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Today in History on 21 APR

➤ **1526: The First Battle of Panipat took place between Mughal ruler Babur and Ibrahim Lodi, in which Ibrahim Lodi was killed.**

In 1526, the First Battle of Panipat took place between Mughal ruler Babur and Delhi Sultan Ibrahim Lodi, in which Ibrahim Lodi was killed. This battle laid the foundation of the Mughal Empire and ended the Lodi dynasty of Ibrahim Lodi. Babur used the Tulughma strategy in this battle, in which his army was divided into three parts, surrounding Lodi's army from all sides.



➤ **2002 – United States decides not to lift sanctions from LTTE.**

In 2002, the United States decided not to lift sanctions from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The LTTE was designated as a terrorist organization and the United States imposed

sanctions against this organization. In 2002 too, it was decided to continue these sanctions. Initially started as a guerrilla force, the LTTE gradually began to resemble conventional armed forces with a well-developed military wing.



➤ **1891: Birth of James Braid Taylor, first Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.**

Sir James Braid Taylor, KCIE (21 April 1891 – 17 February 1943) was the second Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, serving from 1 July 1937 until his death on 17 February 1943. He succeeded Sir Osborn Smith who was Governor from 1 April 1935 to 30 June 1937. He was appointed CIE in the 1933 New Year Honours list, knighted in the 1935 Silver Jubilee and Birthday Honours lists and further appointed KCIE in the 1939 Birthday Honours list.





➤ 1996: Sanjay Thapar of the Indian Air Force parachuted to the North Pole.

Wing Commander Sanjay Thapar of the Indian Air Force hoisted the national flag by skydiving over the North Pole on 21 April 1996. Wing Commander Thapar is one of the pioneers of parachute jumping in India and holds many national records as well as world records. With over 3000 jumps, Thapar holds the Guinness Book record for the maximum number of jumps (46) in a day (in just three hours) and he achieved this feat on 11 March 1991 at Sasawa in Saharanpur.



➤ 2008: The third joint exercise between the Indian and UK navies began in Konkan near Goa.

In 2008, the third joint exercise between the Indian and UK navies began in Konkan near Goa. The exercise was an opportunity to strengthen cooperation between the navies of the two countries and demonstrate their ability to work together to tackle maritime threats. The exercise is also called Konkan Abhyas, and began in 2004. The exercise helps strengthen the India-UK defence partnership.



Important NEWS on 21 APR

➤ Agreement Signed As India to Host International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Headquarters

In a landmark move, India signed an agreement with the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) to host its headquarters and secretariat, reaffirming its leadership in global wildlife conservation. Launched by PM Modi in April 2023 during the 50th

anniversary of Project Tiger, the IBCA focuses on the protection of seven major big cats—tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar, and puma.



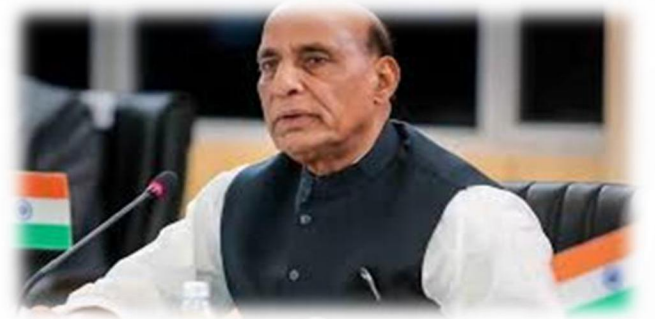
➤ Kerala State Electricity Board's (KSEB) Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) Collaboration with IIT-Bombay

The Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB), in collaboration with IIT Bombay, is launching a pilot project to integrate Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) technology, which enables EV batteries to both draw and supply electricity to the power grid. This initiative aims to support renewable energy integration, enhance grid stability, and promote clean energy by using EVs as decentralized energy storage. The project involves financial incentives, such as premium tariffs for EV owners feeding energy during peak hours.



➤ India's Defence Production Target by 2029 To Achieve 3 Lakh Crore

Under Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, India is setting ambitious goals for defence production, targeting ₹1.60 lakh crore in 2025 and ₹3 lakh crore by 2029, with a focus on Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India). The country aims to increase defence exports to ₹30,000 crore in 2025 and ₹50,000 crore by 2029, reducing dependency on imports, fostering indigenous innovation, and enhancing global supply chain resilience.



➤ Cap-and-Trade Scheme in Gujarat's Surat Achieves 30% Pollution Cut



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A landmark study in The Quarterly Journal of Economics highlights the success of Surat's cap-and-trade programme for particulate matter (PM) emissions—the world's first ETS for PM and India's first pollution trading system. Launched in September 2019 by the GPCB and the University of Chicago's Energy Policy Institute, the scheme used CEMS, emission permits, and auctions to regulate 318 industrial plants.



