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Today in History on 23 APR

➤ 1984: Scientists discover the AIDS-causing virus.

In 1984, scientists discovered the AIDS-causing virus, the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). This discovery helped greatly improve our understanding of AIDS, leading to improved treatment and prevention strategies. Following this discovery, there was a revolution in our understanding of AIDS. HIV was identified as the primary cause of AIDS, leading researchers to explore new methods of treatment and prevention.



➤ 1981: Soviet Union conducted underground nuclear tests.

The Soviet Union conducted underground nuclear tests in 1981. This was part of a series of 21 nuclear tests conducted in 1981. The Soviet Union conducted a total of 21 tests in this test series, which were conducted at the Semipalatinsk test site. The first Soviet test was conducted on August 29, 1949,

using a plutonium device (known in the West as Joe-1) with a capacity of about 20 kilotons. The Fat Man bomb was tested at Trinity and dropped on Nagasaki



➤ 1858: Babu Veer Kunwar Singh of Jagdishpur, hero of India's First War of Independence, dies.

In 1858, on April 26, Babu Veer Kunwar Singh of Jagdishpur, hero of India's First War of Independence, died. He was one of the main leaders of Bihar in the 1857 revolt, and played an important role against the British. On April 23, 1858, Kunwar Singh fought his last battle against the British near Jagdishpur. Kunwar Singh is remembered as a great warrior of India's First War of Independence.





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➤ 1661: British monarch Charles II is crowned King of England at Westminster Abbey.

23 April 1661 – Charles II is crowned King of England at Westminster Abbey. Charles II was restored to the throne following the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660. On 29 May 1660, he returned to London on his 30th birthday and was proclaimed king. The coronation of Charles II in 1661 took place at Westminster Abbey. The event marks the Restoration of the monarchy and the beginning of Charles II's reign.



➤ 1616: William Shakespeare dies.

On April 23, 1616, English poet and playwright William Shakespeare dies in his hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon at the age of fifty-two. His death occurred on or near his birthday (the exact date of his birth is unknown), which may have been the source of a later legend that he fell ill and died

after a heavy drinking session with two other writers, Ben Jonson and Michael Drayton. Although Shakespeare had achieved some degree of fame and financial success in his lifetime, writing for the theater was not considered a serious artistic pursuit by the time of his death

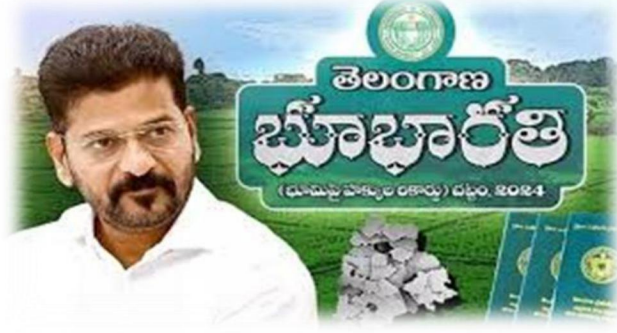


Important NEWS on 23 APR

➤ Telangana Bhu Bharati Act, 2025: A Major Reform in Land Governance

The Government of Telangana has introduced a landmark reform in land governance through the Telangana Bhu Bharati (Record of Rights) Act, 2025. The Act seeks to correct the loopholes and address the widespread grievances that arose from the earlier Dharani portal system. By focusing on decentralisation and citizen participation, the Bhu Bharati Act is designed to create a more transparent, efficient, and inclusive land administration framework.





➤ Bihar's Mahila Samvad Campaign: Empowering Women Through Dialogue and Awareness

In a significant push towards women's empowerment, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar launched the "Mahila Samvad" campaign, a state-wide initiative aimed at connecting women with welfare schemes and amplifying their voices in policy discussions. This transformative campaign particularly targets rural women and intends to create a two-way communication channel between women citizens and government officials.



➤ Ajay Bhushan Prasad Pandey Appointed Vice-President at AIIB

In a significant international appointment, Ajay Bhushan Prasad Pandey, former Finance Secretary of India and ex-chief of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), has been appointed Vice-President at the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). His appointment underscores India's growing influence in global financial institutions and reflects Pandey's vast experience in governance, finance, and infrastructure policy.



➤ Justice Dinesh Maheshwari Appointed Chairperson of the 23rd Law Commission of India

In a significant development in the Indian legal landscape, Justice (Retd.) Dinesh Maheshwari, a former Supreme Court judge, has been appointed as the Chairperson of the 23rd Law Commission of India in April 2025. The announcement marks a crucial step in the government's ongoing efforts to review and recommend reforms in various aspects of Indian law, particularly the long-debated Uniform Civil Code (UCC).



