

## Advanced Educational Activities Pvt. Ltd.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE (APRIL 2025)

#### INTERNATIONAL

##### **Hungary withdraws from ICC**

Hungary's government has announced its withdrawal from the International Criminal Court (ICC), just before Prime Minister Viktor Orban received his Israeli counterpart, Benjamin Netanyahu, who faces an ICC arrest warrant.

##### **Bangladesh assumes Chairmanship of BIMSTEC**

Bangladesh has assumed the chairmanship of the regional grouping – Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) – for the next two years.

##### **Myanmar Quake Toll Tops 3,400**

The death toll from the March 28 magnitude 7.7 quake in Myanmar has risen to at least 3,471, with over 4,600 injured and 214 missing.

##### **Quad nations pledge \$20 million in aid for Myanmar earthquake relief**

The Quad partners consisting of Australia, India, Japan and the US have so far committed humanitarian assistance estimated at a combined value of over 20 million dollars to quake hit Myanmar.

##### **US starts collecting President Trump's new 10% tariff on all imports**

The United States customs agents have begun collecting President Donald Trump's unilateral 10 per cent tariff on all imports from many countries.

##### **Brazil Proposes Global Climate Council Ahead of COP30**

Brazil has proposed the creation of a new international body "Climate Change Council" to accelerate global climate action. The plan is shared ahead of this year's UN climate conference (Conference of the Parties – COP30) in Belem, a city in northern Brazil, in November 2025.

##### **South Korea sets June 3 snap election after Yoon's Removal**

The South Korean government has approved June 3 as the date for a snap presidential election, following the removal from office of Yoon Suk Yeol last week over his short-lived declaration of martial law.

##### **Trump announces 90-day 'pause' on reciprocal tariffs for all but China**

President Donald Trump has dropped new tariff rates on imports from most U.S. trade partners to 10% for 90 days to allow trade negotiations with those countries. He also raised the tariffs imposed on imports from China to 125% effective immediately.

##### **Roof Collapse at Dominican Nightclub Kills 124**

At least 124 people have been killed and more than 150 injured after a roof collapsed at a nightclub in the Dominican Republic's capital, Santo Domingo.

##### **Mauritius becomes first African country to sign ISA's Country Partnership Framework**

Mauritius has become the first African country to sign a Country Partnership Framework (CPF) with the International Solar Alliance (ISA). It is also the fourth country globally, after Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Cuba, to sign the CPF.

##### **Pakistan deports Afghan refugees since April 1**

Pakistan has deported over 11 thousand Afghan refugees after a deadline for their voluntary return expired last week.

##### **Syria, South Korea Establish Formal Diplomatic Relations**

South Korea and Syria have formally established diplomatic relations, in another milestone for the transitional government of Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa.

##### **US Orders Foreign Nationals To Register Under Alien Act Or Face Arrest, Deportation**

In United States, the White House has announced that all foreign nationals residing in the country for over 30 days must register with the federal government or face strict penalties, including fines, imprisonment, and deportation.

##### **Russia reiterates its support for India's bid for permanent seat in UNSC**

Russia has reiterated its support for India's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council and expressed optimism that the partnership between the two countries will continue to grow in the years ahead. congratulated India on the occasion.

##### **UAE assumes Chair of INTERPOL Committee on Governance**

The UAE, represented by the Ministry of Interior, has been elected to chair INTERPOL's Committee on Governance, a key body which advises the organisation's leadership. As Chair of the Committee on Governance for a two-year term, the UAE will lead discussions and facilitate decision-making within the committee.

##### **WHO Member States Finalize Landmark Pandemic Agreement**

Member states of the World Health Organization (WHO) have finalized a historic agreement to prepare the world for future pandemics, following negotiations that spanned over three years. The agreement calls for technology transfers to be incentivised through regulations, licensing agreements, and favourable financing conditions

##### **Major Nations Agree on First-Ever Global Fee on Greenhouse Gases**

Many of the world's largest shipping nations have decided to impose a minimum fee of \$100 for every ton of greenhouse gases emitted by ships above certain thresholds, in what is effectively the first global tax on greenhouse gas emissions.

##### **Thousands hit streets in '50501' anti-Trump protests across US**

In the United States, thousands of people across the country joined protests against President Donald Trump in a movement called "50501" which is a short for "50 protests, 50 states, 1 movement."

##### **Pakistan closes airspace to Indian airlines amid rising tensions**

Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan due to the Pahalgam terror attack, Pakistan said it will bar Indian airlines from using its airspace.

##### **UNDP joins Global Network to help countries cope with climate change impacts**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has announced its membership in the Santiago Network, a global initiative that connects technical experts and organizations dedicated to helping vulnerable countries and communities confront the irreversible impacts of loss and damage due to climate change.

##### **DR Congo and Republic of Rwanda agree to draft a peace agreement**

The Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Rwanda have agreed to draft a peace agreement by May 2 and to end their support for armed groups.

### **Canadians votes for new govt on April 28**

Canadians voted on April 28 to elect a new government. They will elect a 343-member House of Commons. A party or combination of parties securing 172 seats will form the government. A total of 28 million registered voters will exercise their franchise.

### **New initiative launched to revive oceans through community-led protection**

A new global initiative called 'Revive Our Ocean' was launched with a goal to scale up effective, community-led marine protected areas (MPAs) through local action. The initiative hopes to remove key barriers that prevent coastal communities from protecting and managing their ocean spaces and aims to inspire, enable and equip communities to lead marine conservation efforts.

### **Uganda Declares End to Ebola Sudan Virus Outbreak**

Uganda has declared an end to the Ebola Sudan Virus Disease (SVD) outbreak after completing a 42-day mandatory countdown without any new confirmed cases reported.

### **Russia confirms for 1st time North Korean troop dispatch to Ukraine war**

Russia has confirmed for the first time that North Korean troops have been deployed and are fighting alongside Moscow in the war against Ukraine.

### **Vietnam celebrates the end of the war with the United State**

On April 30, 2025, Vietnam celebrated the end of the war with the United States and the formation of its modern nation 50 years ago with a military parade and a focus on a future of peace.

### **Liberals fall short of an outright majority in Canada.**

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's liberals celebrated an election victory but fell short of winning an outright majority in the Parliament, and the party will have to seek help from another, smaller party.

## **NATIONAL**

### **India, Sri Lanka Ink Key Deals in Defence, Energy & Trade to Boost Strategic Ties**

India and Sri Lanka signed several agreements in various sectors, including defence and energy, have been signed in the presence of the two leaders. A tripartite agreement along with the UAE for the development of Trincomalee as an energy hub was also signed.

### **Operation Brahma: India sends aid to Myanmar**

Operation Brahma is a Indian government initiative to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to Myanmar following a devastating earthquake. India has sent a substantial amount of aid, including relief materials and medical personnel, to help the affected population.

### **14th Indo-Russian Naval EX INDRA 2025 held in Chennai**

The 14th edition of the biennial India-Russia joint Naval exercise Indra was held at the Chennai coast in the Bay of Bengal. The Indra maritime exercise 2025 took place in two phases from 28th March to 2nd April 2025.

### **Indian Army successfully tests kamikaze drone with anti-tank munition**

In a first-of-its-kind project, the Indian Army's Fleur-De-Lis Brigade has successfully tested a First Person View (FPV) drone equipped with an impact-based, kamikaze-role anti-tank munition. The test was carried out in the general area of Pathankot in Punjab.

### **Fourth Edition of Exercise Tiger Triumph held**

Exercise Tiger Triumph 2025, a joint India-US tri-service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise, was held from April 1 to April 13 at at Visakhapatnam. The exercise involved the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force, along with their US counterparts.

### **India Commemorates 52 Years of Project Tiger**

On April 1, India celebrated 52 years of Project Tiger, a pioneering initiative that transformed the landscape of wildlife conservation. On April 1, 1973, the Government of India launched Project Tiger to protect the country's dwindling tiger population.

### **PM Narendra Modi attends BIMSTEC Meet**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a two-day visit to Thailand to participate in the 6th BIMSTEC Summit. The theme of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit, is "BIMSTEC – Prosperous, Resilient and Open.

### **First Visit by the President of India to Slovakia in 29 Years**

President Droupadi Murmu embarked on a four-day state visit to Portugal and Slovakia from the 7th of April. This will be the first visit by the President of India to Slovakia in 29 years.

### **Parliament Passes the Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025**

After the approval of the Rajya Sabha, the Parliament passed the Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025. The legislation seeks to regulate the immigration, entry, and stay of foreigners in India.

### **ISRO Completes a 1,000-Hour Life Test**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced the successful completion of a 1,000-hour life test on its 300 Milli Newton Stationary Plasma Thruster, developed for induction in the Electric Propulsion System of Satellites.

### **Kumbakonam betel leaf, Thovalai maanikka maalai get GI tags**

The famous Kumbakonam vetrilai (Kumbakonam betel leaf) and Thovalai maanikka maalai have been given the Geographical Indications (GI) tag thereby taking the number of GI products of Tamil Nadu to 62.

### **13,000 sq km of forest area encroached in 25 states, UTs data**

Over 13,000 square kilometres of forest area is under encroachment in 25 states and Union territories that have so far submitted data to the Union environment ministry.

Madhya Pradesh had the highest forest encroachment, with 5,460.9 square kilometres affected.

### **PM Modi Announces "Yoga For One Earth, One Health" As 2025 Yoga Day Theme**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced "Yoga for One Earth, One Health" as the theme of this year's International Day of Yoga. The United Nations proclaimed June 21 as the International Day of Yoga

### **MGNREGA wage revised to ₹370 a day from April 1**

The daily wage for workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has been revised from ₹349 to ₹370 a person, with effect from April 1. Both men and women receive equal wages under the MGNREGA.

### **India & Thailand ink six agreements in various fields**

India and Thailand have signed six agreements for cooperation in various fields including IT, maritime, MSME, handicraft and handloom sectors. Prime Minister Modi announced the decision to elevate the India-Thailand relationship to a Strategic Partnership.

### **Parliament passes Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2025 as Rajya Sabha grants approval**

Parliament has passed the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, with the Rajya Sabha approving it. The Upper House cleared the Bill with 128 members voting in favour of it while 95 members voted against the legislation

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2025 aims to streamline the management of Waqf properties, with provisions to safeguard heritage sites and promote social welfare.

### **Four successful flight tests Medium-Range Surface to Air missile by DRDO and Army**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Army have conducted four successful flight tests of the Army version of the Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile from Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

### **Sex ratio at birth rises from 918 to 930**

The Central government has said that due to the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme, the sex ratio at birth has increased from 918 in 2014-15 to 930 in 2023-24 at the national level.

### **President Droupadi Murmu gives assent to Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025**

President Droupadi Murmu has given her assent to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which was passed by Parliament. After the Presidential assent, it has become a law. The President also gave assent to the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2025.

