



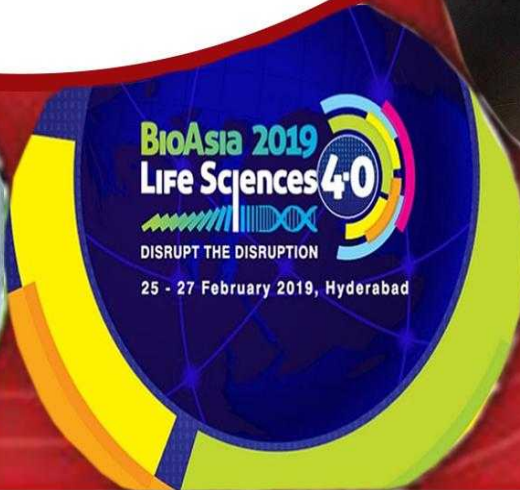
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APRIL - 2019

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NATIONAL NEWS

- **A district in western Assam** is going the digital way to attract the first-time voters towards the election process and ensure their participation. The district administration of **Bongaigaon has developed a 'Sankalp' mobile phone application** to especially reach out to the **first-time voters**.
 - Voters will have to input a few details, like name and age, and the app will track their polling station and other details. They will also be able to sign a digital **'sankalp patra'**, promising to cast their votes on the day of polling.
- Election Commission has approved a request of the Rural Development Ministry to revise the wages under the MGNREGA scheme from April 1.
 - The wages paid under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) are linked with the Consumer Price Index for agricultural labourers (CPI-AL).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- Australia is conducting 7 nation **Indian Ocean military exercise** along **with Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and Singapore**. Australia sent 4 Naval Ships and one military aircraft along with around 1000 security personnel making it one the biggest military exercise.
 - The exercise is aimed to counter the growing Chinese influence in the Indian Ocean

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- ISRO's workhorse launch vehicle **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV C-45)**, in its **47th mission**, has successfully launched the **436 kg EMISAT** and **28 co-passenger** satellites into their designated orbits from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. This was the **71st launch vehicle mission** for Sriharikota

- China has successfully launched the first of its new-generation data relay satellites into orbit that will provide data relay, measurement and control services for its manned spacecraft.
 - The Tianlian II-01 satellite was launched by a Long March-3B carrier rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre.

ECONOMY

- In order to safeguard domestic players against cheap shipments, **Department of Revenue, Government of India** has imposed anti-dumping duty up to **USD 1559 per tonne** on the import of certain solar cell components (**Ethylene Vinyl Acetate Sheet for Solar Module**) from **China, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Thailand for a period of 5 years**.
 - This move is taken on the recommendation of Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), which is the Investigation Arm of Ministry of Commerce.

SPORTS

- 2019 India Open which is officially known as **YONEX-SUNRISE India Open 2019** was organized by the **Badminton Association of India** at the K.D. Jadhav Indoor hall in **New Delhi** from 26th March to 31 March 2019.
 - It was the eighth tournament of **2019 BWF (Badminton World Federation) World Tour**. The Total Prize money of the tournament was \$350,000.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Manu Sawhney** took over as the **International Cricket Council (ICC) Chief Executive**. Sawhney has been working alongside as the outgoing CEO David Richardson for the last six weeks to ensure a smooth transition within the organisation.

- Richardson will remain with the ICC until July as originally planned to oversee the delivery of the upcoming Men's Cricket World Cup 2019.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **Odisha** celebrates its Foundation day on **1st April** every year to commemorate the sacrifices of people for the formation of Odisha province in 1936. The Odisha Day is also known as "**Utkal Divas**".
 - Various cultural programmes highlighting the history and culture of Odisha are organized on this day.


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