

Weekly Current Affairs 08<sup>th</sup> April to 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024 - Bengali

## National News

**India Lifts Export Restrictions on Essential Goods for Maldives Amid Diplomatic Strain**

India has removed export restrictions on essential commodities for the Maldives, including items like eggs, potatoes, onions, rice, wheat flour, sugar, and dal, for the fiscal year 2024-25. This move comes despite strained diplomatic relations between the two countries since November last year.

**India Secures Second Overseas Port: Sittwe Agreement Approved by MEA**

In a strategic move to bolster its maritime presence and enhance regional connectivity, India has gained operational control over the Sittwe Port in Myanmar, following approval from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The agreement allows India Ports Global (IPGL), a company fully owned by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, to manage the entire port on the Kaladan River, marking India's second overseas port acquisition after Chabahar in Iran.

**President of India Inaugurates Homoeopathy Symposium on World Homoeopathy Day**

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, inaugurated a two-day Homoeopathy Symposium organized by the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy in New Delhi on World Homoeopathy Day (April 10, 2024). The theme of the symposium, "Empowering Research, Enhancing Proficiency," is highly relevant in the 21st century.

**Indian Army Conducts Anti-Tank Guided Missile Training Exercise in Sikkim**

In a significant training endeavor, the Trishakti Corps of the Indian Army executed a rigorous Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) exercise in Sikkim, operating at an altitude of 17,000 feet. The exercise involved Missile Firing Detachments from Mechanized and Infantry Units of the Eastern Command, emphasizing live firing scenarios against both moving and static targets, simulating battlefield conditions.

**Gopi Thotakura: First Indian Pilot to Embark on Space Tourism with Blue Origin**

Gopi Thotakura is making history as the first Indian pilot to venture into space as a tourist, joining Blue Origin's NS-25 mission. His selection highlights a significant milestone in India's space exploration journey, marking a new era for space tourism.

## International News

**Peter Pellegrini Wins Slovakia Presidential Elections: Pro-Russia Stance Solidified**

In Slovakia's recent presidential election, Peter Pellegrini emerged victorious, reinforcing the pro-Russian stance of Prime Minister Robert Fico's government. Pellegrini's win signals a continuity in Fico's policies, characterized by a tilt towards Russia, controversial reforms, and strained relations with the West.

**India-Kazakhstan to Enhance Counter-Terror Cooperation in Response to Moscow Attacks**

In the wake of the recent terrorist attack in Moscow, believed to be perpetrated by extremists from Central Asia potentially influenced by Pakistani seminaries, India and Kazakhstan convened in Astana to bolster their collaboration against terrorism.

**UK's First Woman High Commissioner to India: Lindy Cameron**

Lindy Cameron, a distinguished Oxford University alumna and former CEO of the UK's National Cyber Security Centre, has been appointed as the first woman high commissioner to India. Her appointment marks a significant milestone in UK-India relations, coming 70 years after India appointed its first high commissioner to London.

**Russia's Successful Angara-A5 Rocket Test Launch**

Russia successfully tested its Angara-A5 space rocket for the first time on April 11, 2024. The test launch was conducted from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in the Far East of Russia. In fact, rocket test launches on April 9 and 10 were cancelled due to a malfunction in the pressurization system and a problem with the engine launch-control system.

## Rankings &amp; Reports News

**India Ranks Second in Hepatitis B and C Cases Worldwide**

The World Health Organisation's (WHO) 2024 Global Hepatitis Report reveals that India is second only to China in the number of Hepatitis B and C infections, with 3.5 crore cases. Hepatitis, characterized by liver inflammation, poses significant health risks and can be fatal. The report highlights that 254 million people are affected by Hepatitis B and 50 million by Hepatitis C globally.

## India Overtakes China in Digital Services Exports: Key Findings from WTO Report

In 2023, India emerged as a frontrunner in digital services exports, surpassing China, as outlined in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) report. The report highlights significant growth in digitally delivered services globally, with India's exports reaching \$257 billion, marking a 17 percent increase from the previous year. This growth outpaced that of Germany and China, which registered only 4 percent each.

