

## International

### General Phan Van Giang appointed as Vietnam Deputy PM.

General Phan Van Giang, Vietnam's Minister of National Defence, has been appointed as the Deputy Prime Minister. The appointment occurs alongside other recent leadership changes in Vietnam, including the election of To Lam as the President.

### Madagascar declares 15-day state of energy emergency.

The Malagasy government declared a state of energy emergency across the entire territory for a period of 15 days to address a major energy supply crisis currently affecting the country. According to a presidential communique, this situation is attributable in particular to the repercussions of the conflict in West Asia, which have disrupted energy supplies and public services in Madagascar.

### Indian Army contingent to participate in 4th edition of India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise, Cyclone-IV.

An Indian Army contingent has departed for Egypt to participate in the fourth edition of the India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise, Cyclone-IV.

The exercise will be held at Anshas, Egypt, from April 9-17. The Indian contingent, comprising 25 personnel from Special Forces units, will train alongside Egyptian counterparts in a realistic operational environment.

The exercise aims to enhance joint mission planning capabilities and improve interoperability through the exchange of best practices in special operations.

## National

### India withdraws proposal to host COP 33 climate summit in 2028.

India has withdrawn its proposal to host the 33rd Conference of the Parties (COP 33) of

the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2028. The decision, reportedly due to a review of commitments for 2028 and a "busy calendar. India had proposed hosting the COP-33 summit in India in 2028. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had conveyed India's proposal in his special address at the inauguration of High Level Segment of COP-28 in December 2023 in the UAE.

### Cabinet approves two hydro-electric projects in Arunachal Pradesh with a total outlay exceeding ₹40,000 crore.

In a major boost to hydro-electric power realm in Arunachal Pradesh, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved investing ₹26,069.5 crore for the construction of Kamala Hydro Electric project, alongside an investment of ₹14,105.83 crore to construct the Kalai-II hydro-electric project.

Cumulatively, infusing about ₹40,176 crore to construct two major hydroelectric power projects in the northeastern state.

### Cabinet Committee hikes HPCL Rajasthan Refinery project cost by 84% to ₹79,459 crore.

With the objective to accord a further boost to India's domestic petrochemicals production, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved a hike of 84% in project cost of HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Ltd from ₹43,129 crores to ₹79,459 crore. Further, the state-owned Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) would pump an additional equity investment of ₹8,962 crore. Thus, bringing their total equity investment after the increment to 19,600 crores.

### Nation observes Shaurya Diwas, honours CRPF valour.

Shaurya Diwas is observed every year on April 9 to commemorate the exceptional

courage and bravery displayed by security forces during the 1965 India-Pakistan conflict. The day commemorates the extraordinary bravery displayed by CRPF personnel during the 1965 India-Pakistan conflict.

### Ministry of Ayush to commemorate World Homoeopathy Day 2026 in New Delhi.

The Ministry of Ayush will commemorate World Homoeopathy Day 2026 on April 10-11 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, celebrating the 271st birth anniversary of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann with the theme “Homoeopathy for Sustainable Health”. A two-day interactive forum will also be organised to mark the occasion. It added that the forum will bring together leading policymakers, researchers, practitioners and delegates. They will deliberate on the evolving role of homoeopathy in building sustainable healthcare systems.

### Mohsina Kidwai, veteran Congress leader and ex union minister, dies.

Veteran Congress leader and former Union minister Mohsina Kidwai, who held key ministerial portfolios under former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, died . She was 94. Kidwai has held important portfolios in the Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi governments. She also served as a member of the Congress Working Committee and the party's Central Election Committee.

### Business and Economy

#### RBI MPC keeps repo rate unchanged at 5.25%.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), voted unanimously to keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 5.25%.

Consequently, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains at 5% and the marginal

standing facility (MSF) rate and the bank rate remains at 5.50%.

The RBI projects inflation for FY27 to be at 4.6 percent, GDP at 6.9 percent

#### RBI unveils policy measures covering regulations, supervision, payment systems and financial markets.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has unveiled a set of developmental and regulatory policy measures covering regulations, supervision, payment systems and financial markets.

