

The week from 24 Mar 2025 to 30 Mar 2025

The 2025 Abel Prize for mathematics was awarded to Japanese mathematician Masaki Kashiwara, 78. He received this honour for his contributions to algebraic analysis and representation theory. Named after Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel, the prize honours mathematicians for their groundbreaking work, compensating for the absence of a Nobel Prize in this field.

The Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park in Darjeeling has become India's first zoo to preserve DNA samples of Himalayan wildlife. Initially named Himalayan Zoological Park, it was renamed in 1975 in memory of Smt. Padmaja Naidu, former Governor of West Bengal and spread over almost 68 acres- is the largest high-altitude zoo in India.

An earthquake measuring 7.7 on the Richter Scale struck Myanmar and parts of adjoining Thailand, leading to almost 1,600 deaths, with thousands injured and displaced. The Indian Government immediately initiated relief and rescue activities under the banner 'Operation Brahma' and despatched 2 naval ships with relief materials including food and medicines.

The Government of India has announced the upcoming launch of 'Sahkar Taxi', a cooperative-based ride-hailing service aimed at directly benefiting drivers. This will enable driver ownership through cooperative structures, enhancing income security and promote local economic participation, aligned with 'Sahkar Se Samridhi' (Prosperity through cooperation).

Eminent Hindi writer Vinod Kumar Shukla, 88, has been named the recipient of the 59th Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary honour. Known for his distinctive linguistic style bordering on magic-realism, Rajnandgaon-born Mr Shukla was honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Award in the year 1999. His best-known works are 'Naukar ki Kameez' and 'Deewar Mein Ek Khirkee Rahati Thi'.

The European Space Agency (ESA) officially retired its Gaia space observatory which had enhanced our understanding of the Milky Way by creating the most detailed 3D map of the galaxy. Gaia revealed the warped and wobbling structure of the Milky Way's disc and confirmed the its dynamic evolution due to ancient galactic collisions, possibly influencing the formation of the Sun.

The Kerala Assembly passed the Kerala State Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Bill which allows private universities to operate in Kerala, making it the last state in India to do so. This follows the Shyam Menon Commission's recommendations aimed at addressing the imbalance between government and private educational institutions in Kerala.

India won both the men's and women's Kabaddi World Cup titles in England, with the men's team defeating England 44-41 and the women's team winning 57-34. Held for the first time outside Asia, the tournament saw top kabaddi teams compete across the West Midlands, with matches in Birmingham, Coventry, Walsall, and Wolverhampton.

Compiled by
Seema Chari and
Kunal Savarkar

xpress minds