

The week from 14 Apr to 20 Apr 2025

Scientists using the James Webb Space Telescope have detected possible biosignature gases in the atmosphere of exoplanet K2-18 b, suggesting strong potential for microbial life. The planet, categorized as a hycean world, indicates strong potential for life, representing a new era of observational astrobiology.

The manuscripts of the Bhagavad Gita and Bharat Muni's Natyashastra were added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register. This is an international initiative by UNESCO to preserve humanity's valuable documentary heritage and safeguard it against neglect and decay. With other recent entries including Ramcharitmanas and Panchatantra, India now has 14 entries in the Memory of the World Register.

The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), Asia's oldest stock exchange, marked a historic milestone as it celebrated its 150th anniversary of operation. Established in 1875 by cotton merchant Premchand Roychand, it was originally called "The Native Share & Stock Brokers' Association".

The Telangana government notified the Telangana Scheduled Castes (Rationalisation of Reservations) Act, 2025 on April 14, becoming the first Indian state to operationalise SC categorisation post the Supreme Court's landmark verdict of 2024 that sub-classification within Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) for equitable reservation is constitutionally valid without modification in the Presidential List.

India successfully tested the indigenously developed Mk-II(A) Laser-Directed Energy Weapon (DEW) system at Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh. Developed by DRDO's subsidiaries, it offers cost-effective, rapid-response air defence mechanism using focused laser beams which slice through the target's surface.

An Olive Ridley turtle tagged in 2021 has become the first recorded instance of the endangered species travelling over 3,500 km from Odisha's Eastern coast to Maharashtra's Konkan coast. This discovery challenges previous theories that turtles on east and west coasts were distinct populations, showing that their nesting sites might be interconnected.

The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) formally recognised Type 5 Diabetes — a malnutrition-related form of diabetes at the World Diabetes Congress 2024 held in Bangkok. It is possibly linked to early-life undernutrition and poor metabolic adaptation which affects an estimated 20–25 million people, especially in Asia and Africa.

Though neither Russia nor Ukraine paid much heed to US President Trump's proposal for a 30-day comprehensive ceasefire, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a unilateral 30-hour Easter truce in Ukraine until midnight Sunday night in Moscow. He said he was acting out of "humanitarian" considerations.

Compiled by
**Seema Chari and
Kunal Savarkar**

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