

International Relations

EU-India join forces to promote start-up collaboration on E-Vehicles Batteries

- ❖ The European Union (EU) and India have launched an Expression of Interest for start-ups specializing in Battery Recycling Technologies for Electric Vehicles (EVs).
- ❖ The initiative is aimed at organizing a matchmaking event to facilitate cooperation between European and Indian Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups in the clean and green technologies sector.

Economy

Zimbabwe launches new gold-backed currency - ZiG

- ❖ Zimbabwe introduces a new gold-backed currency called ZiG, which stands for "Zimbabwe Gold."
- ❖ The aim is to stabilize an economy that has faced continuous crises over the past 25 years.
- ❖ ZiG replaces the RTGS Zimbabwean dollar, which had lost three-quarters of its value this year.
- ❖ Inflation in March, 2024 reached 55%, a seven-month high.



Science and Technology

India's first private military-grade geospatial satellite launched

- ❖ Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL), a subsidiary of Tata Sons, successfully launched the country's first-ever military-grade geospatial satellite built entirely by the private sector.
- ❖ Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) collaborated with Satellogic to launch India's first private military-grade geospatial satellite, TSAT-1A.
- ❖ It was launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket as part of the Bandwagon-1 mission.
- ❖ Weighing less than 50 kg, TSAT-1A offers sub-metre resolution imagery and orbits the Earth in low-earth orbit.



Society

NTPC launches new edition of Girl Empowerment Mission

- ❖ NTPC Limited is launching the latest edition of its flagship Corporate Social Responsibility initiative, Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM).
- ❖ GEM aligns with the Government of India's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao initiative and aims to tackle gender inequality by nurturing girls' imaginations and fostering their ability to explore opportunities.
- ❖ The program includes a 1-month workshop during summer holidays for young girls, providing them a platform for all-round upliftment and development.

Art And Culture

'Shakti - A Festival of Music and Dance'

- ❖ Sangeet Natak Akademi's 'Shakti, a Festival of Music and Dance' aims to revive temple traditions during Navaratri, starting April 9, 2024.
- ❖ The festival will be held at seven Shaktipeeths nationwide, beginning from Kamakhya Temple, Guwahati, and concluding at Shaktipeeth Maa Harsidhi Temple, Jaisinghpur, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.

Temple	Location
Kamakhya Temple	Guwahati, Assam
Mahalakshmi Temple	Kolhapur, Maharashtra
Jwalamukhi Temple	Kangra, Himachal Pradesh
Tripura Sundari	Udaipur, Tripura
Ambaji Temple	Banaskantha, Gujarat
Jai Durga Shaktipeeth	Deoghar, Jharkhand
Shaktipeeth Maa Harsidhi Temple	Jaisinghpur, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh

Miscellaneous

Britain's John Tinniswood, becomes world's oldest man

- ❖ John Alfred Tinniswood, a resident of England, UK, aged 111, is currently recognized as the world's oldest living man.
 - He attained this title following the death of a 114-year-old Venezuelan man, according to the Guinness World Records.
- ❖ However, the government of Peru claims that Marcelino Abad, a resident of the central Peruvian region of Huanuco, is 124 years old, born in 1900.



GUJCOST nodal centre for START

- ❖ The Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST) has been designated as the Nodal Centre for the 'Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START)' programme by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

- ❖ START programme, aimed at post-graduate and final-year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology. The programme will cover various domains of space science, including Astronomy & Astrophysics, Heliophysics & Sun-Earth interaction, Instrumentation, and Aeronomy. It will be delivered by the scientists from Indian academia and ISRO centres.

Awards and Honors

Chandrayaan-3 mission receives prestigious US Space Exploration award

- ❖ The Chandrayaan-3 mission team of India received the esteemed 2024 John L. 'Jack' Swigert Jr. Award for Space Exploration.
- ❖ This recognition highlights their endeavors to enhance the benchmarks of space exploration.

What is the John L 'Jack' Jr. Swigert award?

- ❖ John L 'Jack' Swigert Jr. Award for Space Exploration is an honour bestowed by the United States' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in

recognition of outstanding contributions to space exploration.

