

## International

### Serious human rights violations in Bangladesh

The former government of Bangladesh and security and intelligence services, alongside violent elements associated with the Awami League party, were systematically engaged in a range of serious human rights violations during last year's student-led protests, as per the UN Human Rights Office. A report published, by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights further asked to ensure a safe and enabling environment for free and genuine elections, including by respecting fundamental freedoms.

### Tulsi Gabbard confirmed as America's new Director of National Intelligence.

President Donald Trump's choice, Tulsi Gabbard has been confirmed as America's new Director of National Intelligence (DNI). Gabbard, got the much-awaited final Senate vote yesterday on her nomination to oversee and coordinate the work of America's different intelligence agencies. The Senate voted 52-48 to confirm the former Democratic representative Gabbard as the country's DNI.

### Deepwater 'space station' in the South China Sea approved by China.

The construction of the first South China Sea deepwater 'space station', received Chinese approval. The facility, one of the deepest and most technologically complex underwater installations ever attempted is scheduled to be operational by around 2030. The cold seep ecosystem research facility will be anchored 2,000 metres below the surface of the strategically significant South China Sea, which is subject to several competing territorial claims.

### Centrist Liberal Party leader Ilie Bolojan becomes Romania's interim President.

Ilie Bolojan of the Centrist Liberal Party became Romania's interim President. Ilie Bolojan who was the senate speaker and a mayor and county council head, took over from centrist Klaus Iohannis, who resigned as President on Monday to pre-empt an impeachment bid by opposition parties.

## World Radio Day observed

Every year on 13th February, World Radio Day is observed to raise awareness among the people about the importance of radio and to encourage access to information through radio. This year the World Radio Day theme is – Radio and Climate Change. World Radio Day is a day to remember the unique power of radio which touches lives and brings people together from every corner of the globe.

## National

### TRAI to strengthen consumer protection

To further strengthen consumer protection against Unsolicited Commercial Communication, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has amended the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations 2018.

The Ministry of Communications, in a statement, said that the revised regulations aim to promote a more transparent commercial communication ecosystem for consumers.

### Indian scientists identify key genomic factors behind Breast Cancer Therapy Resistance

Scientists at the Tata Memorial Centre (TMC), Mumbai, and the National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG), Kalyani, have uncovered key genomic factors contributing to resistance to hormone (endocrine) therapy in oestrogen receptor-positive (ER+) breast cancer, the most common subtype of breast cancer in India and worldwide. The findings, recently published in Communications Biology, a prestigious Nature group journal, provide crucial insights into why some patients do not respond or stop responding to hormone therapy, paving the way for new targeted treatment strategies.

### Bharat TEX 2025, India's largest global textile event inaugurated.

Union Minister for Textiles Giriraj Singh inaugurated India's largest global textile event Bharat TEX 2025, at India Expo Mart in Greater Noida. The second edition of the Bharat Tex is taking place in two venues—at India Expo Mart, Greater Noida, from 12th to 15th of February and at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, from 14th to 17th of this month. Organised by 11 major textile

industry bodies and supported by the Ministry of Textiles, the event promises to be a landmark event showcasing the diversity, scale, and capability of India's textile sector.

## **Business/Economy**

### **RBI eases the business restrictions imposed on Kotak Mahindra Bank.**

After reviewing the bank's submissions and the remedial steps taken, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lifted the business restrictions imposed on Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited. On April 24, 2024, the RBI directed the bank to cease onboarding new customers through its online and mobile banking channels and to stop issuing fresh credit cards. In response, Kotak Mahindra Bank undertook corrective measures, submitted compliance reports, and commissioned an external audit with RBI's approval.

### **RBI to issue new ₹50 Notes**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that it will soon issue ₹50 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series bearing the signature of Governor Sanjay Malhotra. The design of these notes will remain unchanged and will be similar in all respects to the existing ₹50 banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series. Furthermore, all previously issued ₹50 banknotes by the Reserve Bank will continue to be legal tender.

### **CPI inflation at a 5-month low in January**

According to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), India's retail inflation eased to a five-month low of 4.31 per cent in January from 5.22 percent in December, as the rate of increase in food prices slowed. Inflation in rural areas stood at 4.64 percent compared to 3.87 percent in urban regions. India's retail inflation in January remained under the central bank's target. The RBI aims to keep inflation within a range of 2 to 6 percent, with a medium-term target of 4 percent. The RBI has forecast inflation at 4.2 percent for the fiscal year 2025-26.

### **Industrial Production growth slows to 3.2 percent in December**

According to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation,

India's industrial production growth, measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), slowed to 3.2 percent in December compared to 5.2 percent in November.

Among the three major components of IIP, electricity generation grew 6.2 percent in December, and mining activity increased by 2.6 percent, while manufacturing output fell by 3 percent as compared to the previous month, as per the data.

The corresponding growth rates of IIP as per use-based classification in December 2024 over December 2023 stood at 3.8 percent in primary goods, 10.3 percent in capital goods, 5.9 percent in intermediate goods, 6.3 percent in infrastructure or construction goods, 8.3 percent in consumer durables, and 7.6 percent contraction in consumer non-durable.

### **ADNOC Gas finalizes a major deal with IOC**

Marking a significant expansion of energy cooperation between the UAE and India, ADNOC Gas has finalized a major long-term agreement to supply liquefied natural gas to Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. The 14-year Sales and Purchase Agreement (SPA), valued between 7 billion dollars and 9 billion dollars, will provide Indian Oil with up to 1.2 million tonnes of LNG annually starting in 2026.

## **Sports**

### **India wins the three-match ODI series 3-0**

India beat England by 142 runs in the third of the three-match ODI series to win the series, 3-0. Earlier, put into bat, Men in Blue made 356 runs in the stipulated 50 overs. England had won the toss and opted to field.

### **Pankaj Advani wins his 36th overall national title**

India's, Pankaj Advani, won his 36th overall national title at the Indian Snooker Championship and 10th men's snooker crown at the Yashwant Club in Madhya Pradesh. He commanded a 5-1 victory over Brijesh Damani in the final. The triumph also guarantees a place for the stalwart at the upcoming Asian and World Championships.