

Bangladesh educational charity founder Kishore Das selected for Commonwealth Points of Light Award



The founder of educational charity 'Bidyanando' Kishore Kumar Das from Bangladesh has been chosen for the Commonwealth Points of Light Award for his exceptional work in improving access to education for children from marginalised backgrounds.

Kishore Das setup Bidyanando in 2013 with just 22 students. It now runs five primary schools which provide free education as well as academic coaching sessions and scholarship programmes to help children continue into higher education. Kishore has also started a meal programme, 'Ek takay aahar' (Meal for one Taka), which has provided more than 10,000 nutritious meals for vulnerable people, particularly children and those who are homeless, said the UK Prime Minister's office in its citation. During the Corona pandemic, Bidyanando ramped up its effort to distribute relief across the country.

Commonwealth Point of Light Awards recognise outstanding individual volunteers who are making a change in their community.

Bangladesh built a cross-sectoral Delta Plan 2100 for a resilient and prosperous delta- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said that Bangladesh has built a cross sectoral Delta Plan 2100 to work towards a resilient and prosperous delta. She said Bangladesh is hosting an International Financing Conference next month to mobilise resources for projects under the plan.

In her message to the Fourth Asia-Pacific Water Summit being held in the Japanese city of Kumamoto on April 23-24, Sheikh Hasina said that countries in the Asia Pacific region should combine forces to share good practices, knowledge and technologies to help address the common challenges. She called upon countries to adopt basin-wise approach to manage the waters of trans-boundary rivers, reports the official news agency BSS.

Indonesia to ban exports of palm oil as country faces shortage of cooking oil



Indonesia will ban exports of palm oil starting next week, as the world's biggest producer faces a shortage of cooking oil.

The Southeast Asian archipelago has been running low on palm-based cooking oil since November as producers turn to exports to cash in on an increase in prices around the world.

Palm oil is the most widely used vegetable oil in Indonesia whereas crude palm oil is exported worldwide for a wide range of uses, from cosmetics to chocolate spread.

Vegetable oils are among several staple food items that have reached all-time high prices in recent weeks following Russia's military operation of agricultural powerhouse Ukraine, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

National Panchayati Raj Day: 24th April



National Panchayati Raj Day is commemorated every year on April 24th. The day was initially observed in April 2010 to commemorate the decentralisation of power, which is considered one of India's most significant milestones.

The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act of 1992, which took effect on April 24, 1993, gave Panchayati Raj institutions constitutional standing. As a result, this date symbolises a watershed point in the history of decentralisation of governmental power to the people. The 73rd Amendment's influence on rural India is palpable, as it has irreparably altered power dynamics. As a result, the Indian government decided, in conjunction with the states, to commemorate April 24th as National Panchayati Raj Day.

English Language Day: 23rd April



Every year on April 23, the United Nations celebrates English Day. The UN Department of Public Information created the event in 2010 to "celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity, as well as promote equal use of all six official languages within the Organisation.

The date of April 23 was chosen for English Language Day because it is "traditionally honoured as both the birthday and date of death of William Shakespeare."

World Book and Copyright Day: 23rd April

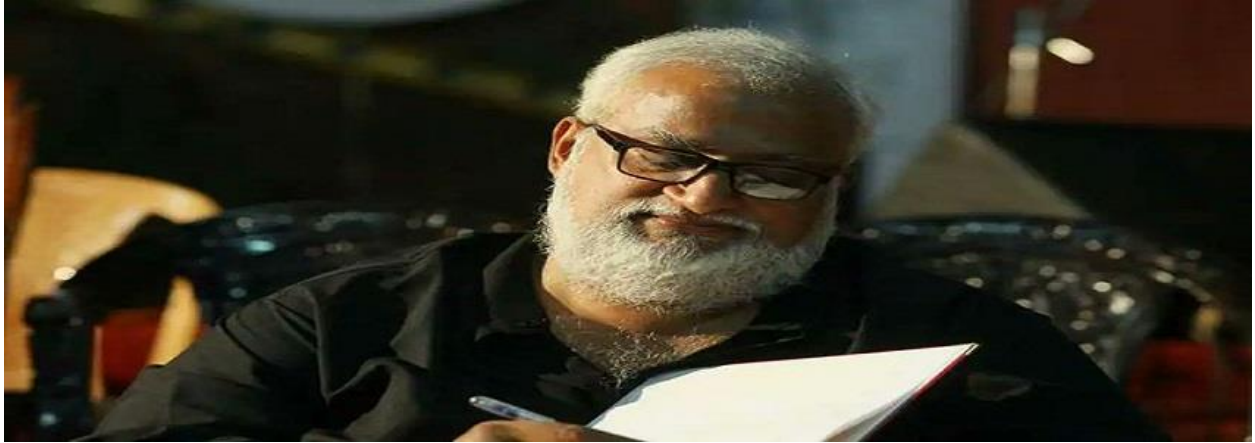


Every year on April 23, World Book and Copyright Day is observed to promote the love of reading. April 23 is significant in world literature because it commemorates the death on this date of prominent writers such as Miguel de Cervantes and William Shakespeare.

This date was an obvious option for UNESCO's General Conference, which was convened in Paris in 1995, to pay a worldwide tribute to books and authors on this day, urging everyone to read.

Guadalajara, Mexico, will be the World Book Capital in 2022, with a year-long programme focusing on the role of books and reading in inspiring social change, combating violence, and cultivating a culture of peace.

Versatile Malayalam Screenwriter and producer John Paul passes away



Versatile Malayalam Screenwriter and producer John Paul passed away in Kochi.