## Business News

### Adani Green Energy Builds World's Largest Renewable Energy Park in Khavda, Gujarat

Adani Green Energy Limited, an Adani Group company, is building the world's largest renewable energy park in Khavda, Kutch district of Gujarat. The park is spread over 538 square kilometers, which is about five times larger than the total size of the French capital, Paris.

## Appointment News

### Wipro Appoints New CEO: Srinivas Pallia

Wipro, the IT giant, has announced the resignation of its CEO, **Thierry Delaporte**. In his place, the company's Board of Directors has appointed **Srinivas Pallia** as the new Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, effective April 7, 2024.

### IPS Officer Love Kumar Appointed as IG in Special Protection Group

Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Love Kumar has been appointed as the Inspector General (IG) in the Special Protection Group (SPG) for a period of two years, according to an official notification issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved this proposal from the Office of the Secretary (Security), Cabinet Secretariat.

### Centre Appoints Manoj Panda as New Finance Commission Member

The appointment of **Manoj Panda** fills a vacancy in the **Sixteenth Finance Commission**, allowing it to commence its duties. Panda, an esteemed economist and former director of the Institute of Economic Growth, joins as a full-time member.

### Sushil Sharma Appointed CMD of SJVN Limited

The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel has recommended Sushil Sharma for the position of Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of SJVN Limited. This decision was made during the panel's meeting on April 8th. Sharma, currently serving as Director (Projects) within the organization, emerged as the frontrunner from a pool of nine candidates interviewed by the PESB selection panel.

### Sachidananda Mohanty Appointed as Member, University Grants Commission (UGC)

Sachidananda Mohanty has been appointed as a Member of the University Grants Commission (UGC) for a period of three years with immediate effect. The appointment was made by the Ministry of Higher Education, Government of India, as per a gazette notification.

## Science & Technology News

### TASL Launches India's First Privately-Built Sub-Metre Resolution Surveillance Satellite

Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL), in collaboration with Satellogic, has successfully launched India's inaugural private sector-built sub-metre resolution earth observation satellite, TSAT-1A. This significant milestone marks a new era in India's space endeavors, offering enhanced surveillance capabilities to the country.

### Chandrayaan-4: ISRO Chief Somanath Shares Plans for Next Moon Mission in 2040

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief S Somanath has revealed that the upcoming phase of the Chandrayaan project is in progress, aiming to advance India's lunar exploration efforts. He indicated that Chandrayaan-4 marks the initial stride towards India's aspiration of landing an astronaut on the moon by 2040.

## Schemes and Committees News

### NTPC Limited to Launch New Edition of Girl Child Empowerment Mission (GEM)

NTPC Limited, India's largest power company, is set to unveil a new version of its flagship corporate social responsibility initiative, the Girl Child Empowerment Mission (GEM). This program aligns with the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child) campaign launched by the Government of India.

## Awards & Honors News

### Aleksei Navalny and Yulia Navalnaya Honoured with Freedom Prize

The late Russian dissident **Aleksei Navalny and his wife, Yulia Navalnaya**, will receive the Freedom Prize of the Media from a leading German forum, the Ludwig Erhard Summit. The award is presented annually to public figures who have made significant contributions to freedom of expression, dialogue, and democracy.

### Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital Wins 'Best Scientific Poster Award' 2024

Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital's research team has been honoured with the prestigious 'Best Scientific Poster Award' at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS). The award-winning study focused on 'The efficacy of RevitalVision vision-training software in improving best-corrected vision in stable keratoconus patients post Crosslinking surgery.'

## Important Dates News

### World Health Day 2024: Celebrating the Right to Health

World Health Day is celebrated every year on April 7th, the founding date of the World Health Organization (WHO). In 2024, the theme for World Health Day is "My Health, My Right", focusing on the fundamental human right to access quality healthcare, education, and information.

