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History, Art and Culture

Sepoy Mangal Pandey

On March 29, 1857, Mangal Pandey, a sepoy in the 34th Bengal Native Infantry, openly rebelled against British authority at Barrackpore.

• **Religious Defiance -** Pandey refused to use the new Enfield rifle cartridges, which were rumored to be greased with cow and pig fat, offending both Hindu and Muslim sentiments.

• **Violent Confrontation -** In a historic act of defiance, he attacked Sergeant-Major James Hewson and Lieutenant Baugh, signaling a direct challenge to the British East India Company.

• **Arrest and Trial -** Following the confrontation, Pandey was arrested. A military court swiftly sentenced him to death for mutiny and violence against superior officers.

• **Execution -** British hanged him on **April 8, 1857**, fearing his presence would incite further uprisings among the soldiers.

• **Spark of Revolution -** His sacrifice became a rallying cry, triggering the Great Revolt of 1857 and cementing his legacy as a pioneer of India's independence struggle.

Polity & Governance

Milestone Anniversary

The National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) celebrates its **25th Foundation Day** on April 10, 2026, at Vishwa Yuva Kendra, New Delhi, marking a quarter-century of tribal empowerment.

• **Established in** - 2001 under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, NSTFDC provides concessional financial assistance to Scheduled Tribes, fostering sustainable livelihoods and economic independence through income-generating schemes.

• **Honoring Entrepreneurs -** The event will felicitate successful tribal entrepreneurs who have built enterprises in sectors like healthcare, handicrafts, and dairy, showcasing the impact of NSTFDC’s financial support.

• **Cultural Celebration -** The milestone features traditional tribal dances and street plays, highlighting India’s rich heritage while celebrating 25 years of inclusive growth and dedicated service.

Gorakhpur's AI-Powered Flood Defence

The PMO and NITI Aayog have lauded Gorakhpur's **Urban Flood Management Cell (UFMC)** for its innovative, data-driven approach to proactive disaster mitigation.

• **India's First AI Model -** The UFMC is the nation's premier AI-enabled early warning system. It integrates **artificial intelligence, real-time sensors, and hydrological modeling** to predict waterlogging and flood risks.

• **Proactive Forecasting -** The system shifts flood management from reactive responses to proactive forecasting. It aims to minimize property damage, urban disruption, and loss of life during heavy monsoons.

• **Advanced Predictive Tech -** Featuring **80% accuracy**, the AI predicts rainfall 24 hours in advance. Real-time sensors monitor drainage thresholds at 28 hotspots, triggering instant alerts when water levels rise.

• **Automated Emergency Response -** Rising water levels automatically activate pumping systems. A **24/7 digital control room** monitors 85 sensitive locations, managing field teams and equipment through digital mapping.

• **Smart City Blueprint -** By enhancing urban resilience, this model serves as a scalable blueprint for other flood-prone Indian cities under smart governance and disaster management frameworks.

Economy

1200 MW Kalai-II Hydro Electric Project

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by PM Modi, has sanctioned Rs**14,105.83 crore** for the 1200 MW Kalai-II Hydro Electric Project.

• **Location** - On the Lohit River in Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh.

• **Project Execution -** By a Joint Venture between THDC India Limited and the Arunachal Pradesh Government.

• **Project Purpose -** The project has an installed capacity of 1,200 MW (composed of six 190 MW units and one 60 MW unit). It is expected to generate approximately 4,853 million units (MU) of electricity annually.

• **National Significance -** As the first hydro project in the Lohit Basin, it is designed to manage peak power demand and help balance the national power grid.

• **Financial Assistance -** The Centre will provide Rs**599.88 crore** & Rs**750 crore** by the State Government

• **Regional Benefits -** Arunachal Pradesh will receive **12% free power**, with an additional 1% dedicated to the Local Area Development Fund for community welfare.

• **Infrastructure Growth -** The project includes constructing 29km of roads and bridges in Namsai & Anjaw districts.

Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) and the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)

FIU-IND and I4C signed a MoUto intensify the battle against cyber fraud and financial crimes.

• **Objectives -** The partnership focuses on real-time intelligence sharing to protect India's digital payment ecosystem.

• **Aims to** - Develop operational information that assists investigative agencies in preventing crimes and securing digital transactions.

• **Asset Recovery -** A primary goal is streamlining asset recovery for victims. By establishing robust feedback mechanisms, both agencies will enhance national fraud detection protocols.

• **Guidelines for Institutions -** The collaboration will disseminate "red flag" indicators and guidelines to financial institutions, helping them proactively identify and block suspicious activities.

• **FIU-IND's Role -** As the central agency for suspect financial transactions, FIU-IND will process and analyze data to combat money laundering and terror financing.

• **I4C's Contribution -** I4C provides the technical framework for Law Enforcement Agencies, utilizing its "Suspect Registry" and National Cybercrime Reporting Portal to coordinate a unified "whole of Government" response.

Environment

Lead Contamination Crisis

A Toxics Link study revealed extreme lead levels (up to 43,800 ppm) in Delhi-NCR soil near battery recycling units, posing severe risks to nearby schools and residential areas.

• **Regulatory Failures -** Findings highlight critical gaps in enforcing the **Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022**. Surprisingly, authorized formal units showed higher average contamination than unauthorized ones, indicating poor oversight.

• **Hazardous Benchmarks -** Over 50% of samples exceeded the 5,000-ppm threshold for **Hazardous Contaminated Sites** under 2025 rules. Open dumping at these sites further threatens groundwater safety.

• **Health Impacts -** Lead is a cumulative toxicant with no safe limit. It causes cardiovascular damage in adults and intellectual disabilities or stunted fetal growth in children.

• **Global Fatality Toll -** Contributing to roughly 540,000 deaths annually, lead remains a top-tier environmental threat, requiring urgent reform of India's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework.

Arogya Van

NHAI has launched **'Arogya Van'**, a thematic initiative to plant medicinal tree species on vacant land parcels along National Highways, enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.

• **Phase One Rollout -** An initial action plan covers **62.8 hectares** across 11 states, including Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, where approximately 67,462 medicinal trees will be planted during the monsoon.

• **Diverse Flora -** Around **36 species** with medicinal properties, such as Neem, Amla, and Jamun, have been selected based on agro-climatic suitability to ensure long-term survival.

• **Strategic Locations -** Plantations will prioritize land near **toll plazas and interchanges**, maximizing public visibility and awareness of India's traditional botanical heritage.

• **Promoting Ayurveda -** The initiative aligns with government priorities to conserve indigenous flora and promote **Ayurveda**, turning highways into living repositories of traditional medicinal knowledge.

• **Sustainable Corridors -** This project reinforces NHAI's commitment to green infrastructure, creating ecological corridors that serve as educational hubs for sustainable living and environmental restoration.

Miscellaneous

World Homoeopathy Day

The Ministry of Ayush commemorates **World Homoeopathy Day 2026** on April 10 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. A two-day interactive forum will unite policymakers and researchers to discuss sustainable healthcare.

• **Strategic Theme - "**Homoeopathy for Sustainable Health.

• **Event aligns** - with UN Sustainable Development Goals.

• **Promotes a** - Holistic, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible medical approach to achieve Universal Health Coverage.

• **Scientific Advancements -** Organized by the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy **(CCRH)**, sessions will showcase research on antimicrobial resistance and chronic disease management.

• **Discussions will focus** - On strengthening scientific validation and maintaining rigorous ethical standards.

• **Eco-Friendly Practices -** The event highlights homoeopathy's minimal ecological footprint.

• Topics include eco-friendly pharmaceutical manufacturing, biodiversity conservation, and reducing global dependency on conventional pharmacotherapy through innate healing mechanisms.

• **Future Vision -** This milestone reinforces India's leadership in traditional medicine. It fosters innovation and collaboration to build a resilient, equitable, and inclusive healthcare ecosystem for a sustainable global future.

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