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➤ SBI Deploys 'Grahak Mitras' to Boost Alternate Banking Channel Adoption

The State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest public sector bank, has unveiled a new customer engagement initiative by introducing 'Grahak Mitras' at select branches. These specially trained personnel, drawn from SBI's subsidiary, State Bank Operations Support Services (SBOSS), will assist walk-in customers with alternate banking channels, helping to decongest busy branches and promote digital banking.



➤ SECL Pioneers Paste Fill Technology for Sustainable Coal Mining in India

South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) is making history in India's mining sector by becoming the first coal PSU to implement paste fill technology for underground coal mining. This groundbreaking initiative represents a significant advancement in sustainable and environmentally responsible mining practices within the country's coal industry. The adoption of this innovative approach promises to transform how coal is extracted in areas with surface constraints while minimizing environmental impact.



➤ Zepto Renames Parent Entity Ahead of IPO: Aligning Brand and Business Strategy

Zepto, one of India's fastest-growing quick-commerce startups, has taken a significant step toward its Initial Public Offer (IPO) by officially changing the name of its parent company. The company has rebranded from Kiranakart Technologies Private Limited to Zepto Private Limited, aligning its corporate identity with its consumer-facing brand. This change was recently approved by the Registrar of Companies (RoC) in





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Mumbai, signaling a deeper alignment of brand recognition and stakeholder strategy ahead of a potential stock market debut.



Current affairs MCQS on 23 APR

Q.1. Where was the 6th Asian Under-18 (U18) Athletics Championship 2025 held recently?

- (a) Indonesia
- (b) Saudi Arabia
- (c) India
- (d) Thailand

Answer: (b) Saudi Arabia

Indian athletes won 11 medals at the 6th Asian Under-18 (U18) Athletics Championships 2025 held in Saudi Arabia. The event was organized by the Asian Athletics Association at the Prince Naif Bin Abdulaziz Sports City. Athletes under the age of 18 from 31 Asian countries participated in this championship. India won one gold, five silver and five bronze medals overall. Himanshu won the gold medal in the boys' javelin throw event. India had won 24 medals in the last 5th edition held in 2023 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Q.2. Which bank recently revived the Amrit Vrishti FD scheme with revised interest rates?

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

Answer: (b) State Bank of India

State Bank of India (SBI) has relaunched its special fixed deposit (FD) scheme 'Amrit Vishti' with interest rate. The scheme was first launched in July 2024 and was to end on March 31, 2025 after several extensions. Now the scheme has been relaunched, with particularly attractive charters set for senior citizens and super senior citizens. It aims to provide investors with a seamless investment experience and ensure security for their investors.

Q.3. Where did the second round of nuclear talks between the United States and Iran start recently?

- (a) France
- (b) Germany
- (c) Italy
- (d) Switzerland

Answer: (c) Italy

The second round of nuclear talks between the US and Iran has concluded in Rome, the capital of Italy. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said that the talks are progressing and both sides have agreed on some points. In a social media post, he said that due to the positive atmosphere, there has been progress in the matter of a possible agreement. The Trump administration in the US has also said that good progress has been made between the two sides.

Q.4. Which village of Chhattisgarh recently became the first Naxal-free village of Bastar division?

- (a) Dantewada
- (b) Waset
- (c) Bijapur
- (d) Narayanpur

Answer: (b) Waset

Badesatti village of Sukma district of Chhattisgarh has become the first Naxal-free Gram Panchayat of Bastar division. 11 Maoists active in this village surrendered before the Superintendent of Police in Sukma. Chhattisgarh is moving rapidly towards fulfilling the resolution of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to make the country Naxal-free by March 2026.





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Q.5. In which event did Himanshu Jakhar win the gold medal in the Under-18 Asian Athletics Championship recently?

- (a) Men's Shot Put
- (b) Men's Javelin Throw
- (c) Men's Discus Throw
- (d) Men's 100m Sprint

Answer: (b) Men's Javelin Throw

India's Himanshu Jakhar has created history by winning the country's first gold medal in the men's javelin throw event at the Under-18 Asian Athletics Championships in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. Himanshu topped the list by throwing the javelin up to 67.57 meters. India has won a total of 11 medals including one gold, five silver and five bronze medals in the championship.

Q.6. Where will Prime Minister Modi inaugurate Vizhinjam International Port on 2 May 2025?

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

Answer: (b) Kerala

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Vizhinjam International Port near Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala. This is a major milestone in India's maritime infrastructure as it becomes the country's first semi-automated and truly deep-water international container transshipment port. The project is the result of a collaborative public-private partnership (PPP) between the Kerala government, the Centre and Adani Ports.

Q.7. With which country, India's trade deficit has increased to a record \$99.2 billion in FY 2024-25?

- (a) United States
- (b) Japan
- (c) China
- (d) Russia

Answer: (c) China

India recorded a trade deficit of \$99.2 billion with China in the 2024/25 fiscal year ended in March, led by a surge in imports of electronics goods and consumer durables, according to trade data. The data comes at a time when US President Donald Trump last week announced a 90-day freeze on most tariff hikes for major trading partners, including India, while sharply raising duties on Chinese goods, raising fears that Chinese companies may shift goods to other markets.

