



On Earth Day 2011, 28 million trees were planted in Afghanistan by the Earth Day Network.

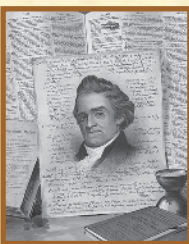
HISTORY this WEEK

Weeks, years, decades, centuries...as time goes by day by day, the world keeps progressing into a newer direction. But as our eyes always stay glued to the telescope, trying to get a glimpse of the shining future we work so hard to create, it is important to take a break and appreciate how far we have come. Let us look back at the pages of history falling between **April 19-25** that played their role in shaping our society.

The world of inventions

APR
21
1828

Lexicographer Noah Webster published the first American Dictionary of the English Language in 2 volumes. He began working on the dictionary in 1807 and completed it in the year 1825, citing Bible as its chief source. Embodying a new standard of lexicography, the dictionary with its 70,000 entries was believed by many to have surpassed Samuel Johnson's 1755 British masterpiece not just in scope but in authority as well. The rights for the same were sold to the Merriam brothers, George and Charles, after Webster's death in 1843, which ultimately led to the formation of Merriam-Webster.



The world of celebration

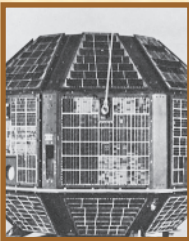
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1970

The first Earth Day was observed in United States, wherein some 20 million Americans took part in protests and rallies, organised by the national coordinator Denis Hayes, to fight against wanton environmental degradation. A brainchild of the staunch environmentalist Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, the Day was originally designed to raise ecological awareness throughout the nation; the idea for which came to him in 1969 post surveying a Californian oil spill. It was only in 1990 that Earth Day went global, calling to action some 200 million people in about 141 countries.

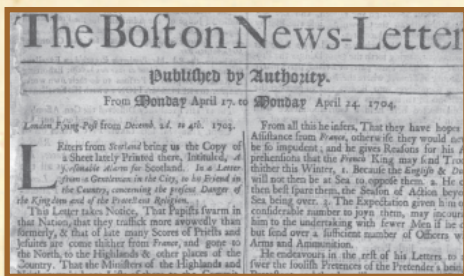


APR
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1975

India's first satellite Aryabhata spacecraft was launched in the orbit from Kapustin Yar, Russia. Built by ISRO, the satellite was named after the famous Indian astronomer, and was launched using a Russian-made Kosmos-3M launch vehicle. Whilst instrumental in exploring conditions in Earth's ionosphere, it had to abruptly halt all its experiments after four days and 60 orbits, owing to a power failure, as a result of which all the signals to it were lost. Nonetheless, important information was collected. The satellite, having underwent orbital decay, entered Earth's atmosphere on February 11, 1992.



The world of entertainment



APR
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1704

The first continuously published weekly newspaper in British colonial America, namely The Boston News-Letter, was founded. Heavily subsidised by the British government then, it required the Royal governor's approval for publication. In its initial years, issued as a half sheet, the newsletter was primarily filled with news from London journals describing the English political scene and the details of the European wars. Later on, it was enlarged to four pages, covering news from throughout the colonies. With the British withdrawal in 1776, the newsletter ceased to exist.



APR
23
2005

The first ever YouTube video titled 'Me at the Zoo' was published by the site's co-founder Jawed Karim. Recorded by his high school friend Yakov Lapitsky at the San Diego Zoo, featuring Karim in front of several elephants in their old exhibit in Elephant Mesa, the 19-second video was uploaded onto a channel with the username 'jawed' which was created on the same day. The said video played a prominent role in altering how people consumed media then and currently has over 150 million views.



APR
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1977

The musical Annie made its Broadway debut at the Alvin Theatre (now the Neil Simon Theatre), New York, with Andrea McArdle in the lead role. Based on the popular Harold Gray comic strip Little Orphan Annie, this Charles Strouse composition ran for about six years, setting a record at the theatre. It spawned numerous productions in many countries, and won seven Tony Awards, including one for being the best musical. 'Tomorrow' and 'Hard knock life' are among its most recognised musical numbers.

The world of sports

APR
22
1876



The first game in the history of the National League of Professional Baseball Clubs, also known as National League, was played at the Jefferson Street Grounds in Philadelphia. Played between the Boston Red Caps and Philadelphia Athletics, the match was won by the former with a score of 6-5, with Joe Borden, Philadelphia Athletics pitcher, becoming the winning pitcher, and Jim O'Rourke, Boston Red caps outfielder, collecting the league's first base hit.

APR
23
1927



Football Association Challenge Cup Final was played between Cardiff City and Arsenal at Wembley Stadium, London, wherein the former won the match 1-0. It was the only time that an FA Cup match was won by a team based outside England, thus earning it the title of the 'Singing Final'. Post the match, Cardiff City's goalkeeper Tom Farquharson acquired the match ball and donated it to the Church. The ball is now stored at the Welsh Sports Hall of Fame at St Fagan's National Museum of History.

The world of politics



APR
22
1969

The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), as an advocate of armed revolution over electoral processes, was founded by the All India Coordination Committee of Communist Revolutionaries (AICCCR). Its formation was announced by Kanu Sanyal, one of its founding leaders, at a mass rally in Calcutta on the same day, which also marked Vladimir Lenin's 99th birth anniversary. The party however, owing to several internal discords and conflicts, dissolved on July 31, 1972, and further split into various minor Naxal/Maoist groups.



APR
19
1975

The American Revolutionary War, also known as the American War of Independence, fought between the Kingdom of Great Britain and the thirteen colonies of British North America, was initiated. Beginning with the battles of Lexington and Concord, and further fought within the towns of Lincoln, Menotomy (present-day Arlington), Cambridge, etc., the war finally ended after a little over 8 years on September 3, 1783, with the Treaty of Paris and ultimately led to the independence of the United States.



APR
23
1990

Namibia became the 160th member of the United Nations and the 50th member of the Commonwealth of Nations after being ruled by South Africa under its mandate of South West Africa for 75 years. From the mid-20th century, leaders in the country campaigned for the UN to end South African rule, but these campaigning attempts were largely met by violent resistance and suppression from the South African authorities. In 1966, however, the UN finally called for South African withdrawal and renamed South West Africa to Namibia. The country though was granted independence much later in 1990.