

The week from 7 Apr to 13 Apr 2025

Japan's West Japan Railway Company unveiled the world's first 3D-printed train station in Arida city. The new Hatsushima station was built in under six hours, showcasing cutting-edge construction innovation. Unlike traditional manufacturing, 3D printing adds material layer by layer based on a digital model thereby reducing waste and allowing intricate designs.

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), in its 54th meeting and the first of the financial year 2025-26, unanimously decided to reduce the policy repo rate by 25 basis points, bringing it down to 6 per cent with immediate effect. Most banks have correspondingly reduced the interest on savings bank accounts by 0.25 per cent.

USA extradited Tahawwur Hussain Rana to India on account of his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks. He is currently in NIA custody. His extradition to India marks a major win for investigators, lawyers, and diplomats in the 26/11 terror attacks case and aims to uncover the broad conspiracy behind the attacks that killed 166.

India is set to commission its first dedicated nuclear submarine base, INS Varsha, in Andhra Pradesh in 2026. This will operationalise its third nuclear-powered submarine, INS Aridhaman. Part of India's underwater nuclear deterrence component, it aims to enhance India's maritime strike capabilities in the Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean Region and counter China's dual-use naval facilities.

A U.S.-based firm, Colossal Biosciences, claimed the birth of three genetically engineered wolf pups, marking the first-ever attempt at "de-extinction" of the extinct dire wolf species after 12,500 years. De-extinction is the process of reviving extinct species using biotechnological methods such as gene editing, ancient DNA sequencing & reconstruction, cloning and synthetic biology.

India officially revoked the transshipment facility that allowed Bangladeshi exporters to transport goods through Indian territory to third countries. This decision has implications for trade logistics and costs, particularly affecting Bangladesh's exports to Western markets. This development comes post a controversial remark on India's territory by Mr Mohd Yunus during his China visit.

The European Space Agency (ESA) will launch the Biomass satellite mission at the end of April, 2025, aboard the Vega C rocket. ESA's seventh Earth Explorer satellite mission under its climate and Earth systems programme, it aims to quantify forest biomass and carbon content from space using radar by generating accurate 3D models of forest structures.

Australian Oscar Piastrì of McLaren won the Bahrain Grand Prix Formula One race. It was his 5th win in 3 years on the circuit. Lando Norris, Lewis Hamilton and Max Verstappen finished third, fifth and sixth respectively.

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