### **Centre Approves ₹1,280 Crore Disaster Aid for Bihar, Himachal, Tamil Nadu & Puducherry**

The Centre has approved over one thousand 280 crore rupees of additional assistance to Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory Puducherry as relief for the natural disasters they faced last year.

### **Centre, Delhi Govt Sign MoU to Roll Out Ayushman Bharat with ₹10 Lakh Cover per Family**

The Union Health Ministry and the Delhi Government signed a MoU to implement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana in the National Capital. This flagship scheme provides comprehensive health coverage of 5 lakh rupees per family per year across the country.

### **PM Modi Inaugurates India's 1st Vertical Lift Pamban Sea Bridge**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Pamban vertical lift sea bridge in Rameshwaram and laid the foundation for 8300 crore rupees worth of rail and road projects in Tamil Nadu. The bridge is India's first vertical lift sea bridge. The Bridge, linking Rameshwaram to the mainland

### **'Samudra Pradakshina' All-Women Tri-Services Sailing Expedition Flagged Off**

A tri-services all-women Circumnavigation Sailing Expedition, named "Samudra Pradakshina", from Mumbai to Seychelles and back, was flagged off. The expedition, featuring an all-women 12-member crew from the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force, embarked on a challenging 55-day voyage covering 4,000 nautical miles from Mumbai to Seychelles and back aboard the IASV Triveni.

### **Defence Ministry Signs ₹2,385 Cr Deal with BEL for Mi-17 V5 EW Suites**

The Ministry of Defence has inked a two thousand 385 crore rupee contract with Bharat Electronics Limited, Bengaluru, for electronic warfare suites and aircraft modification kits for Mi-17 V5 helicopters.

### **7th Poshan Pakhwada to Begin from April 8-22**

The Women and Child Development Ministry celebrated the 7th edition of Poshan Pakhwada from 8th April to 22nd April 2025 as part of the government's ongoing commitment to addressing malnutrition.

### **SC rules Tamil Nadu Governor's move to reserve 10 bills for President 'illegal'**

The Supreme Court of India, in its verdict has held that the Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi's action of reserving 10 bills for the President was "illegal and erroneous," and thus, the action was set aside. All actions taken by the governor in relation to the 10 bills are set aside.

### **Centre Notifies ₹22,919 Cr Electronics Component Scheme to Boost Atmanirbhar Bharat**

The Union government has issued a notification for the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme. Recently, the Union Cabinet approved this scheme with a funding of 22,919 crore rupees to make India Atmanirbhar in the electronics supply chain.

### **Amalsad Chikoo from Gujarat's gets GI tag**

The Amalsad Chikoo, which takes its name from a village in Gujarat's Navsari district, was awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in recognition of its "unique characteristics and deep-rooted connection to the region."

### **India's Skyroot successfully fires Kalam-100 to power Vikram-1 rocket to space**

Aerospace company, Skyroot Aerospace, has successfully conducted a static fire test of the Kalam-100 engine, which will power the third stage of its Vikram-1 launch vehicle. The Kalam-100 engine roared to life for over 102 seconds.

### **Panruti cashew, Chettikulam shallot, Puliyangudi lime, Panruti jackfruit granted GI tag**

Six unique products from the Tamil Nadu State Panruti cashew, Panruti jackfruit, Chettikulam shallot (small onion), Puliyangudi acid lime, Virudhunagar samba vathal, and Ramanathapuram chithirai rice have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags, taking the total number of GI products in the Tamil Nadu state to 69.

### **India to Procure 26 Rafale Marine Jets for Navy**

India's Cabinet Committee on Security has approved a nearly ₹64,000 crore deal with France for 26 Rafale-Marine fighter jets for INS Vikrant. The agreement includes 22 single-seat and four twin-seat trainers, along with weapons and support.

### **India-Nepal signs MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture**

India's Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Union Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Development of Nepal, Ram Nath Adhikari, signed an MoU on 'Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture between India and Nepal'.

### **Global Technology Summit 2025 held in New Delhi**

The 9th edition of the Global Technology Summit (GTS) 2025 was held in New Delhi. The theme for this year's Summit is Sambhavna

### **8th Meeting Of Joint Committee On ASEAN-India Trade In Goods Agreement Concludes**

The 8th Meeting of Joint Committee on ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA), which was hosted by India, concluded. In the fiscal year 2023-24, bilateral trade between India and ASEAN reached 121 billion US dollars.

### **SC Sets 3-Month Deadline For President To Decide On Bills Referred By Governor**

The Supreme Court has ruled that the President must decide on State Bills, reserved by Governors for Presidential assent, within three months. The Apex Court set aside Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi's decision to withhold assent to 10 pending Bills.

### **Gujarat, Telangana excel as govt releases first Panchayat Advancement Index data**

The Central government has launched a Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI), a tool to measure the progress of over 2.5 lakh gram panchayats across India on nine localised Sustainable Development Goals. As per the PAI data for 2022-23, 699 panchayats ranked as Front Runners, of which 346 are from Gujarat, followed by Telangana (270) and Tripura (42).

### **India becomes 4th nation having capabilities to shoot down fixed wing drone by laser beam**

The DRDO has announced the successful trial of a Mk-II(A) Laser- Directed Energy Weapon (DEW) system mastering the technology of disabling missiles, drones and smaller projectiles. India has joined the list of selected countries, including the US, China, and Russia, that have shown such a capability.

### **Telangana Becomes First State to Implement SC Categorisation Act**

Telangana had issued a government order on the implementation of Scheduled Castes (SC) categorisation, making it the first state in the country to do so officially.

### **IMD predicts 2025 seasonal rainfall likely to be above normal**

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has said that India can expect above-normal monsoon season this year. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) announced in its long-range forecast predicting rainfall to be around 105% of the long-period average.

### **DRDO conducts successful Release Trials of Long-Range Glide Bomb 'Gaurav'**

DRDO has successfully conducted the Release Trials of Long-Range Glide Bomb (LRGB) 'Gaurav' from the Su-30 MKI aircraft. LRGB 'Gaurav' is a 1,000 kg class glide bomb, designed and developed indigenously by Research Centre Imarat,

### **India's First Creative Tech Institute Coming to Mumbai**

The Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has signed a MoU with the Government of Maharashtra, Maharashtra Film, Stage & Cultural Development Corporation Ltd. (MFSCDCL), and the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT) for the establishment of a world-class institute dedicated to the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) sector.

### **SC sets six-month deadline for trial in child trafficking cases**

The Supreme Court of India had laid down stringent guidelines for the prevention and expedited trial of child trafficking related offences across the country. The Bench directed High Courts across the country to issue directions to lower courts to complete trials in child trafficking cases in six months.

### **Karnataka tops justice delivery in India: IJR**

According to the India Justice Report (IJR) 2025, Karnataka is the top performer in justice delivery among Indian states with a population above 10 million. Among the smaller states, Sikkim tops the list, while Goa is at the bottom.

### **6th India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise DUSTLIK-6 held in Pune**

The 6th edition of India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise DUSTLIK-6 was held at the Foreign Training Node at Aundh in Pune, Maharashtra.

### **India to provide budgetary support to IBCA**

India and the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) signed the Headquarters Agreement in New Delhi. The Agreement provides for India to be the host for the IBCA Headquarters and Secretariat. Under the agreement, the government of India will provide budgetary support of 150 crore rupees to IBCA for creating a corpus, building infrastructure, and meeting recurring expenditure for five years.

### **Railways Minister commemorates 172nd anniversary of India's 1st train journey**

Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had commemorated the 172nd anniversary of India's first train journey, recalling the historic moment when the inaugural train departed from Bori Bunder to Thane in Maharashtra on the 16th of April in 1853.

### **North Karnataka's famed Gajendragad sarees get GI tag**

North Karnataka's famed 'patteda anchu' sarees (Gajendragad sarees), much sought after for their distinctive border lines, has received the coveted Geographical Indication tag recently.

### **India Signs First Defence MoU with Slovakia**

India and Slovakia have signed their first defence MoU, with JCBL Group's defence unit Airbornics Defence & Space Pvt. Ltd. (ADSL) set to co-develop technologies for next-generation combat vehicles under India's indigenous manufacturing initiative.

### **PM Modi's book on Indian culture Sanskriti Ka Paanchva Adhyay released**

A compiled book on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's thoughts and speeches on culture titled "Sanskriti Ka Paanchva Adhyay" was released in New Delhi. The foreword of the book is written by Ram Bahadur Rai, and the compilation has been done by Dr. Prabhat Ojha.

### **ISRO Develops Indigenous Stellite Nozzle Divergent for PSLV**

ISRO has developed an alternative for the imported Columbian material used for the nozzle divergent in the fourth stage of the PSLV launch vehicle. It has indigenously developed the nozzle divergent made of Stellite. This alternate material is a cobalt-based alloy with additions of Chromium, Nickel, Tungsten and Iron.

### **Indian Air Force Joins Multinational 'Desert Flag-10'**

A contingent of the Indian Air Force reached Al Dhafra Air Base in the UAE to participate in Exercise Desert Flag-10. The exercise was hosted by the UAE Air Force, with participating contingents from the air forces of Australia, Bahrain, France, Germany, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Republic of Korea, Turkey, UAE, United Kingdom, and United States of America in addition to the Indian Air Force.

### **Japan to gift Shinkansen to India for Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project**

Japan is set to gift two of its iconic Shinkansen trains to India for trial and inspection purposes. The train sets from Japan would be used to make trial runs in the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train corridor, which is currently under construction.

### **India's first prototype fast-breeder reactor to be commissioned by September 2026**

India's first prototype fast-breeder reactor in Tamil Nadu's Kalpakkam is expected to be commissioned next year, nearly two years after it got the go-ahead from the nuclear regulator.

### **OU Arts College becomes the 3rd registered trademarked building in India**

The Arts College building of Hyderabad's Osmania University (OU) has become the third structure in India to receive trademark registration for its exterior design. India already has two trademarked buildings – the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel and the Bombay Stock Exchange building in Mumbai.

### **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra to resume via Uttarakhand route from June 30**

The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is set to resume on 30th June after a four-year suspension following the COVID-19 pandemic. This pilgrimage will take place via the Uttarakhand route.

### **India's largest cruise terminal opens in Mumbai**

The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), Sarbananda Sonowal, flagged off Cruise Operations from the Mumbai International Cruise Terminal (MICT), India's largest cruise terminal.

### **C-DOT and Sterlite Technologies Ltd. (STL) achieve India's First Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)**

In a landmark achievement, C-DOT, jointly with Sterlite Technologies Limited (STL), has successfully tested India's first Quantum Key Distribution, QKD transmission over a 4-core Multi-Core Fibre (MCF) — marking a major milestone in the nation's journey towards quantum-secured communication networks.