➤ Union Minister inaugurated Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU)

Union Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated India's first Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU) at the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL), New Delhi, on April, 2025, marking a major stride in anti-doping efforts. As the 17th APMU globally, it will manage Athlete Biological Passports (ABP) by tracking biological markers over time to detect doping patterns without identifying banned substances directly.

➤ India's First Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) Over Multi-Core Fibre

India has achieved a major milestone in secure communication with the successful testing of the country's first Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) over a 4-core Multi-Core Fibre (MCF) by C-DOT and Sterlite Technologies Ltd. (STL). The test sustained QKD transmission over 100 km, using one core for quantum signals and the other three for high-speed classical data, showcasing the cost-effective, interference-free advantages of MCF for building a national quantum communication network.



➤ India Set to Become Fastest-Growing Major Aviation Market by 2026





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India is set to become the world's fastest-growing large aviation market by 2026, surpassing China in growth rate, with a projected 10.5% passenger traffic growth compared to China's 8.9%. Key drivers include low trips per capita, a rising middle class, enhanced aviation infrastructure, expanding airline networks, and supportive policies like UDAN and Gati Shakti.



Current affairs MCQS on 21 APR

Q.1. What percentage of growth did India's exports witness during the recent fiscal year 2024-2025?

- (a) 5.3%
- (b) 5.4%
- (c) 5.5%
- (d) 5.6%

Answer: (c) 5.5%

Indian market share (goods and services) reached \$820.93 crore during FY 2024-25, an increase of 5.5% over the previous year. The total sales value in 2024-25 was \$915.19, and the trade deficit during this period was \$94.26.

Q.2. Recently, which city's Shehnai got GI tag recognition?

- (a) Lucknow
- (b) Varanasi
- (c) Jaipur
- (d) Kolkata

Answer: (b) Varanasi

Recently, the Banaras Shehnai has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag which provides a landmark status to India's rich contemporary cultural heritage. Made famous all over the world by Ustad Bismillah Khan, the Shehnai is not just an instrument but a symbol of spiritual and religious music. For the traditional artists of Varanasi (Kashi), the GI tag is not just an official certificate but a cultural and cultural recognition for their heritage, dedication and craftsmanship.

Q.3. Recently, which hospital was declared the best hospital in India by Newsweek and Statista?

- (a) AIIMS Bhubaneswar
- (b) Apollo Hospital, Chennai
- (c) AIIMS Delhi
- (d) Fortis Hospital, Mumbai

Answer: (c) AIIMS Delhi

According to the World's Best Hospitals 2024 report, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi is the best hospital in India and has been ranked 97th in the world in the list of the world's best hospitals. American media company Newsweek released the World's Best Hospitals 2024 report in partnership with global data platform Statista. The Mayo Clinic, located in Minnesota, United States, has been ranked as the best hospital in the world with a score of 97.51%.

Q.4. Recently, which state became the first to implement the three-language policy?

- (a) Haryana
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Karnataka

Answer: (c) Maharashtra

The Maharashtra government has decided to make Marathi, English and Hindi compulsory in Marathi and English medium schools from the 2025-26 session under the three-language policy under NEP 2020. This means that Marathi is still the first compulsory mother tongue. English is the second.





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Now Hindi has been made the third compulsory language.

Q.5. Where are the recently reopened Cradle of Humankind caves located?

- (a) Brazil
- (b) Australia
- (c) South Africa
- (d) Egypt

Answer: (c) South Africa

Sitting on bags of sand dug knee-deep into the Sterkfontein Caves in South Africa, where one of our earliest ancestors was found, Itumeleng Molefe poured ancient soil into a blue dustpan, searching each brushstroke for hidden clues. Nearby, visitors marveled at the limestone cliffs hanging from the cave ceilings that are millions of years old.

Q.6. Recently, the police of which state launched the JPR Drishti (Drone Response and Aerial Surveillance Tactical Intervention) program?

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (b) Gujarat

The GP-DRASTI (Drone Response and Aerial Surveillance Tactical Intervention) program launched by the Gujarat Police is a significant step towards modernizing law and order in the state. Under this initiative, quadcopter drones are being used to improve crime surveillance, quick response and documentation of crime scenes. The program is specifically designed to control the rapidly growing gang activities in urban areas such as Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Surat and Vadodara.

Q.7. Recently, which country took over the chairmanship of Interpol's Governance Committee?

