

## International

### India and Mozambique hold 5th Joint Defence Working Group Meeting.

India and Mozambique concluded the 5th Joint Defence Working Group (JDWG) meeting in Maputo, reaffirming strong bilateral ties and commitment to regional security. Led by Amitabh Prasad, discussions focused on expanding military exchanges, joint training, maritime cooperation, and defence equipment collaboration.

Both sides reviewed progress and outlined a roadmap to strengthen future defence engagement.

### India and Tajikistan hold 5th Foreign Office Consultations.

India and Tajikistan held the 5th round of Foreign Office Consultations in Dushanbe. The meeting, co-chaired by Sibi George and Idibek Kalandar, reviewed cooperation in defence, trade, culture, and education. Both sides also discussed regional and global issues and explored ways to strengthen bilateral ties. The Indian delegation also interacted with the Indian community during the visit.

### IEA, IMF and World Bank form coordination group on Energy Crisis.

International Energy Agency, International Monetary Fund, and World Bank Group have agreed to form a coordination group to address the energy and economic impact of the West Asia conflict. The crisis has disrupted global energy supplies, raised prices of oil, gas, and fertilisers, and affected supply chains and tourism, with low-income, energy-importing countries facing the greatest impact.

## Important Days

### World Autism Awareness Day 2026 observed on April 2.

World Autism Awareness Day is observed annually on April 2, as declared by the United Nations in 2007, to promote understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The 2026 theme, “Autism and Humanity – Every Life Has Value,” highlights dignity and equality.

The day encourages early diagnosis, reduces stigma, and supports inclusion in education and workplaces, while April is also marked as Autism Awareness Month globally.

## National

### Rajnath Singh chairs second IGoM meet on West Asia situation.

Rajnath Singh chaired the second meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM) in New Delhi to review the evolving West Asia situation.

The group discussed ongoing government measures and stressed round-the-clock monitoring with a calibrated response.

Key ministers, including S Jaishankar and Ashwini Vaishnaw, participated, focusing on steps to mitigate potential impacts on India.

### INS Sunayna flagged off as IOS SAGAR Mission from Mumbai.

Sanjay Seth flagged off INS Sunayna from Mumbai as part of the IOS SAGAR initiative.

The mission includes naval personnel from India and 16 friendly foreign countries, promoting maritime cooperation.

The initiative reflects India’s vision of regional security under MAHASAGAR. Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi highlighted the importance of collective efforts to address maritime challenges like piracy and security threats in the Indian Ocean.

## **Parliament passes Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026.**

The Parliament of India has passed the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, aimed at decriminalising minor offences and promoting ease of doing business and living.

The Bill amends 79 Central Acts, covering 784 provisions, of which 717 are decriminalised.

Piyush Goyal stated that the reforms will reduce compliance burden and encourage trust-based governance, while opposition members raised concerns over its scope and impact.

## **Parliament passes CAPF (General Administration) Bill, 2026.**

The Parliament of India has passed the Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026, to regulate recruitment and service conditions of CAPF officers.

The Bill mandates deputation for 50% of Inspector General posts, at least 67% of Additional Director General posts, and all senior-most positions.

Nityanand Rai said the legislation aims to strengthen internal security, ensure consistency in service rules, and enhance coordination between CAPFs and state agencies.

## **Parliament declares Amaravati as sole capital of Andhra Pradesh.**

The Parliament of India has passed the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, granting statutory status to Amaravati as the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh.

The amendment to the 2014 Act provides legal clarity after years of uncertainty following bifurcation.

## **India becomes 3rd largest renewable energy market in 2025.**

India emerged as the third-largest renewable energy market globally in 2025, after China and the United States,

according to International Renewable Energy Agency.

India added about 45 GW capacity, reaching 250.5 GW, driven mainly by solar and wind growth.

The expansion reflects strong momentum despite global energy uncertainties, with rising contributions from solar, wind, and hydropower strengthening India's clean energy transition.

## **Business and Economy**

### **RBI allows residents to exchange rupees at airport forex counters.**

Reserve Bank of India has permitted residents to exchange Indian Rupee notes at forex counters in international airport departure halls.

Earlier limited to non-residents, the facility now extends to all travellers after a policy review.