### **India Suspends Indus Waters Treaty, Shuts Attari Border**

India has taken a series of strong measures following the Pahalgam terror attack, including suspending the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960, and closing the Integrated Check Post Attari with immediate effect. It is part of the five-pronged response that was decided upon after PM Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) in the aftermath of the terror strike in Pahalgam that left 26 dead.

### **National Campaign launched to eliminate Measles-Rubella by 2026**

The National Zero Measles-Rubella Elimination campaign 2025-26 was launched in New Delhi on the first day of the World Immunisation Week. This marks a significant step towards India's goal of eliminating Measles and Rubella by 2026.

### **MSDE, Microsoft come together to launch 'AI Careers for Women'**

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Microsoft have signed a MoU to launch AI Careers for Women—a pioneering skilling initiative aimed at empowering women in higher education institutions to pursue careers in Artificial Intelligence (AI).

### **INS Surat test-fires surface-to-air missile in Arabian Sea**

Indian Navy's guided missile destroyer INS Surat successfully test-fired a medium-range surface-to-air missile (MR-SAM) in the Arabian Sea. The missile has a range of around 70 km.

### **Uttarakhand to make 1 lakh people learn Sanskrit to make it 'common' spoken language**

With an aim to promote Sanskrit, the second official language of the State, as common spoken language, the Uttarakhand government announced it will make 1 lakh people learn the language through classroom or online mode.

### **DRDO Achieves Major Milestone in Scramjet Engine Development**

DRDO has achieved a significant milestone in Scramjet Engine Development by conducting Active Cooled Scramjet Subscale Combustor ground testing for over 1,000 seconds. The ground test is in continuation of the earlier test reported for 120 seconds in January.

### **Similipal becomes India's 107th national park, largest in Odisha**

Similipal has been accorded national park status, with a formal notification issued by the Odisha government. An area of 845.70 sq km spread across 11 ranges of Similipal south and Similipal north divisions was declared as a national park. It is now the 107th national park in the country.

### **India Lifts Over 17.1 Crore People Out of Extreme Poverty in a Decade: World Bank Report**

According to the World Bank's Spring 2025 Poverty and Equity report, India has successfully lifted over 17.1 crore people out of extreme poverty in the last ten years. Five states- Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh- accounted for two-thirds of the overall decline in extreme poverty.

### **ISRO takes up lead role of 'International Charter Space and Major Disasters'**

India, through ISRO assumed the lead role of the "International Charter Space and Major Disasters" for six months from April 2025. The lead role tenure started with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)/ISRO organising the 53rd meeting of the Charter in Hyderabad during April 14-17.

### **India's first indigenously developed HPV test kits for cervical cancer screening validated**

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), through its Grand Challenges India (GCI) initiative at BIRAC, has announced the successful scientific review and validation of India's first indigenously developed Human Papillomavirus (HPV) test kits for cervical cancer screening. These test kits, Pathodetect developed by Molbio Diagnostics Limited, and Mylabs RTPCR-based HPV diagnostic test kit

### **Beyond the Courtroom: Fali Nariman's legal legacy**

Beyond the Courtroom, presents a meticulously curated selection of Fali Nariman's most influential speeches, groundbreaking articles, and illuminating lectures, showcasing the vast breadth and depth of his legal and constitutional expertise.

### **India signs deal with France to procure 26 Rafale Marine fighter aircraft**

India signed a defence deal with France to procure 26 Rafale Marine fighter aircraft. The Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) was signed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister of Armed Forces of France Sebastien Lecornu in New Delhi.

### **Ayushman Vay Vandana Cards launched in Delhi**

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri, along with Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, launched the Ayushman Vay Vandana Cards for Delhiites in New Delhi. The scheme provides 5 lakh rupees free health cover to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status.

### **ISRO Conducts Short-Duration Hot Test of Semicryogenic Engine**

The ISRO has successfully carried out a short-duration hot test of its semicryogenic engine. This engine, which uses refined kerosene (RP-1) and liquid oxygen (LOX) as propellants, is a crucial development for India's future heavy-lift launch vehicles.

### **The Char Dham Yatra, 2025, gets underway.**

The Char Dham Yatra began on April 30, 2025, in Uttarakhand with the opening of the portals of Gangotri and Yamunotri Dham in the Uttarkashi district.

### **Operation Kagar is underway in the districts bordering Telangana and Chhattisgarh.**

As a part of Operation Kagar, security personnel are actively conducting combing operations, meticulously searching the thick forests to counter Maoist activities.

### **GI Tag for Chapata Chilli**

Grown on about 3,000 hectares in some villages in Warangal, Hanmakonda, Mulugu, and Bhupalalli districts, the Chapata chilli, or tomato chilli, got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

## **BANKING & ECONOMY**

### **Centre to increase stake in Vodafone Idea to 48.99%**

Ministry of Communications will inject ₹36,950 crore in Vodafone Idea raising its stake to 48.99% as the telecom company's spectrum auction dues have been converted to equity shares.

### **Renault to acquire Nissan's 51% stake in Indian JV**

Renault Group of France and Nissan of Japan have signed a Framework Agreement by which Renault Group would control 100% equity in Renault Nissan Automotive India Private Ltd (RNAIPL) by acquiring 51% stake owned by Nissan in the joint venture which has its manufacturing facility in Chennai.

### **Ambuj Chandna joins DBS Bank India as MD**

Kotak Mahindra Bank's Ambuj Chandna has joined DBS Bank India as MD and Head of Consumer Banking group. Chandna was earlier President and Head of Consumer Bank (Products) at Kotak Mahindra Bank.

### **CS Setty Elected as Chairman of Indian Banks' Association**

Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, Chairman of SBI, has been elected as the new Chairman of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA). The IBA also elected three deputy chairmen to assist Setty in his role.

### **RBI raises liquidity limit for standalone primary dealers to ₹15,000 cr**

The RBI raised the aggregate limit available to Standalone Primary Dealers (SPDs) under the Standing Liquidity Facility at the prevailing repo rate, from ₹10,000 crore to ₹15,000 crore, effective from April 2, 2025.

### **Federal Bank to buy additional 4% stake in Ageas Federal Life Insurance**

Federal Bank has signed an agreement to acquire an additional 4 per cent stake in Ageas Federal Life Insurance from Ageas Insurance International. With this, the stake of Federal Bank in Ageas Federal will rise to 30 per cent, from 26 per cent.

### **Microsoft turns 50**

Microsoft is now 50 years old. It celebrated its 50th anniversary on March 28. Microsoft is now worth \$2.9 trillion, making it the second most valuable company after Apple.

### **98.21 Percent of the 2000-Rupee Bank Notes Have Been Returned**

98.21 percent of the 2000-rupee bank notes have been returned to the banking system, as per the RBI. On May 19, 2023, the RBI announced the withdrawal of banknotes of the 2000 rupee denomination from circulation.

### **NHAI Increases Toll Charges Nationwide**

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has increased toll charges by 4 to 5 percent nationwide. The hike, effective immediately, will help fund highway maintenance and expansion.

### **EPFO Empannels 15 More Banks**

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) today expanded its Multi-Banking Centralised Collection System by empanelling 15 more banks, bringing the total to 32.

### **Donald Trump Imposes Sweeping Tariffs**

US President Donald Trump has announced a 27% reciprocal tariff on India. The U.S. has also imposed hefty tariffs on competitors such as China and Vietnam.

### **Poonam Gupta Named Deputy Governor of RBI**

Centre named Poonam Gupta as the new RBI Deputy Governor for a period of three years. Poonam Gupta succeeds Michael Patra, who acted as RBI Deputy Governor between January 2020 and January 2025.

**Sivasubramanian Ramann appointed as PFRDA chairman**  
Centre appointed Sivasubramanian Ramann as the new Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

### **Paradip Port becomes numero uno in FY 2023-24**

Paradip Port Authority (PPA's) has reached new heights with the recent record-breaking achievement of clocking incredible 145.38 MMT cargo throughput in FY 2023-24 and thus by nudged passed Deendayal Port, Kandla to emerge as the highest cargo handling major port of the country.

### **India's external debt rises to \$717.9 bn at December-end**

India's external debt rose by 10.7% to USD 717.9 billion in December 2024 from USD 648.7 billion in December 2023, with a slight 0.7% quarter-on-quarter increase. The external debt to GDP ratio was 19.1%.

### **Droupadi Murmu released a Special Postage Stamp Celebrating 90th anniversary of the RBI**

President of India, Droupadi Murmu, released a special Postage Stamp to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), Mumbai. The Reserve Bank of India was established on April 1, 1935 at its iconic building in Kolkata.

### **NABARD and SBI forge strategic partnership for sustainable growth of rural Assam**

NABARD and SBI have signed an MoU to boost rural growth in Assam. The partnership aims to finance ₹500 crores in FY 2025-26, with a target of ₹1,000 crores annually thereafter.

### **Japan to give crypto assets legal status as financial products**

Japan's Financial Services Agency (FSA) plans to revise the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act to give crypto assets a legal status as financial products.

### **Axis Bank first to go live with a pioneering B2B Collections Solution for a Fortune 500 company**

Axis Bank has partnered with a Fortune 500 company in India to provide B2B collections utilising NBBL's Bharat Connect (Erstwhile BBPS). With this, Axis Bank becomes the first Bank to go live in implementing this pioneering solution, leveraging its best-in-class, robust API stack.

### **China retaliates by announcing 34 % additional tariffs on US goods**

China announced additional tariffs of 34 per cent on U.S. goods, the most serious escalation in a trade war with US President Donald Trump that has fed fears of a recession.

### **India ranks 10th with \$1.4 billion private investment in AI: UN**

According to the 2025 Technology and Innovation Report issued by UNCTAD, India has been ranked 10th in the world with significant private investments in Artificial Intelligence (AI) in 2023. India ranked 36th in 2024 on the Readiness for Frontier Technologies Index, improving its position from 48th in 2022. The US leads the world in terms of private investment in AI.

### **Hanwha Aerospace signs \$254 million deal to supply K9 howitzers to India**

Hanwha Aerospace Co., a leading South Korean defense company has signed a 370 billion won (\$254 million) deal to supply K9 self-propelled howitzers to India.

### **RBI to issue ₹10, ₹500 notes in new series bearing Gov. Malhotra's signature**

The Reserve Bank of India will issue ₹10 and ₹500 denomination banknotes in Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series bearing the signature of the new RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

### **Paras Defence inks pact with MicroCon for drone camera supply**

Paras Defence and Space Technologies has signed an initial pact with Israeli firms Controp and MicroCon Vision for drone camera technology supply in India.

### **Citi, SBI announce \$295 million Social Loan facility**

Citi and SBI have announced a Social Loan facility of \$295 million, whereby the latter will utilize the facility to finance its Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loan portfolio, to help meet the credit requirements of the agricultural sector, and within this, smallholder farmers.

### **Federal Bank launches Fed StarBiz credit card for business customers**

Federal Bank has introduced Fed StarBiz, a credit card designed specifically for business customers, in partnership with NPCI and Visa.