Q.8. Where will the International Buddhist Confederation hold a two-day international conference on April 21-22?

- (a) Sikkim
- (b) Ladakh
- (c) Arunachal Pradesh
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (c) Arunachal Pradesh

A two-day conference titled 'Buddha Dhamma and Culture of Northeast India' will be held in Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh. The event is significant as it aims to highlight the influence and spread of Buddhism in the Northeast region of India, with an emphasis on its role in preserving and propagating various Buddhist traditions, including Theravada, Mahayana and Vajrayana. The conference is being organised by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture. The event will include panel discussions, cultural performances and exercises related to Vipassana meditation, focusing on the Buddhist influence on the region's art, culture and global peace.

Q.9. By what percentage did India's pharmaceutical exports increase in FY 2024-25?

- (a) 7%
- (b) 8%
- (c) 10%
- (d) 9%

Answer: (d) 9%

India's pharmaceutical exports crossed the \$30 billion mark last fiscal. The US remains the dominant





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market for India's pharma exports with a share of over one-third. According to official data, pharma exports are set to grow 9 per cent to \$30 billion in FY 2024-25 from around \$27.5 billion in the previous fiscal. Pharma exports registered a growth of over 30 per cent year-on-year to \$3681 million in March 2025. It was \$2806 million in the same month last year.

Q.10. Where did Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurate the four-day Sansad Khel Mahakumbh recently?

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

Answer: (b) Lucknow

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said that a new sports culture has developed in the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. After inaugurating the Sansad Khel Maha Kumbh in Lucknow, Mr Singh said the Centre and Uttar Pradesh governments have adopted sports-friendly policies. As a result, youths from small towns are getting a chance to showcase their talent. Mr Singh said the government is making all efforts to host the 2036 Olympic Games in Gujarat, and efforts are also being made to host other world-class games in India.

Q.11. Who was recently appointed as the Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)?

- (a) Mangilal Jat
- (b) Mohan Rajan
- (c) Viral Davda
- (d) Neelam Dhungana

Answer: (a) Mangilal Jat

Renowned agricultural scientist Dr Mangi Lal Jat has been appointed as the next Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, met in New Delhi and approved the appointment of Dr Mangi Lal Jat.

Dr Mangi Lal Jat will replace Dr Himanshu Jain, who was earlier appointed as the Director General of International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

Q.12. Recently, in which state, Selra tunnel will be renamed after Baba Bokanag?

- (a) Himachal Pradesh
- (b) Uttarakhand
- (c) Jammu and Kashmir
- (d) Sikkim

Answer: (b) Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami announced to rename Silkyara Tunnel as Baba Baukhnag Tunnel. In 2023, 41 workers were trapped in the tunnel for 17 days due to a landslide. The tunnel project will reduce the distance between Gangotri and Yamunotri Dham by 26 km.

Q.13. Recently, which state cabinet approved the draft ordinance for SC sub-classification?

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

Answer: (b) Andhra Pradesh

Taking a significant step towards equitable distribution of equal reservation benefits, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has approved a draft ordinance to implement sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes (SCs) in the state. The decision is based on the concept of "reservation within reservation", which aims to ensure balanced distribution of quota benefits among various sub-castes of Scheduled Castes based on their social and economic backwardness status. The ordinance comes after the Supreme Court allowed states to sub-categorise SCs and is based on the recommendations of a commission headed by retired IAS officer Rajiv Ranjan Mishra.

Q.14. Who was recently selected as Young Global Leader 2025 by the World Economic Forum?





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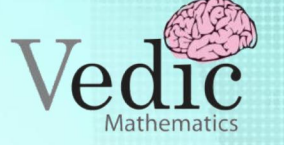
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- (a) Praveen Pardeshi
- (b) Aarti Subramaniam
- (c) Ram Mohan Naidu
- (d) Santosh Kumar

Answer: (c) Ram Mohan Naidu

Ram Mohan Naidu, the youngest cabinet minister in the Modi government, has been named a WEF Young Global Leader 2025. This prestigious global honour recognises influential changemakers under the age of 40. Notably, Naidu is one of the seven Indians who have been named in the group of 116 leaders from fifty countries in 2025 - from tech entrepreneurs to human rights advocates. Young Global Leaders (YGL) is an initiative of the World Economic Forum that brings to the fore individuals who advance innovative, ethical and impactful leadership across the globe.

Q.15. Which state government recently launched Mahila Samvad Abhiyan?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Jharkhand

Answer: (c) Bihar

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar launched the "Mahila Samvad" campaign to enhance women empowerment. The initiative aims to connect women with the state's welfare measures. The campaign is designed to inform and empower women across Bihar, especially in rural areas.

