

Daily Current Affairs

21 April 2025

US Vice President JD Vance In New Delhi

- Vice President of the **United States of America J D Vance** will arrive in New Delhi on a four day official visit to India. He will be accompanied by **Second Lady of the US, Usha Vance**, their children and senior members of the U.S. Administration. This will be Vice President Vance's first visit to India. He will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



- The Vice President and his delegation will have other engagements in Delhi and are also scheduled to visit Jaipur and Agra before departing for Washington D.C. Akashvani correspondent reports the visit of US Vice President J D Vance to India will **provide an opportunity for both sides to review the progress in bilateral relations** and the implementation of the outcomes of the India-U.S. Joint Statement issued on 13th February this year during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's to the US.
- The two sides will also exchange views on regional and global developments of mutual interest. **India and United States enjoy a comprehensive global strategic** partnership covering almost all areas of human endeavor, driven by shared democratic values, convergence of interests on a range of issues, and

vibrant people-to-people contacts. Regular dialogue between the Leaders of both sides is an important element of the expanding bilateral ties.

Paste Fill Technology

- **South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)** is set to become the first coal PSU in India to adopt paste fill technology for coal mining, marking a major step toward sustainable and environmentally friendly mining practices.
- To implement this innovative underground mining technology, SECL has signed a **Rs. 7040 crore agreement with TMC Mineral Resources Private Limited.**



- Under this agreement, large-scale coal production will be undertaken using **paste fill technology in the Singhali underground coal mine** located in SECL's Korba area. **Over a period of 25 years, the project** is expected to produce approximately 8.4 million tonnes (84.5 lakh tonnes) of coal.



South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.

- Paste filling is a modern underground mining method that eliminates the need to acquire surface land.
- After coal extraction, the mined-out voids are filled with a specially prepared paste made from fly ash, crushed overburden from opencast mines, cement, **water, and binding chemicals**. This process prevents land subsidence and ensures the structural stability of the mine.
- **Importantly, the paste utilizes industrial waste materials**, making the process environmentally sustainable and promoting waste recycling.

Indigenous Stellite Nozzle Divergent

- In line with its **self-reliance mission**, ISRO has **developed** an alternative for the imported **Columbium** material used for the **nozzle divergent** in the fourth stage of the PSLV launch vehicle.
- It has indigenously **developed the nozzle divergent made of Stellite**. This alternate material is a cobalt-based alloy with additions of Chromium, Nickel, **Tungsten and Iron**.
- The tests **conducted on the Stellite made nozzle divergent** has proved that it can retain strength at high temperatures up to 1150 degree Celsius.



- **ISRO had conducted three tests earlier** and a final test on April 8th where it was proven successful after a **hot test lasting for a duration of 665 seconds**. The test was conducted at the ISRO **Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu**.
- The use of **Stellite nozzle divergent in PSLV will save ISRO 90 percent** of the cost incurred on imported Columbium. The ISRO facility in Mahendragiri had also successfully carried out hot tests of the human-rated Vikas Engine to be

used for the Gaganyaan programme. **Vikas engine is designed and developed** within the country and is named after Vikram Sarabhai, the father of the Indian Space programme. The **human-rated launch vehicle LVM 3 G** will use two Vikas engines in a clustered configuration to carry the astronauts to outer space.

Commercial Sea Shipment Of Pomegranates To USA

- **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** has facilitated the first commercial sea shipment of Indian pomegranates from Maharashtra to USA.