### **Forbes Billionaires List 2025: Elon Musk retains top spot**

According to the Forbes Billionaires List 2025, Elon Musk has retained his number-one position on the Forbes Billionaires List 2025. Meanwhile, India, with 205 billionaires overall, ranks third on the Forbes' annual Billionaires List, following the United States and China.

### **India logged 93.23 billion UPI transactions worth ₹130.19 trillion during H2FY24**

According to 'India Digital Payments study released by Worldline, India's UPI transactions volumes grew 42% year-on-year, during the second half of FY2024, reaching a total of 93.23 billion transactions worth ₹130.19 trillion.

### **HDFC, IDFC First, Stock Holding Corp designated as corporate agents in GIFT City**

HDFC Bank Ltd, IFSC unit of IDFC First Bank and Stock Holding Securities IFSC Ltd are among the first entities who have become corporate agents in GIFT City. Corporate agents are insurance intermediaries that usually represent an insurance company and take the insurance products to a wider audience.

### **Delhivery to acquire controlling stake in Ecom Express for ₹1,400 crore**

Logistics company Delhivery Ltd has signed a definitive agreement to acquire a controlling stake in Ecom Express Ltd. for cash consideration of ₹1,400 crore from its shareholders.

### **Over ₹32 lakh crore sanctioned under PM Mudra Yojana**

India's Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana completed 10 years on 8th April 2025. Over 52 crore loans worth more than 32 lakh crore rupees have been sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana till date.

### **MeitY launches Digital Threat Report 2024 for banking, financial services, insurance sector**

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has launched the Digital Threat Report 2024 for the Banking, Financial Services, and insurance (BFSI) sector.

### **SEBI issues framework for performance validation agency**

SEBI issued the framework for Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA) — a performance validation body that will verify claims on performance by research analysts, investment advisors, and algo providers.

### **Centre raises LPG price by ₹50**

The Finance Ministry has hiked the price of domestic liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by ₹50 per cylinder, in both subsidised and non-subsidised categories. While it also notified an increase in excise duties on petrol and diesel by ₹2.

### **Centre Merges 26 RRBs Under 'One State, One RRB' Plan to Boost Efficiency**

The Department of Financial Services (DFS) has notified the amalgamation of 26 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) under the "One State, One RRB" principle. This is the fourth phase of the RRB consolidation process.

### **Kerala Startup Mission Signs MoU With Kotak Mahindra Bank**

Kotak Mahindra Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM), a nodal agency dedicated to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship under the Government of Kerala.

### **MoU worth \$50 billion signed at NXT25 Summit'**

MoUs worth approximately \$50 billion were announced between the Government of Maharashtra and leading domestic and global investors at the India Global Forum's NXT25 Summit held in Mumbai.

### **Bank of Baroda introduces 'bob Square Drive Deposit Scheme'**

Bank of Baroda has announced the launch of a new retail term deposit scheme – the 'bob Square Drive Deposit Scheme', a 444-day term deposit scheme offering an interest rate of 7.15% p.a. for the general public, 7.65% p.a. for senior citizens,

### **Axis Bank starts 'in-app mobile OTP' to protect users from frauds, scams**

Axis Bank has introduced an industry-first 'In-App Mobile OTP' feature on its mobile app, 'open', to enhance authentication security and protect customers from rising OTP-related frauds and scams.

### **RBI cuts repo rate by 0.25%**

The Reserve Bank of India reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6%. It has also decided to slash the GDP growth to 6.5 per cent in 2025-26 from 6.7 per cent projected earlier. Retail inflation is expected to be 4 per cent in 2025-26.

### **RBI permits NPCI to enhance transaction limits in UPI for P2M payments**

RBI has permitted NPCI to upwardly revise transaction limits in UPI for person-to-merchant payments (P2M) based on evolving user needs.

### **JUSPAY has officially become India's first unicorn of 2025.**

Payments infra startup JUSPAY had raised \$60 million in a Series D round led by Kedaara Capital, with participation from SoftBank and Accel. Though it fell short of the anticipated \$150M, the raise pushed Juspay past the \$1 billion valuation mark, making it India's first unicorn of the year.

### **RBI mulls securitisation of stressed assets**

RBI has proposed introducing securitisation of stressed assets via market mechanism to ease the burden of stressed assets on banks. The policy will enable lenders with stressed assets to bundle them together into tradeable securities to share the risk of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs).

### **RBI proposes framework to expand co-lending**

RBI has expanded the scope of co-lending pacts beyond priority-sector loans (PSL), allowing more regulated entities to structure deals that would route formal financing to smaller non-PSL businesses crucial for boosting both growth and jobs locally.

### **RBI issues draft revised norms for non-fund based credit facilities**

RBI had issued comprehensive draft norms regulating non-fund-based (NFB) credit limits such as letters of credit and guarantees across regulated entities (REs). The revision will also cover rules pertaining to partial credit enhancement (PCE) provided by REs to broaden the funding sources for infrastructure financing.

### **Bandhan Bank launches savings account for HNIs**

Bandhan Bank has launched a new savings account called 'Elite Plus', aimed at high net-worth individuals (HNIs). The account offers unlimited cash deposits and free RTGS, NEFT, and IMPS transactions.

### **Piyush Goyal launches Startup India Desk helpline for Indian entrepreneurs**

Union minister for commerce and industry, Piyush Goyal has launched a dedicated "Startup India Desk" — a helpline number for emerging entrepreneurs in India. The helpline, a four-digit toll free number, will also be accessible in multiple regional languages

### **RBI to make regulatory sandbox facility available 'on tap'**

The RBI has proposed making its Regulatory Sandbox 'Theme Neutral' and 'On Tap', allowing continuous access for eligible fintech innovations. This move aims to foster ongoing innovation beyond the limited-time thematic cohorts launched since 2019.

### **Tata Steel Recognised as 2025 Steel Sustainability Champion by worldsteel**

The World Steel Association (worldsteel) has recognised 14 companies as Steel Sustainability Champions for their work in 2024. Tata Steel has been recognised as a Steel Sustainability Champion 2025 by worldsteel for the eighth consecutive year.

### **RBI prescribe norms for gold loans**

In a bid to safeguard interest of borrowers, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had issued draft guidelines on prudential norms and conduct-related aspects for gold loans urging lenders to have uniform documentation for such instruments. This will ensure consistency in customer treatment, risk assessment, and asset valuation practices.

### **India's forex reserves rise to \$676.3 billion**

India's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$676.3 billion as of April 4, the highest level in five months and gaining for a fifth consecutive week. The reserves provide an import cover of about 11 months.

### **India's exports surge to record \$820 billion in 2024-25**

India's goods and services exports have crossed a record 820 billion US dollars in the financial year 2024-25, despite economic uncertainties in global markets.

### **Neelam Timsina appointed as acting Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank**

Deputy Governor Dr Neelam Dhungana Timsina has been appointed as acting governor of Nepal Rastra Bank for the time being.

### **China introduces 'gold recycling ATM'**

China launched its first "gold recycling ATM," a high-tech innovative machine that allows users to exchange their gold jewellery for instant cash in a matter of minutes.

### **SEBI appoints high-level panel to review conflict of interest.**

SEBI has constituted a high-level committee (HLC) to review conflict of interest among board members and employees of the securities market regulators, in line with the decision made at the board meeting last month. The committee will be chaired by Pratyush Sinha, a former chief vigilance commissioner.

### **IOC to invest ₹61,000 crore in mega petrochemical project in Odisha**

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will invest over ₹61,000 crore in setting up a mega petrochemical complex at Paradip in Odisha to meet the rising demand for petrochemicals in the world's fastest-growing economy.

### **IMF reaches preliminary deal with Argentina on \$20 billion bailout**

The International Monetary Fund has reached a preliminary, staff-level agreement with cash-strapped Argentina on a \$20 billion bailout.

### **Industrial Production Slows to 6-Month Low of 2.9% in February 2025**

India's industrial output growth decelerated to a six-month low of 2.9% in February 2025, reflecting a slowdown in manufacturing and mining activities.

### **China Imposes 125 % Tariff On US Goods**

China's 125 per cent tariff on United States' goods comes into effect. The move came after US President Donald Trump raised the tariffs for China to 145 per cent earlier this week.

### **UPI outage disrupts digital payments across India**

Digital transactions across India were disrupted on Saturday as the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) faced a widespread outage, leaving users unable to complete payments on platforms like Google Pay and Paytm.

### **Global Gold Prices Hit Record High**

Global gold prices surged to another record high last week following the escalating trade war tension and a weakening US dollar. Spot gold price in international markets jumped 6.4 percent this week to touch a new peak of 3,245 dollars per ounce on April 11.

**Equity MF inflows sink to an 11-month low amid volatility**

Net inflows into equity mutual fund schemes in March in India declined 14.4% to ₹25,082 crore, amid global market shocks, data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed.

**SEBI clarifies rules for Specialized Investment Funds:**

SEBI has issued important clarifications around its regulatory framework for Specialized Investment Funds (SIFs). SEBI has now explicitly stated that the ₹10 lakh minimum investment requirement applies at the PAN level across all SIF strategies of an asset management company (AMC)—not per scheme.

**NaBFID and New Development Bank Sign MoU for sustainable financing**

The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) has signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the New Development Bank (NDB) to accelerate infrastructure development and sustainable financing in India.

**Razorpay launches Turbo UPI Plugin on BHIM Vega platform**

Fintech firm Razorpay has partnered with NPCI BHIM Services Ltd (NBSL) and Axis Bank to launch the Razorpay Turbo UPI plugin on the BHIM Vega platform.

**Major banks cut lending, deposit rates following RBI's repo rate cut**

Major Indian banks have cut their lending and deposit rates following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 50 basis points cut in repo rate in 2025. HDFC Bank cut its deposit interest rates by 25 basis points. SBI cut repo rate linked lending rates by 25 basis points to 8.25%.

**FPIs have withdrawn ₹31,575 crore from equities in April over tariff fears**

Foreign investors have pulled out ₹31,575 crore from India's equity markets so far this month in the wake of turbulence created by sweeping tariffs imposed by the U.S. on most nations, including India.

**Exports rise to 0.7% to \$41.97 billion in March**

India's exports grew marginally by 0.7% to \$41.97 billion in March, while the trade deficit stood at \$21.54 billion in the month. Imports increased by 11.3% year-on-year to \$63.51 billion in March.

**Retail inflation eases to 3.34%**

India's retail inflation eased to a five-and-a-half-year low of 3.34% in March, from 3.61% in the previous month, mostly due to lower food prices.

**Swiggy enters 'gig worker' services market**

Food delivery service provider Swiggy is diversifying its offering with a platform that lets people find professional freelancers. Through the new Pyng app, users can find verified professional freelancers across several specializations.

