

NATIONAL**Odisha****Odisha celebrating 84th foundation day**

- Odisha is celebrating 84 years of its foundation. The day is also known as ‘Utkal Divas’ to commemorate the sacrifices of people for the formation of Odisha province in 1936.
- Odisha was the first Indian state (pre-independence) to be formed on linguistic basis in 1936. Earlier, Odisha was part of Bihar.

Telangana**Ramappa temple for world heritage site**

- Telangana may get its first Unesco World Heritage Site, but it may be the Ramappa Temple at Palampet near Warangal than any of the Qutb Shahi era sites in Hyderabad.

INTERNATIONAL**Mozambique confirms first cholera death**

- Mozambique’s cyclone-hit city of Beira has confirmed its first death from cholera, as the number of cases of the disease has jumped to 517. Cholera is spread by contaminated water and food.

Japan names new era of Naruhito will be ‘Reiwa’

- The name of the era of Japan’s soon-to-be-emperor Naruhito will be “Reiwa,” the government announced.
- Emperor Akihito is stepping down on April 30, in the first abdication in 200 years, bringing his era of “Heisei” to an end. The new era takes effect May 1.

Arab leaders condemn U.S. move on Golan

- Arab leaders condemned U.S. decision to recognise Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights and said West Asia's stability depended on creating an Palestinian state.

SCIENCE**ISRO launches EMISAT Successfully**

- EMISAT, a satellite meant to provide intelligence to the armed forces, was launched from the Sriharikota spaceport by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). PSLV-C45 successfully injected EMISAT in a 748-km orbit and 28 other satellites in a 504-km orbit.

NASA's Mars helicopter completes flight tests

- NASA's Mars Helicopter, designed to fly in thin atmosphere and low gravity, has successfully completed flight tests and is prepared for its journey to the Red Planet scheduled to take off in 2020. The helicopter is scheduled to reach the surface of the Red Planet in February 2021.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY**Vijaya Bank, Dena Bank to merge with Bank of Baroda**

- Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank will merge with Bank of Baroda (BoB) to create the third-largest lender of the country after State Bank of India and HDFC Bank.

APPOINTMENTS

- Sohail Mahmood - **Current High Commissioner of Pakistan to take charge as the next Foreign Secretary in Islamabad.**

MOU, AGREEMENTS & CABINET APPROVALS

Last date to link PAN with Aadhaar extended till Sep 30

- The government has extended the last date to link Permanent Account Number (PAN) with Aadhaar number by six month till 30th of September.

EC clears revised MGNREGA wage rates from April 1

- 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) and new wage rates are notified on April 1, the beginning of the new financial year.

SPORTS

Asian Airgun Championship

- India have won 12 out of 14 gold medals so far. India currently have 12 gold, four silver and two bronze medals. Divyansh Singh Panwar and Elavenil Valarivan bagged the 10m Air Rifle men and women's individual golds.

Bahrain Grand Prix

- Five times world champion Lewis Hamilton won the Bahrain Grand Prix for Mercedes. Valtteri Bottas took second place.

Australia sweeps Pakistan 5-0 in ODI series

- Australia beat Pakistan in the final ODI with a 20-run victory and won the series 5-0.

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