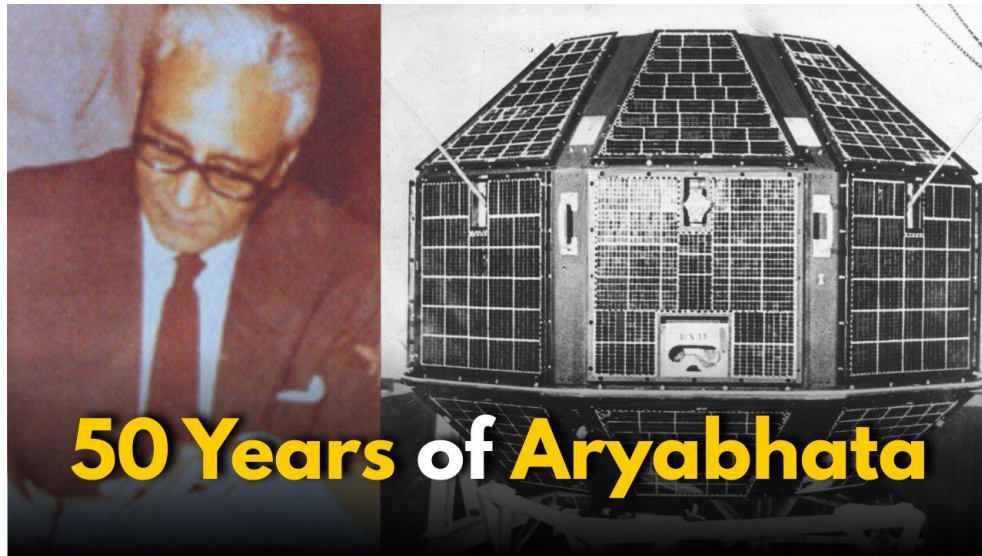
- **The Ministry of Commerce and Industry in a statement** said that the inaugural sea shipment of **4,620 boxes of Indian Bhagwa** variety of Pomegranates, weighing **approximately 14 tons** reached the U.S. East Coast in the second week of March, well within five weeks of the point of departure.
- The Ministry described it as a significant **milestone for India's Fresh Fruits exports**. After India had been granted market access by USA for Pomegranates, during the season in 2023, APEDA in collaboration with United States **Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**, National Plant Protection Organization and National Research Centre for Pomegranate, Solapur successfully conducted the trial shipment of Pomegranate to USA by air.
- Owing to the success of the static trial to enhance the shelf life of Pomegranates for up to **60 days by APEDA in collaboration with ICAR-National Research Centre for Pomegranate**, India had successfully flagged off its first trial commercial sea shipment of Pomegranates.

India's First Satellite, Aryabhata, Completes 50 Years

- India's first satellite, **Aryabhata**, completed 50 years on 19 April. **Launched on this day in 1975**, the satellite was named after the ancient Indian mathematician and **astronomer, Aryabhata**.
- The satellite, built by the **Indian Space Research Organisation**, was launched from Kapustin Yar with the **assistance of the USSR**. The purpose of the satellite was defined to explore areas including Solar Physics, Aeronomy, and X-ray Astronomy.



- Aryabhata was designed as a 26-sided polyhedron, measuring 1.4 metres in diameter and weighing 360 kilograms. Except for the top and bottom, all the **remaining 24 faces of the satellite** were covered with solar panels.
- After spending **five days in orbit**, Aryabhata experienced a power failure, due to which all experiments were halted. Despite this, valuable data was collected, and **scientists were provided with crucial experience** in satellite development.



- The satellite continued **transmitting information for a few more days** after the failure. Aryabhata marked India's entry into space exploration and laid the foundation for the country's future space missions. With its successful launch, India was recognized as the 11th country in the world to send a satellite into orbit.

Red Notice Sought From Interpol Against Hasina

- **In Bangladesh, the National Central Bureau (NCB)** has made a request to Interpol seeking a '**red notice**' against **12 people**, including former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, former road transport and bridges minister and Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan.