**US announces sweeping retaliatory tariffs of up to 245% on Chinese imports**

US President Donald Trump's administration has announced a sweeping new retaliatory tariffs of up to 245 per cent on imports of Chinese goods, sharply escalating the trade conflict between the two countries.

**Wholesale inflation eases to 2.05% in March**

Wholesale price inflation eased to 2.05% in March, as against 2.38% in February. The wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation, however, rose year-on-year. It was 0.26% in March 2024.

**PNB unveils 34 new products**

Public-Sector lender, Punjab National Bank has launched 34 new products, including 12 customer-centric deposit scheme and 10 digital transformation products. The innovative products were launched on the occasion of its 131st foundation day.

**Accounting lapses in derivative portfolio to cost IndusInd Bank ₹1,979 crore**

IndusInd Bank said that accounting lapses in the derivative portfolio will have a negative impact of ₹1,979 crore on the bank's net worth.

**WTO forecasts slump in Global trade this year due to tariff war**

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has released its Trade Forecast for 2025 and 2026. The WTO said it expected trade in goods to fall by 0.2% this year, down from its expectation in October of 3.0% expansion.

**UNCTAD projects India's economy to grow by 6.5% in 2025**

According to the latest UNCTAD report, India is expected to remain the fastest-growing major economy with a 6.5 per cent growth rate in 2025 while global growth is seen as marking a shift towards a recessionary path.

**ECB Cuts Interest Rates to 2.25%**

The European Central Bank, ECB has cut interest rates by 25 basis points to 2.25 percent in response to slowing growth and US President Donald Trump's tariffs.

**FM Sitharaman Hails BSE's 150-Year Legacy, Launches BSE 150 Index**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the BSE 150 Index, a new benchmark index designed to track the performance of the top 150 listed companies based on market capitalization and liquidity. She lauded the BSE technological advancements as it, marked a historic milestone as it celebrated its 150th anniversary.

**India's exports record 820.93 billion dollars in FY 2024-25**

India's total exports of goods and services registered a growth of 5.5 per cent, reaching a record 820.93 billion dollars during April- March 2024-25, compared to 778.13 billion dollars in the previous fiscal year, despite the uncertainties in the global market.

**JSW Steel to invest up to ₹60,000 crore in making green steel in Maharashtra**

JSW Steel Ltd. is planning to invest ₹50,000-₹60,000 crore in putting up a 10 million tonne per annum green steel plant at Salav in Maharashtra.

**Civil Aviation Minister named among WEF's young global leaders**

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has named Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu and six others from India among the young global leaders. Apart from Naidu, there are six others from India on the list. They are Ritesh Agarwal, Founder and Group Chief Executive Officer, OYO Hotels and Homes; Alok Medikepura Anil, Managing Director, Next Big Innovation Labs; Natarajan Sankar, Managing Director and Partner, Boston Consulting Group; Nipun Malhotra, Founder, Nipman Foundation; Manasi Subramaniam, Editor-in-Chief and Vice-President, Penguin Random House and Anurag Maloo, Mountaineer, Entrepreneur & Keynote Speaker, Orophile Ventures (Climbing4SDGs).

**SBI, HDFC only Indian banks in world's 100 largest by assets: S&P**

State Bank of India and HDFC Bank are the only Indian banks that have found its place on the latest S&P Global Market Intelligence ranking of the world's 100 largest banks by assets. SBI climbed four places to 43rd place. HDFC Bank climbed one place to 73rd place.

**India's smart phone exports touched record two lakh crore rupees in last fiscal**

India's smartphone exports have reached a record level of two lakh crore rupees in the last fiscal. Smartphones have emerged as India's largest export in the first ten months of last financial year.

**RBI, FIU-IND Sign MoU to Bolster Anti-Money Laundering Efforts**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) signed a MoU as part of continued coordinated efforts in effective implementation of requirements of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and Rules framed under it.

### **Kotak Mahindra, IDFC First, PNB Penalized by RBI for Violating Regulatory Guidelines**

The RBI has imposed penalties on Kotak Mahindra Bank, IDFC First Bank, and Punjab National Bank for certain deficiencies in regulatory compliance. A penalty of ₹61.4 lakh has been imposed on Kotak Mahindra Bank. A penalty of ₹38.6 lakh has been imposed on IDFC First Bank. Penalty of ₹29.6 lakh has been imposed on Punjab National Bank for non-compliance.

### **Warburg Pincus, ADIA to invest up to \$877 million in IDFC First Bank**

IDFC FIRST Bank will raise up to 75 billion rupees (\$877 million) from affiliate firms of private equity group Warburg Pincus and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) sovereign wealth fund.

### **India's BluSmart, rival of Uber, suspends operations after co-founder probed**

Indian electric cab service BluSmart, seen as a rival to Uber, suspended services, days after a market regulator's investigation found a co-founder misused funds at an affiliate company.

### **AIB Appoints Ajay Pandey as Vice President of Investment Solutions**

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) had announced the appointment of Ajay Bhushan Pandey as Vice President of Investment Solutions, effective April 2025.

### **Core Sector Grows 3.8% in March**

The output of eight core infrastructure sectors, which account for two-fifths of India's industrial output, expanded by 3.8% annually in March—the highest in the last two months.

### **Centre Imposes 12% Safeguard Duty on Steel Imports to Protect Domestic Industry**

The Central government has imposed a 12 per cent safeguard duty on the import of certain non-alloy and alloy steel flat products with a view to shielding the Indian steel sector.

### **India's first ATM on train launched on Mumbai's Panchavati Express**

For the first time, the Indian Railways has introduced an ATM inside a train, allowing passengers on the Mumbai-Manmad Panchavati Express to withdraw cash during their journey.

### **RBI permits minors above 10 years to operate bank accounts independently**

The RBI has permitted banks to allow minors above the age of 10 years to open and operate savings/term deposit accounts independently. The RBI has issued revised instructions on opening and operation in the deposit accounts of minors.

### **SEBI extends PAN freeze to immediate kin of insider trading norm violators**

The trading windows of immediate relatives of those involved in insider trading will also be closed, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said in a circular.

### **Gold imports rise 192% to \$4.47 billion in March**

India's gold imports have surged by 192.13% to \$4.47 billion in March, driven by rising prices and strong investor confidence, contributing to a widened trade deficit of \$21.54 billion.

### **IMF projects India's GDP growth above 6%**

The IMF in its April 2025 World Economic Outlook (WEO) report has projected India's GDP growth at 6.2 per cent in Fiscal Year 2025-26 and 6.3 per cent in 2026-27. The IMF expects global growth to decrease to 2.8 per cent this year and 3 per cent next year,

### **Govt. re-appoints Rabi Sankar as RBI Deputy Governor**

The Centre has re-appointed T. Rabi Sankar as Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), for a period of one year with effect from May 3, 2025, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. This is his second extension.

### **RBI asks banks to migrate to .bank.in by Oct. 31**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked all banks to commence the migration of their existing domains to the '.bank.in' domain and complete the process at the earliest and in any case, not later than October 31.

### **Gold prices reach Rs 1 lakh/10gm**

Gold prices have reached a historic milestone on April 22 as the rate of 24-carat gold touched 1,00,000 rupees per 10 grams for the first time ever ahead of Akshaya Tritiya. In the international gold market, gold

### **Air India CEO steps down as Board Chairman**

In a significant leadership shuffle, Air India CEO Campbell Wilson announced his decision to step down as Chairman of the Board of Air India Express, the Tata Group's low-cost carrier. He will be succeeded by Nipun Aggarwal

### **WB lowers India's FY26 growth forecast to 6.3%**

The World Bank has lowered India's growth forecast for the current fiscal by 4 percentage points to 6.3% amid global economic weakness and policy uncertainty.

### **RBI announces amendments to liquidity coverage ratio framework**

The RBI has announced amendments to the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) framework, directing banks to assign additional run-off rates of 2.5% to internet and mobile banking-enabled retail and small business customer deposits.

### **Ather Energy announces ₹2,981-cr. IPO**

Electric two-wheeler maker Ather Energy had announced a ₹2,981-crore Initial Public Offering (IPO). The company has fixed a price band of ₹304 to ₹321 apiece

### **NABARD picks up 10% stake in agri-fintech firm 24x7 Moneyworks**

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had acquired 10% equity stake in 24x7 Moneyworks Consulting Pvt. Ltd., an agri-fintech venture, for an unspecified amount. This is NABARD's first-ever investment in a bootstrapped start-up.

### **HDFC Bank becomes India's third firm to surpass ₹15 lakh crore market cap**

HDFC Bank Ltd. became the third Indian company to surpass a market capitalisation of ₹15 lakh crore, joining the ranks of Reliance Industries and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). Reliance remains the country's most valuable firm with a valuation of ₹17.5 lakh crore.

### **Niti Aayog develops portal on finances of States**

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched a website developed by the NITI Aayog and the NCAER on State finances. The portal will be a comprehensive repository of data on social, economic and fiscal parameters, research reports, papers, and expert commentary on the finances of States for about 30 years from 1990-91 to 2022-23.

### **Luxury goods costing above ₹10 lakh will now attract 1% tax collected at source**

Luxury goods like handbags, wrist watches, footwear, and sportswear, priced above ₹10 lakh will now attract a 1% tax collected at source (TCS).

### **Air India CCO Nipun Agarwal appointed Chairman of Air India Express**

Nipun Agarwal, Air India's Chief Commercial Officer, has been appointed as the new Chairman of Air India Express. He has been instrumental in reshaping Air India's business strategy since joining in January 2022, following Tata Sons' acquisition.

### **Centre committed to purchase 100 % of production of Tur, Urad at MSP**

The Union Government has approved the procurement of Tur, Urad and Masur under Price Support Scheme equivalent to 100 percent of the production of the state for the procurement year 2024-25.

**Centre Launches 'Global Tariff And Trade Helpdesk'**  
The Centre has operationalised a dedicated 'Global Tariff and Trade Helpdesk' to assist stakeholders in navigating emerging trade issues. The Helpdesk will look into issues relating to Import and Export Challenges, Import Surges or Dumping, Logistics or Supply Chain Challenges.

**Ola Group owns majority of patents**  
Ola Group now holds over 50% of all patents filed by India's 117 unicorns, according to data from the Indian Patent Advanced Search (IPAS) System. India's unicorns collectively hold only 229 patents, with Ola Group owning more than half.

**Sunil Bharti Mittal joins World Bank's pvt sector investment lab initiative**  
Bharti Enterprises Chairperson Sunil Bharti Mittal has joined the World Bank's Private Sector Investment Lab (PSIL) initiative. The World Bank Group announced the launch of the next phase of PSIL.

**Over 86,000 AI Patents filed during 2010-2025: Nasscom**  
Some 86,000 AI Patents were filed in India during 2010-2025, accounting for over 25% of all tech patents filed in the country during this period, said Nasscom. Notably, 63% of these AI patents originated in India, while 17% were first filed in the United States.

