

IMPORTANT DAYS

April 20 - Chinese Language Day

- The date for the Chinese day was selected from Guyu ("Rain of Millet"), which is the 6th of 24 solar terms in the traditional East Asian calendars, to pay tribute to Cangjie. Chinese was established as an official language of the United Nations in 1946.

NATIONAL

ANDHRA PRADESH

Delay in setting up procurement centres affects paddy farmers in East Godavari

- Delay in establishing paddy procurement centres (PPC), coupled with absence of market for the 'Bondalu' (MTU-3626) variety of paddy, is causing a major dent in the incomes of the farmers of East Godavari district in the current rabi season.

INTERNATIONAL

Saudi Arabia increases India's Haj Quota to 2 lakh

- Saudi Arabia has issued a formal order increasing the Haj quota of India to two lakhs from one lakh seventy five-thousand. Official sources said, the decision will ensure that all the Haj applicants from big states like Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar can embark pilgrimage this year as their waiting lists have been cleared due to the increase in quota.

Weed festival in Thailand

- Thailand is celebrating its first ever weed festival, the Pan Ram weed festival. Thailand became the first in Southeast Asia to legalise marijuana for medical purposes in 2018, joining a growing list of governments to embrace liberalisation including Canada, Australia, Israel and more than half the US states.

India rebuilds Chhyoiphel Kundeling monastery in Nepal

- Shyalpa Tenzin Rinpoche inaugurated newly reconstructed Monastery at Lisankhu village in Sindhupalchok district. The Monastery has been reconstructed with Government of India grant of 18.9 million Nepalese rupees.

SCIENCE**Cases of measles show alarming rise - WHO**

- The number of cases of measles, one of the world's most contagious diseases is climbing, warned the World Health Organisation (WHO), stating that preliminary global data shows that reported cases rose by 300% in the first three months of 2019, compared to the same period in 2018.

Universe's first molecule detected in space

- Helium hydride ion, the first molecule that formed almost 14 billion years ago, was detected by NASA's flying observatory SOFIA towards a planetary nebula. Scientists have detected the most ancient type of molecule in our universe in space for the first time ever.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY**Uber wins \$1bn investment from Toyota, SoftBank fund**

- Japanese car giant Toyota and investment fund SoftBank Vision Fund on Friday unveiled an investment of \$1 billion in U.S. company Uber to drive forward the development of driverless ridesharing services.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES**7th China International Technology Fair kicks off in Shanghai**

- The 7th China International Technology Fair opened in Shanghai, a national-level professional fair focused on international technology trade. With an exhibition space covering 35,000 square meters, the fair has five exhibition areas including professional technologies, technological innovation, and trade services.

DEFENCE**Launch of Yard 12706**

- Admiral Sunil Lanba PVSM, AVSM, ADC Chief of the Naval Staff launched the third ship of Project 15B, Guided Missile Destroyer Imphal, at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai. This launch marks yet another significant milestone in the annals of the indigenous warship design and construction programme of India.

SPORTS

Hales withdraws from England Cricket World Cup squad

- England batsman Alex Hales, who was named in their provisional squad for the Cricket World Cup, has taken an indefinite break from the game due to personal reasons.

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