- According to reports, Assistant Inspector General (AIG), Media at the Police **Headquarters, Enamul Haque Sagor confirmed this** development saying the NCB branch makes such requests to Interpol based on appeals received from courts, public prosecutors, or investigating agencies, reports United News of Bangladesh (UNB). He said the request for the Red Notice is currently under processed.
- The **Chief Prosecutor's Office of the International Crimes Tribunal**, Dhaka had formally requested the Police Headquarters in November last year to seek Interpol's assistance in arresting Sheikh Hasina and others deemed fugitives.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which Two Classical Indian Texts Were Recently Inscribed In UNESCO's Memory Of The World Register In April 2025

- A. Vedas and Ramayana
- B. Arthashastra and Manusmriti
- C. Mahabharata and Upanishads
- D. Shrimad Bhagavad Gita and Natyashastra

ANSWER: D

2. Which Institution Developed "Venom Maps" For Russell's Viper To Aid In Effective Snakebite Treatment

- A. IIT Bombay
- B. Harvard University
- C. University of Delhi
- D. IISc

ANSWER: D

3. What Is The Global Rank Of Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport In The ACI World Report 2024

- A. 10th
- B. 9th
- C. 13th
- D. 17th

ANSWER: B

4. Which State Is Hosting The Khelo India Youth Games 2025 For The First Time

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Bihar
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Madhya Pradesh

ANSWER: B

5. Koraput Kalajeera Rice Got GI Status, Is Cultivated In Which State

- A. Punjab
- B. Odisha
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: B

6. Which Company Signed An Mou With The Ministry Of Labour & Employment To Create Gig And Logistics Job Opportunities

- A. Zomato
- B. Swiggy
- C. Blinkit
- D. Uber

ANSWER: B

7. Which City Is Recognized As The Origin Of The Banaras Shehnai, Recently Awarded The GI Tag

- A. Varanasi
- B. Lucknow
- C. Jaipur
- D. Patna

ANSWER: A

8. Which Country Has Been Elected To Chair Interpol's Newly Established Committee On Governance

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. Qatar
- C. Bahrain
- D. UAE

ANSWER: D

9. Kirkuk Which Was Seen In The News, Is Located In Which Country

- A. Israel
- B. Iraq
- C. Australia
- D. Greece

ANSWER: B

10. Umiam Lake Seen In The News, Is Located In Which State

- A. West Bengal
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Sikkim
- D. Meghalaya

ANSWER: D

11. Who Has Been Named As The 52nd Chief Justice Of India

- A. Justice Vikram Nath
- B. Justice BR Gavai
- C. Justice Abhay S. Oka
- D. Justice Surya Kant

ANSWER: B

12. In Which State Was The GP-DRASTI Drone Program Launched To Enhance Public Safety And Policing Efficiency

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Gujarat
- D. Madhya Pradesh

ANSWER: C

13. Which Indian State Has Officially Approved DPS Flamingo Lake As A Conservation Reserve

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Odisha
- D. Karnataka

ANSWER: C

14. What is “K2-18b”

- A. Asteroid
- B. Exoplanet
- C. Unmanned Air Vehicle (UAV)
- D. Newly discovered invasive weed

ANSWER: B

15. Etalin Hydro Electric Project Is A Planned Hydropower Project In Which State

- A. Sikkim
- B. Assam
- C. Odisha
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

ANSWER: D

16. World’s First Market For Trading In Particulate Matter Emissions Was Launched In Which Indian City

- A. Surat, Gujarat
- B. Jaipur, Rajasthan
- C. Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- D. Kolkata, West Bengal

ANSWER: A

17. Thangjing Hill, is Located In Which State

- A. Assam
- B. Manipur
- C. Nagaland
- D. Sikkim

ANSWER: B

18. Which State Has Ranked First In India For Implementing The PM Micro Food Processing Enterprises Upgradation Scheme

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Gujarat
- C. Bihar
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: D

19. International Big Cat Alliance Is Implemented Through Which Agency In India

- A. Central Zoo Authority
- B. Wildlife Institute of India
- C. National Tiger Conservation Authority
- D. None of the Above

ANSWER: C

20. Which Indian State Signed An Mou With Russia's ROSATOM To Develop Thorium-based Small Modular Reactors

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Gujarat
- D. Andhra Pradesh

ANSWER: A

