

The week from 21 Apr to 27 Apr 2025

India celebrated the 50th anniversary of the launch of its first indigenous satellite, Aryabhata, on April 19, 2025. Aryabhata was built entirely by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and launched aboard a Soviet Kosmos-3M rocket from Kapustin Yar launch site in Russia. It marked India's entry into an elite group of space-faring nations, further paving the way for landmark missions like Chandrayaan, Mangalyaan, and Aditya-L1.

U.S.A Vice President J.D. Vance concluded a four-day official visit to India, where he met PM Modi and announced the finalisation of terms of reference for the Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) talks. The visit provided an opportunity for both sides to review the implementation of the India-U.S. Joint Statement issued during PM Modi's visit to the US in February this year.

Pope Francis died on Easter Monday and was been laid to rest in St. Mary Major Basilica at Rome. Pope Francis was the first Latin American leader of the Roman Catholic Church. Foreign delegations from 164 countries attended the funeral. This included Smt Droupadi Murmu, President of India

India has suspended the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) following the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 Indian tourists were killed by terrorists, probably backed by Pakistan. The IWT is a 1960 water-sharing agreement between India and Pakistan, brokered by the World Bank after partition-related water disputes.

Gold prices in India have hit historic highs, breaching ₹1 lakh per 10 grams on the MCX, driven by global stagflation concerns, US-China tensions, and rising central bank demand, including the RBI. The trade balance impact of the rising prices could induce higher imports, further widening the current account deficit and in turn straining forex reserves.

Former ISRO chief Dr K. Kasturirangan passed away in Bengaluru, India, at the age of 84. He led the project for India's first earth observation satellites, Bhaskara I and II, and oversaw major milestones like the PSLV and GSLV launches. He had been conferred with all three Padma awards and was a key leader in developing the National Educational Policy 2020 (NEP 2020).

Stanford University researchers have developed an innovative moonlight solar panel technology that allows electricity generation even at night, during rain, and under overcast skies. It utilizes radiative cooling tapping the temperature difference between the panel and the surrounding air to produce energy. It proposes to generate about 50 milliwatts per square meter at night bridging night-time energy gaps.

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