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

Answer: (c) UAE

In a significant development for international policing and law enforcement diplomacy, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been elected Chair of INTERPOL's Governance Committee, marking a pivotal moment in its rise as a global security leader. Lieutenant Colonel Dana Humaid Al Marzouqi secured 67% of the vote from INTERPOL member countries in the election held at INTERPOL Headquarters in Lyon, France. The achievement reflects growing confidence in the UAE's commitment to transparent, inclusive governance and international law enforcement cooperation.

Q.8. Where did the Indian Navy recently host the third edition of Meghayan 2025?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Chennai
- (d) Visakhapatnam

Answer: (b) New Delhi

Indian Navy conducted the 3rd edition of its prestigious Meteorology and Oceanography Symposium - 'Meghayan-25' at Navy Bhawan, New Delhi. The event was organized to commemorate World Meteorological Day 2025 with the aim to promote awareness and cooperation in the field of marine meteorology and oceanography. The symposium was inaugurated virtually by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi. The event witnessed active participation from leading scientific and defence institutions.

Q.9. Who won the presidential election in Gabon recently?

- (a) Daniel Noboa
- (b) Brice Oligui Nguema
- (c) Stuart Young
- (d) Mark Carney

Answer: (b) Brice Oligui Nguema

General Brice Oligie Nguema has won Gabon's presidential election with more than 90% of the vote, further strengthening his grip on the Central





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African country. The victory comes after a 2023 military coup in which Nguema ousted the decades-ruling Bongo dynasty. He had promised to step down at the time of the coup but contested the election under new electoral rules that allow military officers to contest.

Q.10. Recently, which state government has set a target of generating 20,000 MW of green energy by 2030?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Telangana
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Rajasthan

Answer: (b) Telangana

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has said that the state government's clean and green energy initiatives are attracting significant investments at the national and international levels. The state government has signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) worth Rs 29 thousand crore with two private renewable energy companies. These projects are part of the state government's larger target to produce 20 thousand megawatts (MW) of green energy by 2030. Speaking at an MoU signing ceremony at the Telangana Institute of Rural Development in Hyderabad, the deputy chief minister said, the state recently launched a new clean and green energy policy which has generated interest among investors.

Q.11. Where was a special handicraft expo inaugurated recently?

- (a) Lucknow
- (b) Kanpur
- (c) Noida
- (d) Varanasi

Answer: (c) Noida

Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh inaugurated the 59th edition of the Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair (IHGF Delhi Fair - Spring 2025) at the India Expo Centre & Mart, Knowledge Park II, Greater

Noida. The fair is open to registered trade visitors. According to officials, the four-day event organised by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) is one of the largest platforms for sourcing lifestyle, fashion, home decor and gift products handmade by Indian artisans.

Q.12. Recently, which bank installed India's first ATM in a train?

- (a) State Bank of India
- (b) Punjab National Bank
- (c) ICICI Bank
- (d) Bank of Maharashtra

Answer: (d) Bank of Maharashtra

Public sector bank, Bank of Maharashtra, has become the first bank in India to install an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) on a train. The ATM was installed on the Mumbai-Manmad Panchvati Express. This is the first time an ATM has been installed on an Indian Railways train. Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw shared this information on his social media account.

Q.13. Recently, which state government formed a high-level committee to strengthen autonomy?

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Kerala

Answer: (b) Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has announced in the Assembly the formation of a high-level committee to review Centre-state relations, constitutional provisions and policies. The committee aims to make suggestions to strengthen the autonomy of the states. The move is in line with the federal spirit of the Indian Constitution, especially in the backdrop of growing concerns over curtailment of powers of the states. The three-member committee will submit its interim report by January 2026 and final recommendations within two years.





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Q.14. Recently, former President of which country Ollanta Humala was sentenced to 15 years in prison on charges of money laundering?

- (a) Brazil
- (b) Peru
- (c) Argentina
- (d) Chile

Answer: (b) Peru

Former Peruvian President Ollanta Humala has been sentenced to 15 years in prison in a money laundering case. A court in the capital Lima found him guilty of accepting illegal money from the Venezuelan government and a Brazilian construction company to finance his election campaigns in 2006 and 2011. His wife Nadine Heredia was also found guilty of money laundering and sentenced to 15 years in prison. However, she has been allowed to return to Brazil after seeking asylum in the Brazilian embassy. Meanwhile, Humala's lawyer said he would appeal the sentence.

Q.15. Recently, which country remained India's largest trading partner for the fourth consecutive year?

- (a) China
- (b) Japan
- (c) United States of America
- (d) Germany

Answer: (c) United States of America

India's foreign trade figures in FY 2024-25 show different trends with major global partners. Indian exports to the US recorded a significant increase, leading to a widening of the trade surplus. On the other hand, the trade deficit with China widened, mainly due to increased imports and a decline in exports. China remained India's largest import source, while the US remained the major destination for Indian exports.