Exchanges can be made at counters in duty-free or security hold areas beyond immigration and customs.

The RBI has amended its Master Direction on Money Changing Activities to enhance convenience for outbound passengers.

### **India's coal production rises over 10% in FY 2025–26.**

India recorded coal production of 210.46 million tonnes from captive and commercial mines in FY 2025–26, marking a 10.22% growth over the previous year.

Dispatches also rose to 204.61 MT, up 7.35%.

The Ministry of Coal attributed the growth to improved efficiency, better logistics, and expanded capacity, with new coal blocks operationalised, supporting rising energy demand and the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

### **Government grants customs duty exemption on petrochemical products.**

The Ministry of Finance has announced full customs duty exemption on key petrochemical products until June 30, 2026,

amid supply disruptions due to the West Asia conflict.

The move aims to ensure availability of critical inputs and reduce cost pressures on industries.

Around 40 items, including methanol and ammonia, are covered, benefiting sectors like plastics, textiles, pharmaceuticals, and automotive manufacturing, while also helping stabilise prices for consumers.

### **India's defence exports hit record ₹38,424 crore in FY 2025–26.**

India achieved a record defence export value of ₹38,424 crore in FY 2025–26, registering a 62.66% growth over the previous year.

The Ministry of Defence noted strong contributions from both DPSUs and private firms, with DPSU exports rising sharply.

Rajnath Singh highlighted that the growth reflects increasing global demand for Indian defence products and progress towards becoming a global defence manufacturing hub.

### **Banks report strong credit growth across sectors in FY 2025–26.**

Banks across public, private, and small finance segments reported strong credit growth in FY 2025–26, outpacing deposit growth.

Punjab National Bank and Central Bank of India recorded double-digit growth in advances, while Bank of India also showed robust expansion.

Private lenders like RBL Bank and CSB

Bank posted strong gains, especially in retail and gold loans.

Small finance banks, including Ujjivan Small Finance Bank and Equitas Small Finance Bank, also saw higher credit growth, reflecting rising loan demand.

### **RBI approves Emirates NBD stake acquisition in RBL Bank.**

Reserve Bank of India has approved UAE-based Emirates NBD to acquire up to 74% stake in RBL Bank for \$3 billion, marking the largest foreign investment in an Indian bank.

RBL Bank will become a foreign bank subsidiary, with certain governance relaxations.

The deal, also cleared by the Competition Commission of India, awaits SEBI approval and includes an open offer to acquire an additional 26% stake.

### **Marc Pilgrem to exit JioBlackRock; Swapnil Bhaskar named CEO.**

Marc Pilgrem will step down as the Managing Director and CEO of JioBlackRock Investment Advisers and return to BlackRock for a new leadership role. Swapnil Bhaskar will take over as the CEO, leading the next growth phase of the digital wealth platform.

The transition follows the launch of key businesses and expansion of retail-focused investment advisory services in India.

### **Bharti Airtel crosses 650 million users, ranks second globally.**

Bharti Airtel has surpassed 650 million customers worldwide, becoming the second-largest telecom operator globally by subscriber base, according to GSMA Intelligence.

The company, promoted by Sunil Mittal, operates across India and Africa.

Vice Chairman Gopal Vittal highlighted continued investment in advanced technologies.

Airtel also leads in 5G services in India and is expanding into financial services through its digital platforms.

## **RBI updates framework for Floating Rate Savings Bonds.**

The Reserve Bank of India has issued revised guidelines for Floating Rate Savings Bonds, retaining key features like a 7-year tenure and interest linked to NSC rates plus 35 basis points. The April 2026 circular focuses on digitisation, improved accountability, and standardised investor services. Banks acting as receiving offices will face stricter timelines and penalties for delays, while investors will be compensated for delays in interest payments, issuance, or redemption.

## **Sports**

### **Aditya Pratap Yadav reaches quarter-finals at Asian Boxing Championships.**

Aditya Pratap Yadav advanced to the quarter-finals of the Asian Boxing Championships in Ulaanbaatar.

He defeated Mousa Alhawsaw by a unanimous 5-0 decision in the men's 65 kg category. He will next face Abdulloh Madaminov in the quarter-final bout.