- ❖ It is named after John L. 'Jack' Swigert Jr., an American astronaut who flew on the Apollo 13 mission in 1970.
- ❖ Swigert played a critical role in the safe return of the Apollo 13 crew after an oxygen tank explosion aborted their planned lunar landing.



Sports

Harendra Singh to be appointed new Indian women's hockey team coach

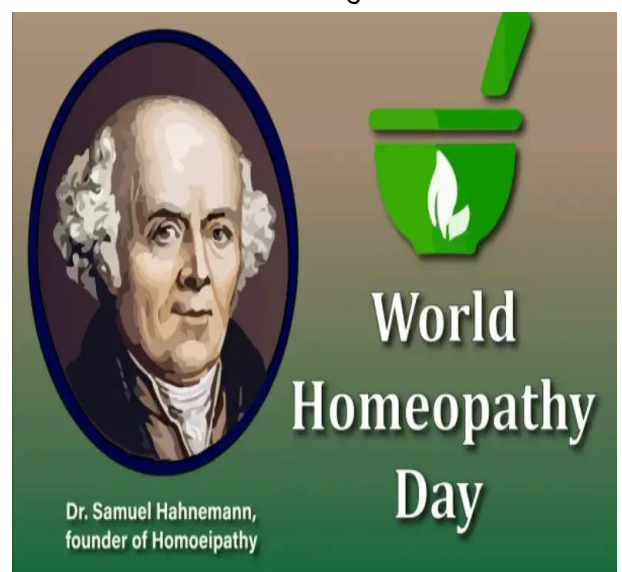
- ❖ Harendra Singh, the current US men's hockey team coach is the favourite to become the head coach of the Indian women's hockey team.
- ❖ Following Janneke Schopman's resignation in February 2024. the women's hockey team was without a head coach.



Important Days/ Dates

World Homeopathy Day 2024

- ❖ World Homeopathy Day is observed every year on April 10.
- ❖ It commemorates the birth anniversary of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, considered the founder of homeopathy.
- ❖ The theme for World Homeopathy Day 2024 is "Homeoparivar: One Health, One Family"



Obituary

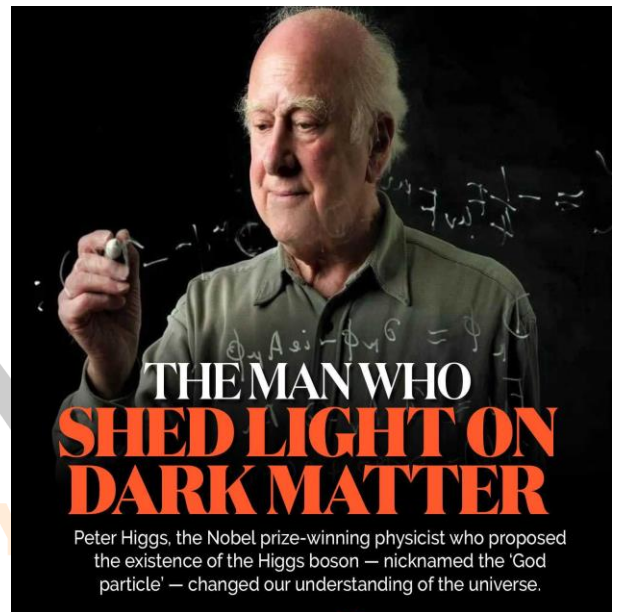
**Higgs-boson discoverer & Nobel laureate
Peter Higgs dies**

- ❖ British physicist Peter Higgs died at the age of 94. Peter Higgs gained fame for the discovery of 'Higgs-Boson Particle' i.e. 'God Particle'.

About Higgs-Boson Particle:

- ❖ The Higgs boson is the fundamental force-carrying particle associated with the Higgs field, responsible for imparting mass to other particles.
- ❖ Proposed in the mid-sixties by Peter Higgs and his colleagues, the Higgs field concept was finally confirmed.
- ❖ The particle was discovered on July 4, 2012, by researchers at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the world's most powerful particle accelerator.

- ❖ The LHC, located at CERN in Switzerland, validated the existence of the Higgs field and the mechanism behind particle mass.
- ❖ This discovery completed the standard model of particle physics, providing the most comprehensive understanding of the subatomic world.



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