



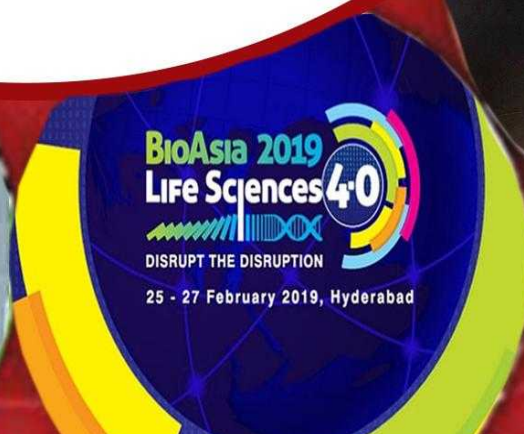
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APRIL - 2019

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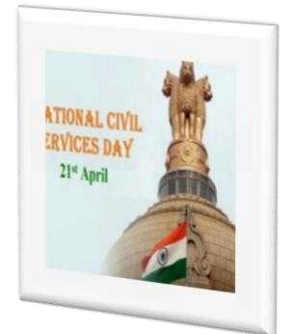
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NATIONAL NEWS

- Recently, Indian and the US navies conducted joint submarine hunting exercise near **Diego Garcia** in the Indian Ocean in which India's P8I Neptune Aircraft and US P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft along with the USS Spruance have participated.
 - The objective of this exercise is to lay the groundwork for coordinating maritime patrol and reconnaissance.
- **India rose to 17th** position in **global startup ecosystem in 2019**, up from the 37th spot in 2017, as per **StartupBlink**. The country list was **topped by the US**, followed by the UK and Canada. Notably, India was ranked above 27th-placed China.
 - In cities ranking, Bengaluru, New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Pune also made it to the top 100.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- The Economist Intelligence Unit (**EIU**) has released the **2019 Index of Cancer Preparedness (ICP)** in which out of **28** countries India is in **19th** position from the top. The wide range of data indicates variation of cancer preparedness of countries i.e. methods to treat and prevent cancer.
 - Cancer in 2018 caused 9.6 million deaths worldwide making it the 2nd biggest killer.

ECONOMY

- India Post has partnered with IT services firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to become a multi-service digital hub, modernize the delivery of mail and packages, enhance customer experience and launch innovative services.
 - TCS has implemented its Point of Sale (PoS) solution across 24,000 post offices with over 80,000 PoS terminals, making this among the largest such implementations in the world.

SPORTS

- In Football, **the Services lifted the Santosh Trophy**, beating Punjab 1-nil in the final at Ludhiana. In the first half, both the teams were goal-less. In the second half, Services scored the lone goal and held on till the final whistle.
 - In the semi-finals earlier, eight-time champions Punjab had defeated five-time winners Goa 2-1 to enter their 15th final. Services beat Karnataka 4-3 in the semis via a penalty shootout to book a place in the title clash for the 11th time.

APPOINTMENTS

- Former Cricketer **Ravi Shastri appointed as Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ) exclusive Corporate Ambassador to the Indian Business Community**. As brand Ambassador Ravi Shastri may attract more Indian business leaders to set up or expand their operations in UAE through RAKEZ.
 - This first-of-its-kind approach is one of the many other initiatives that RAKEZ will be launching in the future to attract more investors from all over the world and boost the economic growth of Ras Al Khaimah.

AWARDS

- **Malayalam film Bhayanakam (Fear) directed by Jayaraj won the best cinematography award at the Beijing International Film Festival**. The cinematography was done by Nihil S Praveen.
 - The film had also won the best cinematography award at the 65th National Film Awards. Both Jayaraj and lead actor, writer and journalist Renji Panicker who attended the festival received the award.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- The **world celebrates Earth Day** and Google has introduced an interactive doodle that celebrates the uniqueness, diversity and wonder of a small fraction of life forms found on earth. **World Earth Day, which is celebrated on 22 April** every year, now includes events in more than 193 countries.
 - For the year 2019, the Earth Day **theme is 'Protect our Species'**