

April 8th and 9th news

International:

China Taking Pak Economic Corridor to Afghanistan

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative, is being extended to Afghanistan, a report said on 8th April. The \$50 billion corridor that connects Kashgar in western China with Gwadar port in Pakistan, spanning 3,000 kilometres, is one of the pain points in ties between India and China.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative, has not only improved local infrastructure but also is extending toward Afghanistan, reducing poverty, the hotbed of terrorism, and bringing better prospects for local people's lives," China's state-run Xinhua news agency quoted the report as saying.

The report was prepared by the non-profit Boao Forum for Asia, which has been holding its annual conference in Boao city in China's Hainan Province since 2002, after it was formed by China in 2001 on the lines of the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Bilateral:

India and Nepal agree to strengthen bilateral relations

India and Nepal have agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations in key areas of border security, connectivity, trade and agriculture. The two countries agreed to develop inland waterways for overall economic development of the region.

Aiming to expand cross-border rail linkages, the two sides have also decided to construct a new electrified rail line, with India's financial support.

The rail line will connect the border city of Raxaul in India to Kathmandu in Nepal. India will also help Nepal in the field of agriculture through organic farming, soil testing and education in farming. The decisions were announced in a joint statement issued after the delegation level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Nepalese Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli.

India and Equatorial Guinea sign four agreements

India and Equatorial Guinea sign four agreements after delegation-level talks between President Ram Nath Kovind and Equatorial Guinea President; Both countries express deep concern over the rising threats of terrorism, call for strengthening cooperation in fight against this menace.

India and Equatorial Guinea signed four agreements including in the field of health. The agreements were signed following delegation level talks. President Kovind had one on one talks with his Equatorial Guinea counterpart. India will assist Equatorial Guinea in agriculture, mining, health, telecommunications and IT.

The two countries agreed to work together at UN, where Equatorial Guinea has just begun a two year term on the Security Council.

Both countries reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral ties between the two countries. They agreed to further enhance the bilateral ties in the spirit of South-South Cooperation.

They also expressed deep concern over the rising threats of terrorism and called for further strengthening cooperation in fight against terror.

India has offered assistance to set up an Entrepreneurial Development Centre and an English Language Laboratory in Equatorial Guinea.

Sports:

Venkat Rahul Ragala wins Gold medal for India

Weightlifter Venkat Rahul Ragala claimed India's fourth Gold medal in 85-kg category at 21st Commonwealth Games with a total lift of 338 Kg in Gold Coast on 7th April

Earlier, Weightlifter Sathish Sivalingam won India's third gold medal. In the process, the 25-year-old also retained the title he won in the event at the 2014 Games in Glasgow, Scotland with a total lift of 317 kg.

In Men's boxing, Mohammad Hussamuddin in 56 kg and Manoj Kumar in 69 Kg category have won in the 16 round events. In Gymnastics, Yogeshwar Singh finished 14th among 18 competitors in the men's individual all-round event final.

India as on 7th April, won 4 Gold, One Silver and one bronze, and all the medals have come from the weightlifting arena. They were in the fourth place in the overall medal standings

Indian Women's Table Tennis team wins Gold Medal

India has bagged three more Gold, one Silver and two bronze medals at the 21st Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast on the fourth day on 9th April. Indian women's Table Tennis team won their first ever Gold Medal defeating Singapore 3-1 on 9th April.

India now stands on fourth position in the medals tally, having claimed seven gold, two silver and three bronze medals so far.

From weightlifting to boxing to table tennis to hockey, women formed the core of India's stupendous day four at the 21st Commonwealth Games. Manika Batra led Table tennis team's victory was historic as Singapore had never lost since 2002.

Earlier in the day, India had bagged two Gold, one Silver and two bronze medals. The weightlifters continued the medal rush with Punam Yadav winning gold in the 69 kg category with a personal best lift of 222 kg. Vikas Thakur added a bronze to weightlifters' golden run in the men's 94 kg category.

Manu Bhaker struck gold in 10 meter Air Pistol Finals and Heena Sidhu added a Silver in the same category.

Later, Ravi Kumar won a bronze in men's 10 metre air rifle event.

MC Mary Kom advanced to the semi-final of the women's 48kg boxing event. Star boxer Vikas Kishan entered the quarter-finals in men's 75 kg with a 5-nil verdict against his Australian rival.

In Women's Hockey, India rallied from a goal down to script a stunning 2-1 triumph over Olympic champions England in their third Pool A match. In Men's Hockey, India defeated Wells 4-3 in a group B match.