**Sarvam AI Becomes First Firm to Receive Government Aid to Build AI Model**  
Sarvam AI has become the first company to receive government support for developing an indigenous artificial intelligence (AI) model.

**Reliance Industries becomes first Indian company to cross total equity of over Rs 10 lakh crore**  
After announcing quarterly results, Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries became the first Indian company to cross total equity of over Rs 10 lakh crore. Previously, it became the first company to hit a market cap of Rs 20 lakh crore.

**Centre notifies rules for GST appellate tribunals**  
The Union government has notified the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, which provide for mandatory e-filing of applications and conducting hearings in a hybrid mode.

**RBI imposes ₹1.61 cr. penalty on Indian Bank, ₹63.60 lakh on IOB**  
The RBI has imposed monetary penalties on two banks — Indian Bank (₹1.60 crore) and Indian Overseas Bank (₹63.60 lakh) — and a non-banking finance company, Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd (₹71.30 lakh), for non-compliance with various regulatory directions.

**FM Sitharaman targets one billion UPI transactions per day to broaden its reach and impact**  
Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has underscored the need to achieve the target of one billion UPI transactions per day within the next two to three years.

**Neeraj Kumar Gupta Appointed Head Of NSE Int. Exchange**  
Former Secretary in the Union Finance Ministry, Neeraj Kumar Gupta has been appointed Chairman and Public Interest Director of the NSE International Exchange (NSE IX), effective April 19, 2025.

**Rapido and the Ministry of Labour and Employment ink an MoU.**  
Rapido and the Ministry of Labour and Employment signed a memorandum of understanding in New Delhi to enhance logistics employment opportunities through the National Career Service portal.

**India's pharmaceutical exports surge over 9 percent to reach 30 billion dollars in last financial year**  
India's pharmaceutical exports surpassed 30 billion dollars in the last financial year, with the United States remaining a key market, accounting for more than one-third of the country's total pharma exports.

**India continues to be on the U.S. Trade Representative Priority Watch List for 2025.**

India continues to be on the U.S. Trade Representative Priority Watch List for 2025. The priority list now includes Mexico, China, Chile, Argentina, India, Indonesia, Russia and Venezuela.

**India's Renewable Energy Sector Achieves the Highest-Ever Capacity Addition**

India's renewable energy sector has achieved the highest-ever capacity addition in the last financial year by installing 25 gigawatts. The sector witnessed an increase of almost 35 per cent in the previous financial year compared to 18.57 gigawatts achieved in the financial year 2023-24.

**CEO of IndusInd Bank steps down.**

The Chief Executive Officer of IndusInd Bank, Sumant Kathpalia, announced his resignation in a letter to shareholders, a day after the bank's deputy CEO, Arun Khurana, stepped down.

**Meta Platforms launches a standalone AI app with a social media component.**

Meta Platforms has launched a standalone AI app — with a social media component, to compete with OpenAI's ChatGPT. The Meta AI app is built with the company's Llama 4 AI system.

## AWARDS

**2025 Abel Prize Goes to Masaki Kashiwara**

Masaki Kashiwara is the first Japanese national and the first person based outside North America, Europe or Israel to win the 2025 Abel Prize which is one of the highest honours for a mathematician.

**Dalai Lama presented with a Gold Mercury Award 2025**

The Dalai Lama was presented with a Gold Mercury Award 2025 in recognition of his lifelong commitment to peace, compassion, education and human rights at his residence at Dharamsala in Himachal Pradesh.

**Sudarsan Pattnaik Becomes First Indian to Win Fred Darrington Sand Art Award**

Indian sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik has become the first Indian to receive the prestigious Fred Darrington Sand Master Award for his outstanding contributions to sand art.

**Adani Group, 'Pehle Pankha Aayega' Film Win 4 Awards For Creative Excellence In Communicating Sustainability**

The Adani Group has won four Gold awards across different categories at the IAA Olive Crown Awards. It was honoured with the award for the Corporate Social Crusader of the Year, the Green Advertiser of the Year, and the Pankha film was crowned with two Gold awards for being the best film in the categories TV/Cinema (Corporate) and Digital by the Olive Crown Awards.

**President Droupadi Murmu Honoured with Key to City of Lisbon**

President Droupadi Murmu attended the ceremony to deliver the city key of honour. The ceremony is being organized by the Mayor of Lisbon, Carlos Manuel, to present the key of the city in her honour. The Key to the City of Lisbon is the highest honour accorded by the city of Lisbon.

**Rajesh Unni gets National Maritime Varuna Award**

Mumbai Leading shipmanager Synergy Marine Group said that its founder Rajesh Unni has been awarded the National Maritime Varuna Award, which is India's highest individual recognition in the maritime sector

**RBI named as most innovative financial institution globally by Global Finance**

The Reserve Bank of India has been named as the Most Innovative Financial Institution globally in Global Finance's prestigious 2025 Innovators list. With this, the RBI becomes the first central bank to win this award.

### Breakthrough Prize 2025 winners announced

The Breakthrough Prize Foundation has announced the winners of the 2025 Breakthrough Prizes. Six Breakthrough Prizes of \$3 million each were awarded in Life Sciences, Fundamental Physics, and Mathematics.

The 2025 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics was awarded to 13,508 physicists across four collaborative projects at CERN, the European particle physics laboratory near Geneva, Switzerland.

The Mathematics Breakthrough Prize was awarded to Dennis Gaitsgory Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences Awarded to Daniel J. Drucker, Joel Habener, Jens Juul Holst, Lotte Bjerre Knudsen and Svetlana Mojsos; Alberto Ascherio and Stephen L. Hauser; and David R. Liu.

### Image of Gaza airstrike survivor wins 2025 World Press Photo of the Year

A poignant image of a nine-year-old amputee Mahmoud Ajjour from Gaza is the 2025 World Press Photo of the Year. Mahmoud Ajjour lost both arms in an Israeli airstrike. His portrait was taken by Palestinian photographer Samar Abu Elouf for The New York Times.

### 25th Anniversary Laureus World Sports Awards

- Sportsman of the Year Award: Mondo Duplantis
- Sportswoman of the Year Award: Simone Biles
- Team of the Year Award: Real Madrid
- Breakthrough of the Year Award: Lamine Yamal
- Comeback of the Year Award: Rebeca Andrade
- Sportsman of the Year with a Disability Award: Jiang Yuyan
- Action Sportsman of the Year Award: Tom Pidcock
- Sport for Good Award: Kick4Life
- Sporting Icon Award: Rafael Nadal
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Kelly Slater

### 2025 Goldman Environmental Prize Honors Seven Outstanding Defenders of the Earth

The Goldman Environmental Foundation announced seven recipients of the 2025 Goldman Environmental Prize. The 2025 prize winners are Semia Gharbi from Tunisia, Batmunkh Luvsandash from Mongolia, Besjana Guri and Olsi Nika from Albania, Carlos Mallo Molina from the Canary Islands, Laurene Allen from the United States and Mari Luz Canaquiri Murayari from Peru.

### Payal Kapadia receives French honour Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres

India's Director Payal Kapadia has been felicitated with prestigious French civilian honour, Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, for her contribution to cinema.

### Akashvani wins six awards at India Audio Summit and Awards 2025

Akashvani has won a total of six awards in various categories at the India Audio Summit and Awards 2025. The third edition of the awards, which recognise excellence in radio and audio content production, was held in Mumbai.

### Karnataka-based humanitarian Madhusudan Sai awarded Fiji's highest honour

Fiji's highest honour, the 'Companion of the Order of Fiji', was conferred on Karnataka-based humanitarian Madhusudan Sai. Sai was conferred the award for establishing the Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Children's Hospital in Fiji.

### James Anderson Receives Knighthood For His Services To Cricket

Former England fast bowler James Anderson has been awarded a knighthood for his services to Cricket as part of former British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's resignation honours list. Anderson is the only sportsman who has made it to the list.

### Hindustan Zinc Ltd awarded the prestigious title of the Largest Integrated Silver Manufacturer 2024.

At the 3rd edition of the India Silver Conference 2025 held at Udaipur, Rajasthan, Hindustan Zinc Ltd, India's only silver producer, has been awarded the prestigious title of the Largest Integrated Silver Manufacturer 2024.

## PERSONS IN NEWS (National and International)

### Shirley Botchwey

Shirley Botchwey will become the first woman from Africa to hold the office of Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.

### Brice Oligui Nguema

Gabon's military leader Brice Oligui Nguema has won the country's presidential election by an apparent landslide. Nguema, who led a 2023 military coup, had secured about 90 percent of the vote.

### Tahawwur Rana

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has successfully secured the extradition of Tahawwur Hussain Rana, the mastermind of the deadly 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.

### Cory Booker

New Jersey Democrat and U.S. Senator Cory Booker has made history, delivering the longest continuous speech in Senate history, an astonishing 25 hours and 5 minutes.

### Marine Le Pen

A French court has imposed a jail sentence on far-right leader Marine Le Pen and barred her from seeking public office after finding her guilty of embezzling European Union funds. The ruling threatens to push Ms Le Pen out of the 2027 presidential race.

### Ravneet Kaur

The Central government has entrusted Ravneet Kaur, chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI), with additional charge as the chairperson of the National Financial Regulatory Authority (NFRA) for three months starting April 1.

### Yoon Suk Yeol

South Korea's Constitutional Court upheld the impeachment of the country's President Yoon Suk Yeol. This means the South Korean leader is immediately removed from the office of the President.

### Kamla Persad-Bissessar

Kamla Persad-Bissessar will be the next Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, the only woman ever to have led the Caribbean country. Her party United National Congress, has won the parliamentary election of the twin-island Caribbean nation.

### Daniel Noboa

Incumbent Ecuadorean President Daniel Noboa has won a second four-year term in the country's Presidential elections. He won 55.85 percent of the vote against his left-wing challenger, Luisa González.

### Mumtaz Patel

Indian-Origin Doctor Dr Mumtaz Patel has been elected as the 123rd president of the Royal College of Physicians (RCP). She will now be heading the UK's medical professional membership body representing 40,000 members around the world.

### Arvind Shrivastava

Arvind Shrivastava has been appointed as Secretary, Department of Revenue, in the Ministry of Finance. He is currently serving as Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office.

**Mangi Lal Jat a**

Mangi Lal Jat has been appointed as the new secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and director general of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

**N Chandrasekaran**

N Chandrasekaran, chairman of Tata Sons, has joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF) managing director's Advisory Council on Entrepreneurship and Growth.

