UK, and North America.



➤ China Announces 84% Tariffs on US Goods in Response to Trade War Escalation



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The US-China trade war intensified after the Trump administration imposed 104% tariffs on Chinese imports, prompting China to retaliate with 84% tariffs on US goods, up from 34%. In a sharp response, China blacklisted 12 US companies, added six to its unreliable entities list, enforced export controls on rare earths, and filed a WTO complaint, accusing the US of disrupting global trade stability. Despite the growing trade deficit (USD 440B imports vs. USD 145B exports in 2024), China refuses negotiations and warns of economic blowback for the US.



Current affairs MCQS on 12 APR

Q.1. Where was the first ever 'Himalayan High-Altitude Atmospheric and Climate Centre' launched recently?

- (a) Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir
- (b) Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- (c) Mussoorie, Himachal Pradesh
- (d) Gangtok, Sikkim

Answer: (a) Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir

Union Minister Jitendra Singh launched the first Himalayan High-Altitude Atmospheric and Climate Centre at Nathatop in Chenani in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir. This new centre will provide accurate climate and weather forecasts for the

Himalayan region. It will also focus on research and study of the unique high-altitude weather conditions of the region. The project is supported by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India. It aims to improve climate monitoring and disaster preparedness in the Himalayan region.

Q.2. India recently signed an agreement with the Supreme Court of which country to enhance judicial cooperation?

- (a) Sri Lanka
- (b) Nepal
- (c) Bangladesh
- (d) Bhutan

Answer: (b) Nepal

The Supreme Court of India signed an agreement with the Supreme Court of Nepal to enhance cooperation between the two countries. According to official confirmation, the agreement aims to promote partnership between hospitality partners-tribals-acharyas on development in the field of law and justice, promote interaction between judges and faculty officials through training programs and spiritual initiatives.

Q.3. Who recently won the MM Krishna Memorial Open Tennis title?

- (a) J Clarke
- (b) Lando Norris
- (c) Oliver Crawford
- (d) Max Verstappen

Answer: (c) Oliver Crawford

Great Britain's Oliver Crawford won the Krishna Memorial Open tennis title. In the final, his compatriot Jay Clarke withdrew from the match due to an ankle injury. Second seed Crawford took a 4-0 lead in just 25 minutes. 25-year-old Crawford of England, who came here after winning two consecutive titles in Shenzhen and Luan, then saved his serve and then broke Clarke's serve again to take a 4-0 lead.





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Q.4. Who recently became the first Indian cricketer to score 13,000 runs in T20 cricket?

- (a) Rohit Sharma
- (b) Suryakumar Yadav
- (c) Virat Kohli
- (d) KL Rahul

Answer: (c) Virat Kohli

Veteran Indian batsman Virat Kohli has once again showcased his brilliant talent by becoming the first Indian to cross the 13,000 run mark in T20 cricket. This feat, achieved in the IPL 2025 match between RCB and Mumbai Indians, puts Kohli among the top five T20 run-scorers worldwide.

Q.5. What is the theme of Poshan Pakhwada 2025 organized recently by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation?

- (a) Nutrition for All
- (b) Pure Water and Sanitation for Healthy Childhood
- (c) Healthy Life, Strong Future
- (d) Clean India, Healthy India

Answer: (b) Pure Water and Sanitation for Healthy Childhood

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti is actively participating in the 7th edition of Poshan Pakhwada. In line with the Saksham Anganwadi Scheme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the theme of this campaign of the Department is "Healthy Childhood with Shuddh Jal and Sanitation". Its tagline is "Complete Nutrition Begins with Shuddh Jal and Sanitation" which specifically focuses on clean water and sanitation, which are important elements for a child's nutrition and overall health.

Q.6. Padma Shri Ram Sahay Pandey, who passed away recently, was associated with which profession?

- (a) Actor
- (b) Folk Dancer
- (c) Singer
- (d) Painter

Answer: (b) Folk Dancer

Ram Sahai Pandey, the iconic pioneer of Rai folk dance and a Padma Shri awardee, passed away at the age of 92. He left behind a cultural legacy that transformed regional traditions into a national heritage. His life is a story of courage and conviction - rising above humble background and social resistance.

Q.7. Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Oman-India Joint Investment Fund recently?