### World Chagas Disease Day 2024

The World Health Organization (WHO) observes World Chagas Disease Day every April 14th to raise awareness about the neglected tropical disease that affects millions of people, especially in Latin America. The 72nd World Health Assembly dedicated this day to the disease in 2019.

## Sports News

### Harendra Singh Appointed as Coach of Indian Women's Hockey Team Until 2028 Olympics

Former Indian hockey player and Dronacharya awardee Harendra Singh has been selected by Hockey India as the coach of the senior national women's hockey team. He will replace Janneke Schopman, a former Dutch hockey player, who resigned last month as the coach of the national women's team after the Indian team failed to qualify for the Paris Olympics 2024.

### Asian Wrestling Championship: Udit Bags Silver, Abhimanyu and Vicky Claim Bronze Each

India's 19-year-old Udit won the silver medal in the men's 57kg category at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2024 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Abhimanyu (men's 70kg) and Vicky (men's 97kg) also won the bronze medals in their respective weight divisions to take India's tally to three medals after the opening day of the competition.

## Obituaries News

### Legendary Cinematographer Gangu Ramsay Passes Away at 83

**Gangu Ramsay**, the second-eldest son of FU Ramsay, passed away in Mumbai. He was 83 years old. Gangu Ramsay was a renowned cinematographer and filmmaker who was part of the iconic Ramsay Brothers banner. He contributed to over 50 iconic films under their production house.

### British physicist Peter Higgs Passes Away at the age of 94

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'. Peter Higgs was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2013 for this groundbreaking discovery, which helped explain how the universe was created after the Big Bang. Higgs showed how bosons hold the universe together, a crucial understanding in the field of physics.

### Former NFL Star O.J. Simpson Dies of Cancer at Age 76

O.J. Simpson, the former NFL star who was acquitted of murdering his ex-wife and her friend in a televised trial that gripped the nation, has died of cancer, according to his family. He was 76.

## Defence News

### Tri-Service Planning Conference: Parivartan Chintan

The inaugural Tri-Service Planning Conference, dubbed 'Parivartan Chintan,' convened in New Delhi on April 8, 2024, orchestrated by the Ministry of Defence. This landmark event aimed to foster jointness and integration among the Indian Armed Forces, especially in light of ongoing efforts to establish unified theatre commands.

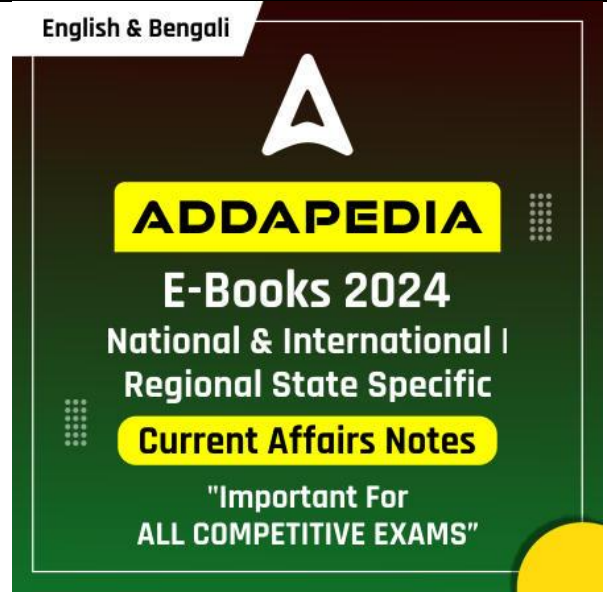
## Miscellaneous News

### Miraj's Sitars and Tanpuras Awarded Geographical Indication Tags

The small town of Miraj in Maharashtra's Sangli district is known for its craftsmanship in making musical instruments, particularly sitars and tanpuras. These instruments have now been awarded the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tags, recognizing their unique origin and quality.



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