**Djuro Macut**

Serbia's parliament had approved medical professor Djuro Macut as Prime Minister of the Balkan country, following months of anti-corruption protests that led his predecessor to resign

**Mehul Choksi**

The Belgium government confirmed that fugitive jeweller Mehul Choksi has been arrested in Antwerp following an extradition request by Indian investigation agencies. Wanted for his alleged involvement in the Rs 13,000-crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) loan fraud case

**Justice Dinesh Maheshwari**

Former Supreme Court judge Justice Dinesh Maheshwari has been appointed as Chairperson of the 23rd Law Commission of India.

**Justice BR Gavai**

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna has recommended the name of Justice B R Gavai as the next Chief Justice. Justice Gavai is the second-most senior judge of the Supreme Court, and his name has been recommended to the Union Law Ministry.

**Ollanta Humala**

Former Peruvian President Ollanta Humala has been sentenced to 15 years in prison after being found guilty of accepting illegal campaign funds from the Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht, now known as Novonor. His wife, Nadine Heredia, received an identical 15-year sentence for her involvement in the case.

**Justice Arun Palli**

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the appointment of Justice Arun Palli, judge, High Court of Punjab & Haryana, as Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

**M.A. Baby**

The 24th congress of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), which concluded in Madurai had elected M.A. Baby, Polit Bureau member since 2012, as its general secretary for the next three years.

**Kami Rita**

Kami Rita, one of the greatest mountain guides will attempt to scale the world's highest peak for the 31st time — and possibly the 32nd time as well and break his own record.

**JD Vance**

United States Vice President JD Vance has arrived in India for a four-day visit as New Delhi looks to avoid US tariffs, negotiate a bilateral trade deal with Washington and strengthen ties with the administration of President Donald Trump.

**Klaus Schwab**

World Economic Forum founder and former Executive Chairman Klaus Schwab has decided to step down from the position of chair and as a member of the board of trustees. Schwab founded the World Economic Forum in 1971.

**Peter Brabeck-Letmathe**

Peter Brabeck-Letmathe has been appointed interim chairman of the World Economic Forum after Klaus Schwab decided to step down from the position of chair.

**Manoj Kumar**

Veteran actor and director Manoj Kumar passed away.. He was well-known by his nickname 'Bharat Kumar' for his patriotic films. He was a recipient of the prestigious Padma Shri and Dadasaheb Phalke Award for his immense contribution to Indian cinema for decades.

**Ram Sahay Pandey**

Padma Shri Ram Sahay Pandey, a legendary figure in Rai folk dance, passed away at 92 after a prolonged illness. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2022 for his work in preserving and promoting Rai dance.

**Vanajeevi Ramaiah**

Popular green crusader of Telangana and Padma Shri awardee Daripalli Ramaiah died. Ramaiah embarked on a lifetime mission of developing plantation and conservation of trees.

**Madhur Bajaj**

Former Vice Chairman of Bajaj Auto, Madhur Bajaj, passed away. He also served as Chairman of Maharashtra Scooters and as a Director of Bajaj Electricals, Bajaj Finance, and other companies within the Bajaj Group.

**Mario Vargas Llosa**

Nobel Prize winning Peruvian writer and politician Mario Vargas Llosa has died. He was 89. He won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2010.

**Kumudini Lakhia**

Eminent Kathak exponent and choreographer Kumudini Lakhia passed away. Lakhia was conferred with the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian award.

**Pope Francis**

Pope Francis has died following a prolonged illness. He was 88. He had suffered various ailments in his 12-year papacy. Pope Francis became the first Latin-American pontiff in 2013 and was one of the oldest popes in the church's history.

**Kasturirangan**

Former ISRO Chairman and a key architect of India's National Education Policy, Dr. K. Kasturirangan, passed away. As Chairman of ISRO, Dr. Kasturirangan played a pivotal role in the development of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), which went on to become India's most reliable satellite launcher.

**M.G.S. Narayanan**

Renowned historian M.G.S. Narayanan has passed away. A distinguished scholar of Indian history, especially of Kerala's early and medieval periods, he was known for his deep research and critical analysis of South Indian political and cultural history.

**SPORTS****Bihar to host Men's Hockey Hero Asia Cup 2025**

Bihar will host Men's Hockey Hero Asia Cup 2025 with support of Hockey India. This will be the 12th Edition of Asia Cup. The event will be organised between 29th August to 7th September 2025.

**Miami Open Champion: Jakub Mensik defeats Novak Djokovic in finals**

Jakub Mensik has defeated Novak Djokovic's dream to win 100th tour level title at the Miami Open tennis. With this win, Mensik also became the second-youngest champion of the tournament behind Carlos Alcaraz.

**Niharika Singhania Wins Gold**

Indian equestrian player Niharika Singhania has clinched first position in the prestigious Azelhof CSI Lier equestrian competition held in Belgium.

### **Vandana Katariya Announces Retirement**

Vandana Katariya, an Indian women's hockey stalwart, has officially announced her retirement from international hockey, bringing an end to an illustrious career spanning over 15 years.

### **ESports Conclave 2025 in New Delhi**

Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Nikhil Khadse inaugurated the ESports Conclave 2025 in New Delhi on April 1.

### **Second Edition of the International Surfing Festival held in Kerala**

The second edition of the International Surfing Festival Kerala — Varkala, organised by the Kerala Tourism Department and Kerala Adventure Tourism Promotion Society (KATPS), was held at Edava Beach in Varkala, Thiruvananthapuram.

### **India ends World Boxing Cup 2025 campaign on a high with six-medal haul**

The Indian boxing team ended their campaign at the World Boxing Cup with an impressive haul of six medals, including a gold won by Hitesh, at Foz Do Iguacu in Brazil. It's India's first-ever outing in an elite-level international meet organised by World Boxing.

### **F1 Japanese GP 2025: Verstappen wins in Japan**

Max Verstappen has claimed a pole-to-flag victory for Red Bull at the 2025 Japanese Grand Prix, winning his first race of the Formula One season.

### **Golf: Talwar wins Adani Invitational**

India's Saptak Talwar came up with a flawless fourth-round score of five-under 67 to win his maiden title with an overall 13-under 275 in the ₹1.5 crore Adani Invitational Golf Championship.

### **Rudranksh wins gold in 10m air rifle at ISSF World Cup**

India's Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil has won the gold medal in the men's 10m air rifle shooting event at the ISSF World Cup 2025 Buenos Aires.

### **ISSF World Cup: Vijayveer Sidhu, Suruchi Singh wins gold**

Vijayveer Sidhu has become the first Indian to win gold in the men's 25-meter rapid fire pistol event of the ISSF World Cup in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In the women's category Suruchi Singh won her maiden gold in the 10-meter air pistol event.

### **India wins bronze in men's compound team event at Archery World Cup 2025 Stage 1**

India opened its medal tally at the Archery World Cup 2025 Stage 1 with a bronze in the men's compound team event. The team of Abhishek Verma, Rishabh Yadav, and Ojas Deotale defeated Denmark 230-223 in the bronze medal match in Auburndale, USA.

### **Shooting World Cup: Rudranksh Patil, Arya Borse bag air rifle mixed team silver**

India's Arya Borse and Rudranksh Patil have won the silver medal in the mixed 10-meter air rifle event at the ISSF World Cup 2025 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

### **Kohli becomes first batter to score 1000 boundaries in IPL tournament**

India's star batter, Virat Kohli became the first player to smash 1000 boundaries in the IPL tournament's rich history.

### **Shooting: India Finishes Second In Overall Standings In First Leg Of ISSF World Cup**

In the first leg of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup 2025 at Buenos Aires, Argentina, India finished second in the standings behind China. India won a total of 8 medals, including 4 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze.

### **Mohun Bagan Super Giant wins Indian Super League 2024-25 Title**

Mohun Bagan Super Giant won the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 title following a 2-1 victory over Bengaluru FC at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan Stadium in Kolkata.

### **Bihar To Host Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025 In Rajgir From June 1-10**

Bihar will host the Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025 from 1st June to 10th June this year at Rajgir. 14 teams will participate in the World Cup for Women.

### **Ganguly re-appointed as Chairperson of ICC men's cricket committee**

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly has been re-appointed as the chairperson of the ICC men's cricket committee and his longtime national teammate VVS Laxman too has been picked again as one of the panel members.

### **Archery: India gets silver in men's recurve team event**

India won a silver medal in the men's recurve team event at the Archery World Cup Stage 1 after the trio of Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai, and Atanu Das went down 1-5 to China in the final at Auburndale in USA.

### **Carlsen wins Freestyle Chess Grand Slam 2025**

World number one Magnus Carlsen of Norway has won the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam 2025 in Paris, France. He defeated American Grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura with a 1.5-0.5 match victory.

### **Archery World Cup: Dhiraj Bommadevara claims individual Bronze**

India's Dhiraj Bommadevara has won a bronze medal at the Archery World Cup 2025 in Florida, USA. Dhiraj defeated Andres Temino Mediel in the Men's Individual Recurve event with a scoreline of 6-4.

### **McIlroy wins Masters to complete career Grand Slam**

Rory McIlroy became only the sixth player to win the career Grand Slam of Masters, Open Championship, US Open and US PGA Championship by winning the Augusta Masters with a play-off win against Justin Rose.

### **MotoGP Qatar Grand Prix 2025: Marc Marquez wins**

Marc Marquez survived a first-lap collision with his brother Alex to win the Qatar MotoGP, for a seventh victory in eight races this season.

### **FIDE Women's World C'ship: Ju Wenjun defends her title**

Chinese Grandmaster Ju Wenjun has won the FIDE Women's World Championship 2025 by beating fellow compatriot Tan Zhongyi.

### **2025 Bahrain Grand Prix: Oscar Piastrini wins**

McLaren's Oscar Piastrini, who was also the pole sitter at the 2025 Bahrain Grand Prix, won his second race this season.

### **Sourav Kothari wins 2025 IBSF World Billiards Title**

India's Sourav Kothari has claimed The 2025 IBSF World Billiards Championship Carlow, Ireland. Kothari got the better of old rival Pankaj Advani 725-480 to claim the world title. This is Kothari's second world title.

### **Mansukh Mandaviya Inaugurates World's 17th Athlete Passport Management Unit in New Delhi**

Union Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the world's 17th Athlete Passport Management Unit at the National Dope Testing Laboratory in New Delhi.

### **India's Shourya Ambure wins bronze in U-18 100m Hurdles**

India's Shourya Ambure has won the bronze medal in the Under-18 Women's 100 metre Hurdles at the Asian Youth Championships in Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

### **Himanshu Jakhar wins country's first-ever Gold in U-18 Asian Athletics Championships**

India's Himanshu Jakhar made history by winning the country's first-ever Asian U18 Athletics Championships gold in the men's javelin throw in Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

### **Nishchay Bag Silver in Shot Put at Asian U-18 Athletics Championship**

India's Nishchay grabbed his second medal of the meet as he won a silver with a personal best effort of 19.59 meters in the boys' shot put event on the third day of the Asian Under-18 Athletics Championship in Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

### **Arjun Babuta wins silver at ISSF World Cup 2025**

In shooting Arjun Babuta narrowly missed out on a historic gold medal at the ISSF World Cup 2025 in Lima, Peru, after a nail-biting 10m Air Rifle final .