John Paul has penned screenplays for several Malayalam films like Chamaram, Oru Minnaminunginte Nurunguvettam, Kattathekilikoodu, Yatra, Malootty, besides several other critically acclaimed movies and commercial entertainers. He also authored several books related to Malayalam cinema.

The veteran screenwriter has won several awards including the national award for the best environmental film, the film critics award for script and documentaries, and a special jury award instituted by the International Federation of Film Critics among others.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman discusses Covid-19 and Russia-Ukraine conflict with World Bank President



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman met World Bank President David Malpass in Washington. They discussed several key economic issues including India's continued recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of Russia-Ukraine conflict. They also discussed India's upcoming G20 Presidency and World Bank leadership in India.

During the meeting, the Finance Minister stated that India's pandemic response has focused on the twin goals of saving lives and livelihoods. India has been successfully running world's 2nd largest vaccination programme, administering more than 1.85 billion doses of vaccines, she said.

Govt to raise number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras to ten thousand by March 2024



Union Government has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras to ten thousand by March 2024. Chemicals and Fertilizers Ministry said that the government has invited applications to open Janaushadhi Kendras in three thousand five hundred 79 Blocks of four hundred six districts of 26 States and Union Territories. It highlighted that under the scheme, seven hundred 39 districts of the country have been covered and eight thousand six hundred ten stores have been opened till the last month. The Ministry said that about fifteen thousand crore rupees have been saved of the general public under this scheme.

The Ministry said that new applications have been invited to cover five hundred 79 blocks of 406 districts. It said that any Individuals, Unemployed Pharmacist, Government nominated agencies, NGO's, Trust and Societies can apply for PMBJK.

Country registers nearly 6 per cent growth in steel production with 31.9 million tonnes during January to March this year



India has produced 31.9 million tonnes of steel from January to March this year with a growth of 5.9 percent. In March alone, steel production stood at 10.9 million tonnes with 4.4 percent growth rate. As per the data released by World Steel Association, India is the only country among top 10 steel producing nations of the world, which has registered growth in steel production in January to March period, as compared to corresponding period last year.

Brazil is the only other country among top 10 nations which has registered growth in the month of March.

Marriott elevates Ranju Alex to VP-South Asia in place of Neeraj Govil



Marriott International Inc. has elevated Ranju Alex as its area vice president for the South Asia region, the first Indian woman to head a region at the world's largest hotel operator.

Alex takes over the role from Neeraj Govil who relocated to Singapore after serving as a senior vice president of operations for Asia Pacific (excluding China) last year. As a key member of Marriott International's leadership think tank, she will be based in Mumbai and oversee the company's operations across India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan.

Women's T20 Challenge 2022 to be hosted by Lucknow from May 24-28, confirms Sourav Ganguly



The President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Sourav Ganguly has confirmed that the Women's T20 Challenge 2022 will be held at Lucknow's Ekana Stadium between May 24 and 28. The scheduling decision was made following an apex council meeting of the BCCI yesterday. The tournament will remain a three-team affair with Supernovas, Trailblazers, and Velocity participating.

Supernovas have won the title twice, while IPL Trailblazers are the defending champions. The other side, IPL Velocity, was the runner-up in 2019.

Women's T20 Challenge has been an annual tournament which began in 2018 but was not held in 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Manipur thrash Karnataka 3-nil in Group B match in 75th National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy



Manipur thrashed Karnataka 3 goals to nil in the Group B match in the 75th National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy at Kottapady Stadium in Malappuram.

Lunminlen scored twice in the 18th and 42 nd minute of the match, while Somishon Shirak scored the third goal in the 44th minute. With this win, Manipur has topped the group with nine points from four matches and has entered the semi-final of the championship.

India defeat France 232-231 in compound men's team final to win gold medal in Archery World Cup Stage-1



India defeated France 232-231 in compound men's team final to win the gold medal in the Archery World Cup Stage-1 at Antalya, Turkey.

The Indian trio of Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan and Aman Saini rallied to beat the French team of Jean Philippe Boulch, Quentin Baraer and Adrien Gontier in a thrilling contest.

This was India's and Abhishek's second compound men's team gold medal in the event. Abhishek was also part of the Indian side that won the first ever gold in Shanghai in 2017.

This was the first team gold for both Rajat and Aman.

Asian Wrestling Championships: Indian grapplers win one Gold, two Silver and two Bronze medals



Indian grapplers Ravi Dahiya won gold, Bajrang Punia and Gourav Baliyan took silver while Naveen and Satywart clinched bronze medals to continue India's campaign at the Asian Wrestling Championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Ravi Dahiya beat Kazakhstan's Kalzhan Rakhat via virtual superiority (12-2) to win the 57kg men's freestyle gold, his third in a row. Ravi is the first Indian to win three gold medals at the continental event.

In the 79kg gold medal bout against Iran's Ali Bakhtiar Savadkouhi, Gourav Baliyan came back from 0-8 down to level the scores at 9-9. However, the Iranian was awarded the win courtesy of a bigger scoring move.

In the 70kg bronze medal playoff, Naveen quickly moved into a 4-0 lead against local wrestler Temuulen Enkhtuya before pinning the Mongolian to end the bout in the first round itself.

Satywart Kadiyan ended a perfect day for India by thrashing Turkmenistan's Zyyamuhammet Saporov in the 97kg bronze medal match, winning the contest by (10-0).

India has won a total of one gold, four silver and ten bronze medals so far in this year's edition.