

THIS MONTH, THAT YEAR

Here's a look back at some events that made news around the world and in our own backyard in April

Local

1962: Chief minister Bidhan Chandra Roy inaugurates the land reclamation project for Salt Lake on April 16. The project filled up the lakes and marshes of the area with silt from the Hoogly and led to the development of the township in the coming years.

2015: New Town clock tower is inaugurated outside Home Town mall on April 15. Shaped like a fort's watchtower, the 23m high tower is central to the "clock tower plaza" that draws crowds in the evenings.



National

1853: A train sets off from Bombay at 3.35pm on April 16 and reaches Tannah (later known as Thane) in 57 minutes. This 33.8km ride marks the first passenger train journey in India. Three locomotives — Sahib, Sultan and Sindh — pulled 14 carriages with 400 passengers on board.

1957: Mangal Pandey, a soldier of the East India Company, is hanged on April 8 after he mutinied against the army. Pandey had revolted against a new bullet cartridge in their rifles, thought to be greased with cow and pig fat. The cartridges had to be bitten into before being used and the



religious beliefs of both Hindu and Muslim soldiers did not allow them to do so. While Pandey is arrested and hanged he is hailed as a martyr and inspires a series of mutinies across the country.

1987: Jamini Roy is born in Bankura on April 11. Roy goes on to be a leading painter who showcased Indian folk art — both in style and subject — to the world. A student of Abanindranath Tagore, Roy is honoured with a Padma Bhushan in 1954. His *Ramayana* is considered his greatest work.



Global

1889: Adolf Hitler is born in Austria on April 20. He goes on to be the "Führer" of Germany, widely accepted to have initiated World War II as well as the genocide of some six million Jews. Towards the end of the World War, when defeat was imminent, Hitler shot himself, on April 30, 1945.



1974: Perhaps the world's greatest April Fool's prank is played by Oliver "Porky" Bickar, a resident of Alaska who burnt hundreds of tyres in the crater of a dormant volcano — Mount Edgecumbe. Just when residents were convinced it was erupting, the words "April Fool" were



spray-painted in giant letters in the snowy rim of the mountain. Bickar had been planning the prank for four years.

1984: Indian Air Force pilot

Rakesh Sharma flies aboard the Soyuz T-11, becoming the first Indian in space. Part of the Indo-Russian space programme, the space craft was launched on April 2. Later, when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi asks him how India looked from space, he answers: "Saare jahan se achchha."



Sports and entertainment

1956: Elvis Presley performs in Las Vegas for the first time, appearing at the New Frontier Hotel and Casino on April 23. This is barely three months after the release of his first major hit, *Heartbreak Hotel*. The shows are poorly received by the middle-aged audience but in the years to



come Elvis achieves phenomenal fame among the youth and is dubbed "King of Rock and Roll".

1973: Sachin Tendulkar is born

in Mumbai on April 24. He takes up cricket at the age of 11, makes his Test debut against Pakistan at the age of 16 and continues to play for India for the next 24 years. He retires in 2013 having set several records — he is the first player to score 100 international centuries, the first to score a double century in an ODI and the first to score 30,000-plus runs in international cricket.



1980: The first edition of the comic book *Tinkle* comes out in April. The comic becomes a favourite of kids in coming years with

stories, puzzles and recurring characters such as Ramu and Shamu, Supandi and Kalia the Crow. Originally owned by the India Book House, the brand shifted hands to ACK Media in 2007.



What is your most treasured personal memory of April? Write to The Telegraph Salt Lake, 6, Prafulla

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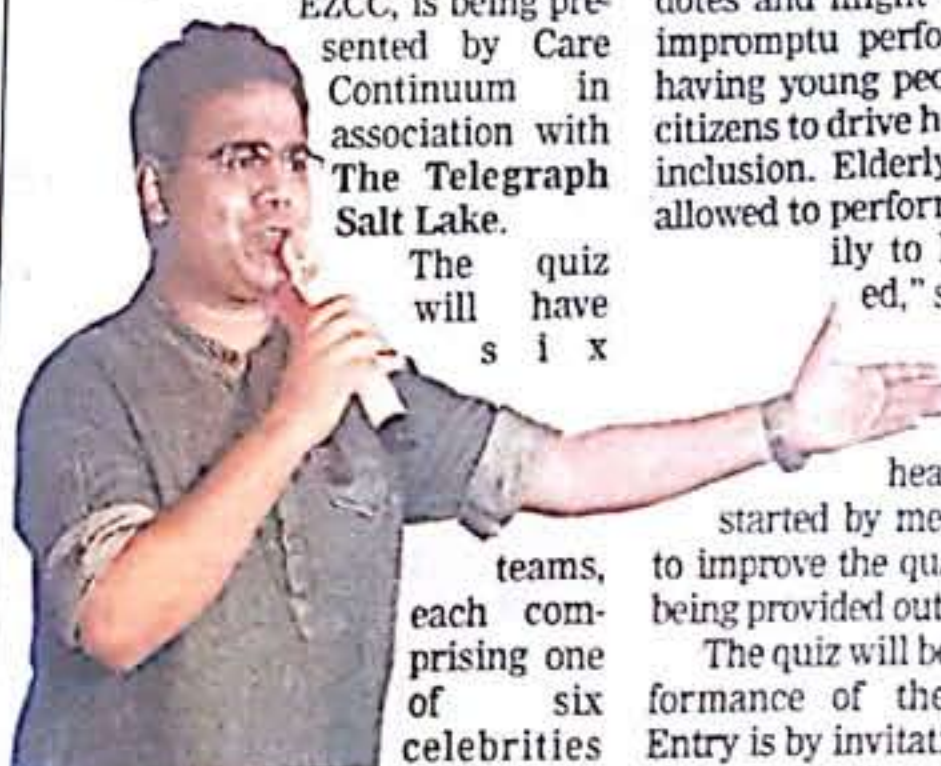
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Watch Mir quiz celebs

You have watched them sing on stage, play on the field, act on screen... This Saturday evening, they will be fielding questions from Mir (picture below) as he takes the mic as a quizmaster. An evening with the stars at Purbashree, EZCC, is being presented by Care Continuum in association with The Telegraph Salt Lake.



The quiz will have six

teams, each comprising one of six celebrities

— Barun Chanda, Anusua Majumdar, Sambaran Banerjee, Siddhartha "Topshe" Chatterjee, Usha Uthup and Deepankar De — paired with a young student or professional. In between fighting for points, they will be sharing anecdotes and might even be delivering impromptu performances. "We are having young people partner senior citizens to drive home the message of inclusion. Elderly people should be allowed to perform a role in the family to let them feel needed," said an official of

Care Continuum, which is a home healthcare company started by medical professionals to improve the quality of healthcare being provided outside hospitals.

The quiz will be followed by a performance of the band Bandage. Entry is by invitation.

Mayor unwell

SHOWLI CHAKRABORTY

Sabyasachi Dutta, the mayor of Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation, was admitted to Apollo Gleneagles Hospital last week. He underwent a surgery after complaining of prostrate gland-related issues.

Deputy mayor Tapas Chatterjee said: "The mayor was hospitalised for about a week. I visited him at the hospital. The surgery went fine and he was released from hospital after a week. He is now recuperating at home. He is expected to join work in the first week of May."

Sources at Paura Bhavan said the monthly meeting of the board of councillors could not be held in April owing to the mayor's absence. "Several new projects are in the pipeline. But we cannot discuss them as the mayor is supposed to make the announcements. Once he is back all pending work will be back on track," added Chatterjee.