### **F1 Saudi Arabia GP 2025: Piastri wins,**

Oscar Piastri won the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix and seized the Formula One championship lead from McLaren teammate Lando Norris with his third win in five races.

### **Tennis: Holger Rune win maiden Barcelona Open title**

Danish professional tennis player Holger Rune beat World No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz to win the Barcelona Open for the first time.

### **ITTF World Cup 2025: Calderano bags historic first-ever title for Brazil**

Hugo Calderano bagged a historic first-ever men's singles title for Brazil while Sun Yingsha continued China's dominance in women's singles at the ITTF World Cup in Macao, China.

### **Koneru Humpy wins Pune FIDE Women's Grand Prix**

India's Koneru Humpy won the 2025 Pune FIDE Women's Grand Prix. Humpy won the final round with White pieces against Bulgarian International Master Nurgyl Salimova by a score of 7/9 points.

### **India finish ISSF World Cup Peru leg in 3rd place with 7 medals**

India finished their campaign of the Peru leg of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup in third place in the overall standings with a total of seven medals: two gold, four silver and one bronze.

### **Indian Aerobic Gymnastics team depart for Suzuki Aerobics Gymnastics World Cup 2025**

The six-member Indian Aerobic Gymnastics team has left for Tokyo to participate in the Suzuki Aerobics Gymnastics World Cup 2025, which will be held from April 25 to 27 in Japan.

### **Barcelona clinch 32nd Copa del Rey title**

In Football, Barcelona beat Real Madrid 3-2 to win the Copa del Rey final at the Estadio de La Cartuja in Seville, Spain. The victory gave Barcelona a record-extending 32nd Spanish Cup title.

### **Manush Shah, Diya Chitale clinch mixed doubles title at WTT Contender Tunis 2025**

In Table Tennis, the Indian pair of Manush Shah and Diya Chitale have clinched the mixed doubles title at the WTT Contender Tunis 2025, held in Tunis.

### **Football: Liverpool win seal Premier League**

Liverpool defeated Tottenham 5-1 to win the Premier League title sealing a record-equalling 20th English top-flight crown.

### **Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul is new BWF President**

Thailand's Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul was elected unopposed as the new BWF (Badminton World Federation) President for the 2025-2029 term at the 86th BWF Annual General Meeting in Xiamen, China.

### **Golf: Mao Saigo wins Chevron Championship**

Japanese golfer Mao Saigo captured her first career title on the U.S. LPGA Tour winning the Chevron Championship major in a five-way playoff.

### **Vaibhav Suryavanshi becomes youngest centurion in IPL history**

Fourteen-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi became the youngest centurion in men's Twenty20 cricket. He reached his 100 in 35 balls to register the second-fastest century in IPL history.

### **Spanish MotoGP 2025: Alex Marquez claims win in Spain**

Gresini Racing's Alex Marquez claimed his first MotoGP race victory at the Spanish Grand Prix to snatch the championship lead from his elder brother Marc, who crashed early in the race

### **India tops the medal tally at the Asian Yogasana Sport Championship.**

India secured a record 83 gold medals at the Asian Yogasana Sport Championship, to top the medal tally at the event in Delhi. The hosts also won three silver and one bronze medal to end with 87 medals.

### **Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) is set to make its debut at the Asian Games 2026.**

Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) is set to make its debut at the Asian Games 2026, while cricket has been retained at the continental meet. The Asian Games 2026 are scheduled to be held in the Aichi and Nagoya prefectures of Japan from September 19 to October 4.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **THE Asia University Rankings 2025: IISc bags top spot in India**

The Times Higher Education (THE) has released the Asia University Rankings 2025. Indian Institute of Science or IISc has emerged as the top Indian education institute among its national counterparts, followed by Anna University that is placed in the second spot. IISc has secured a THE Ranking of 38

### **Singapore's Changi Named World's Best Airport For A Record 13th Time**

At the prestigious 2025 Skytrax World Airport Awards, held in Barcelona, Singapore Changi Airport has been named the 'World's Best Airport' in 2025—for a record 13th time. Delhi International Airport (IGI) was again named the Best Airport in India & South Asia in 2025.

### **India's military expenditure was nearly 9 times that of Pakistan: SIPRI**

India's military spending in 2024 was nearly nine times that of Pakistan's expenditure, according to a study released by SIPRI. The country's military expenditure, the fifth largest globally, grew by 1.6% to \$86.1 billion while Pakistan spent \$10.2 billion. The top five military spender the US, China, Russia, Germany and India — accounted for 60% of the global total.

### **AIIMS Delhi Ranks 97th Among World's Best Hospitals in 2024**

AIIMS, New Delhi, has been named the 97th best hospital globally in the World's Best Hospitals 2024 ranking by Newsweek and Statista. Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, USA consistently ranks among the top-ranked hospitals, often claiming the top spot.

### **Startup QNu Labs launches world's 1st unique platform Q-Shield**

QNu Labs, one of the startups selected by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under the National Quantum Mission, has launched the world's first and unique platform, Q-Shield. It empowers enterprises to protect their critical infrastructure.

### **Trump, Yunus Rank High, No Indian In TIME's Most Influential Leaders List**

The TIME magazine has officially revealed the 2025 edition of the TIME100, its annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world. Among the world leaders and political heavyweights included on this year's list are US President Donald Trump, Muhammad Yunus, Elon Musk and Mexican presidential front-runner Claudia Sheinbaum. However, no Indian names feature on the list this year.

### **SpaceX Fram2 Mission Lifts Off, First Private Flight Over Earth's Poles**

SpaceX's Fram2 mission has lifted off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. A Falcon 9 rocket carried Resilience, the Crew Dragon capsule into orbit. This marks the first private astronaut mission to fly over Earth's poles. The crew consists of four members.

### **Multilateral Naval Exercise AIKEYME 2025 held in Tanzania**

Africa India Key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME), a multilateral exercise, was held in Tanzania. This six-day exercise concluded on the 18th of April. It aims to develop collaborative solutions to common regional maritime challenges.

### **Global Justice, Love & Peace Summit held In Dubai**

The Global Justice, Love & Peace Summit opened at Expo City Dubai, marking what organizers describe as the world's largest peace conference. The two-day event, themed "One Planet, One Voice: Global Justice, Love and Peace,".

### **Bhagavad Gita and Natyashastra added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register**

Manuscripts of the Bhagavad Gita and Bharata's Natyashastra are among the 74 new additions to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register this year, marking a significant recognition of India's cultural legacy.

### **UNESCO adds 16 new Global Geoparks**

UNESCO has added 16 new sites across 11 countries to its Global Geoparks Network, which marks its 10th anniversary this year. With the new entries, the Network now comprises 229 sites across 50 countries. The newly featured geoparks are located in China, North Korea, Ecuador, Indonesia, Italy, Norway, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the UK, and Vietnam.

### **Bangladesh inks 'Artemis Accords' with NASA on non-military space exploration**

Bangladesh has inked the 'Artemis Accords' as the 54th country with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), focused on non-military space exploration. As of January 21, 2025, 53 countries have signed the accords.

### **Singer Katy Perry launches into space with all-female crew on Blue Origin rocket**

Pop star Katy Perry and five other women were launched into space on a Blue Origin rocket and successfully returned to Earth, marking the first all-female spaceflight in more than 60 years.

### **UN elects India by acclamation to ISAR for 2025–27 term**

India has been appointed to the United Nations Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) for the period 2025–2027.

### **Scientists revived the dire wolf**

A species of wolf that died out some 12,500 years ago lives again as the "world's first successfully de-extincted animal," according to Dallas-based biotech company Colossal Biosciences.

### **BIMSTEC Agriculture Ministers meet held in Katmandu**

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Agriculture Ministers-level meeting is taking place in Kathmandu. India's Ministers for Agriculture, Shivraj Singh Chauhan is representing India.

### **Harvard Univ. gets hit by \$2.3 billion funding freeze**

The US government has frozen the funding of 2.3 billion Dollars to Harvard University after the institution rejected the Trump administration's demand to dismantle its diversity, equity, and inclusion programmes.

### **World Health Day 2025 observed globally on April 7**

The World Health Day is being celebrated across the globe on April 7. WHO has declared 'Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures' as the theme this year.

### **World Homeopathy Day being observed globally**

World Homeopathy Day is being observed across the globe on April 10 to commemorate the Birthday of Dr. Hahnemann, the Founder of Homeopathy. Homeopathy is the world's second-largest medical system.

### **National Safe Motherhood Day: 11th April**

National Safe Motherhood Day, observed annually on April 11 in India, is a significant campaign dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of maternal healthcare.

### **World Parkinson's Day: 11th April**

World Parkinson's Day is observed every year on April 11 as a global initiative to raise awareness about Parkinson's Disease — a progressive neurodegenerative disorder that affects millions worldwide.

### **Traditional harvest festivals being celebrated in different parts of country on April 13**

Traditional harvest festivals are being celebrated in different parts of the country beginning on April 13. People of Punjab are celebrating 'Vaisakhi', while Keralites call it 'Vishu', in West Bengal, it is celebrated as 'Poila Boishakh', in Assam, as 'Bohag Bihu'. People in Tamil Nadu observe the festival as 'Puthandu'.

### **Nation pays homage to Dr Ambedkar on his birth anniversary on April 14**

The nation paid homage to the Chief Architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr BR Ambedkar on his 134th birth anniversary on April 14.

### **World Heritage day 2025 celebrated on April 18**

World Heritage Day is being celebrated on 18th April across the globe to honour and protect cultural and natural heritage. This year, the theme of the day is "Heritage Under Threat from Disaster and Conflicts".

### **Civil Services Day observed on April 21**

Every year on April 21, the Government of India commemorates the National Civil Services Day to acknowledge and celebrate the exceptional efforts of its civil servants engaged in public service. This national observance was first marked on April 21, 2006.

### **Earth Day celebrated on April 22**

Earth Day is celebrated worldwide on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. The theme for this year is "Our Power, Our Planet".

### **World Immunization Week 2025 begins**

The World Immunization Week 2025 by the World Health Organisation (WHO) has begun from April 24 across the globe. The theme for this year is "Immunization for All is Humanly Possible"

### **World Malaria Day 2025 observed**

World Malaria Day is observed on April 25 every year. The theme of this year's Malaria Day is "Malaria ends with us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite".

### **World Intellectual Property Day: 26th April**

World Intellectual Property Day is observed annually on April 26 to emphasize the importance of intellectual property (IP) rights in promoting innovation and creativity. In 2025, the theme "IP and Music: Feel the Beat of IP"

### **World Design Day: 27th April**

World Design Day is celebrated every year on April 27 to recognize the impact of design in shaping a better world.