- (a) Poonam Gupta
- (b) N Chandrasekaran
- (c) Satish Chabba
- (d) Balaji Nuthlapadi

Answer: (c) Satish Chabba

Oman India Joint Investment Fund (OIJIF) has appointed Satish Chavva as Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The appointment comes as part of efforts to strengthen the fund's leadership and strategic growth initiatives. With over two decades of experience in private equity and finance, Chavva is expected to steer the fund towards improved portfolio performance and long-term value creation. OIJIF is a private equity fund jointly promoted by the Oman Investment Authority (OIA) and State Bank of India (SBI) with a focus on investments that drive sustainable development in India.

Q.8. Where did the Reserve Bank of India recently start its three-day bi-monthly monetary policy review meeting?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Bengaluru
- (c) Kolkata
- (d) Mumbai

Answer: (d) Mumbai

The three-day meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India began in Mumbai. A decision will be taken on key interest and repo rates in this meeting. This meeting will be the first monetary policy meeting for the financial year 2025-26, which will decide the





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outcome of the key lending rates of the central bank to be announced. The Reserve Bank holds a Monetary Policy Committee meeting every two months in a year. In these meetings, interest rates are decided based on factors such as money supply, inflation scenario and other macroeconomic indicators.

Q.9. Recently, Rudransh Balasaheb Patil won which medal in the ISSF World Cup 2025?

- (a) Silver
- (b) Bronze
- (c) Gold
- (d) None

Answer: (c) Gold

Former world champion Rudraksh Balasaheb Patil won the gold medal in the men's 10m air rifle shooting event at the ISSF World Cup 2025 Buenos Aires. Local hero Marcelo Julian Gutierrez won the bronze medal with 230.1. This was Rudraksh Patil's second individual gold medal at the ISSF World Cup. He also won the 10m air rifle title at the 2023 Cairo edition. With this, India is now tied with China at the top of the medal table, with both countries having won equal two gold, one silver, one bronze medal so far.

Q.10. Who has been appointed as the new Executive Director of Equitas Small Finance Bank recently?

- (a) Sohini Rajola
- (b) Salila Pandey
- (c) Balaji Nuthalapati
- (d) Satish Chabba

Answer: (c) Balaji Nuthalapati

Equitas, India's second-largest small finance bank, has taken a bold step towards digital innovation by appointing Balaji Nathalapadi as the executive director for technology and operations. With this leadership change, the bank aims to accelerate its digital strategy and improve customer experience.

Q.11. Recently, the Government of India signed an agreement with which institution for the modernization of MI-17 B5 helicopters?

- (a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- (b) Bharat Electronics Limited
- (c) DRDO
- (d) Tata Advanced Systems

Answer: (b) Bharat Electronics Limited

The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited, Bengaluru for the acquisition of Electronic Warfare (EW) Suites and Aircraft Modification Kits for the Indian Air Force and their installation on Mi-17 V5 helicopters. The total cost of the contract is Rs 2,385.36 crore. The contract under the Procurement (Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured) category was signed in the presence of Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi.

Q.12. Where will the 13th edition of the India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue be held recently?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) London
- (d) Birmingham

Answer: (c) London

The 13th Ministerial Meeting of the India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue (13th EFD) was held in London. The Indian delegation led by Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman held high-level discussions with the UK delegation led by Finance Minister Rt Hon. Rachel Reeves.

Q.13. Recently which state government will implement three-language formula in class 9 and 10?

- (a) Punjab
- (b) Haryana
- (c) Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Rajasthan

Answer: (b) Haryana





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Haryana Board of School Education, Bhiwani has decided to implement the three-language formula in class 9th and 10th in all affiliated government and non-government schools. This decision will be applicable in class 9th from the academic session 2025-26 and in class 10th from 2026-27.

Q.14. Who recently inaugurated the Vinod Dham Centre of Excellence for Semiconductors and Microelectronics at Delhi Technological University?

- (a) Amit Shah
- (b) Ashwini Vaishnav
- (c) Narendra Modi
- (d) Rajnath Singh

Answer: (b) Ashwini Vaishnav

Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnav inaugurated the Vinod Dham Centre of Excellence for Semiconductors and Microelectronics at Delhi Technological University. In his address, the Minister said that today's youth have many opportunities available to start a startup. He said that in today's time, the youth has access to technology, guidance, funding and global markets. Speaking to the media, Mr. Vaishnav said that in this semiconductor lab, students can actually learn manufacturing, fabrication and design process simultaneously.

Q.15. Which country's Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum recently visited India?

- (a) Saudi Arabia
- (b) UAE
- (c) Qatar
- (d) Oman

Answer: (b) UAE

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi welcomed His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister of the UAE. Recalling his visit to the UAE last year, during which he attended the World Government Summit in Dubai

as the Chief Guest, the Prime Minister conveyed his warm regards to His Highness Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, and His Highness Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