- Under regulations, the RBI has proposed easing norms for banks by removing the condition linked to the inclusion of quarterly net profits in the Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR).
- It has also proposed to do away with the Investment Fluctuation Reserve (IFR) requirement for commercial banks while revising norms for other bank categories.
- In the payment systems segment, it proposed to simplify the onboarding of MSMEs on the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) by removing due diligence requirements, aiming to improve access to working capital and ease of doing business.
- In financial markets, it has decided to expand participation in the term money market by allowing non-bank entities such as NBFCs and housing finance companies and enhancing borrowing limits for standalone primary dealers to improve liquidity and strengthen monetary policy transmission.

#### Wipro bags \$1 billion contract from Olam Group.

Wipro secured an eight-year deal with Singapore-based food and agribusiness group Olam group, its largest contract to date. The agreement is expected to generate

more than \$1 billion in total contract value, including a committed spend of \$800 million.

As part of a broader engagement, it will also acquire Olam's IT and digital services arm, Mindsprint, for \$375 million.

### **UCO Bank records 19% rise in loan growth in Q4.**

State-owned UCO Bank reported a 19 per cent credit growth at ₹2.62 lakh crore in the January-March quarter of FY26.

Total advances were at ₹2.20 lakh crore in the year-ago quarter that ended in March 2025. It reported an 11 percent rise in total deposits at ₹3.27 lakh crore during the reporting quarter, as against ₹2.94 lakh crore registered at the end of the fourth quarter of the preceding financial year.

### **Bank of Baroda launches AI-powered multilingual platform for in-branch customer service.**

Baroda (BoB) unveiled its bob SAMVAD, an AI-powered multilingual conversational platform aimed at transforming customer interactions at its branches. The platform is designed to eliminate language barriers, and it enables customers and branch staff to communicate seamlessly with each other in their preferred language

Developed entirely in-house, bob SAMVAD leverages AI-driven speech and language technologies to enable real-time, low-latency, two-way communication across 22 languages, ensuring contextual accuracy and natural fluency, while embracing India's linguistic diversity.

### **M Pallonji Group gets IRDAI's R1 nod for general insurance venture.**

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, has granted R1 approval to the M Pallonji Group for its proposed general insurance venture, in partnership with Divya Sehgal and Federal Bank. The M Pallonji Group is

expected to hold a 51% stake, with additional capital support from Federal Bank and a clutch of family offices.

The venture will be promoted by Mehli Mistry and Pheroze Mistry, cousins of the Shapoorji Mistry family.

### **No personal hearing needed before banks tag loan accounts as fraud: SC.**

The Supreme Court (SC) has ruled that borrowers are not entitled to a personal hearing before banks classify their loan accounts as "fraud" under the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directions. The judgment brings finality to a contentious issue that has seen conflicting rulings from different high courts (HCs).

The apex court clarified that borrowers must be given access to the forensic audit report on which the classification is based.

### **IRDAI forms panel to review private health insurance facets.**

Insurance regulator IRDAI has constituted a sub-committee of the Insurance Advisory Committee to review the current landscape of private health insurance in India.

Coverage, penetration, claims experience, product design, grievance redressal and consumer experience will form part of the review. The sub-committee will recommend regulatory, policy, and operational measures to promote innovation, wider coverage, better risk pooling, and improved financial protection through health insurance.

### **Sports**

### **Asian Wrestling Championships in Bishkek Indian Greco-Roman wrestlers win five medals.**

In wrestling, Indian Greco-Roman wrestlers added three more medals to their tally at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2026 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, with Nitesh Siwach settling for silver, while Prince and Sachin Sahrawat struck bronze.

The three medals meant Indian Greco-Roman wrestlers finished the continental championship with a rich haul of five medals.

**Badminton Asia Championships: Ayush Shetty stuns world no. 7 Li Shi Feng.**

Indian shuttler Ayush Shetty has delivered a stunning performance at the Badminton Asia Championships in Ningbo, China. In

the opening round, Shetty defeated World No. 7 Li Shi Feng in straight games, 21-13, 21-16, in a match lasting just over 50 minutes. Shetty will next face Taiwanese player Chi Yu Jen for a place in the quarterfinals.