

**NEWS FROM APRIL, 2025**

Monthly  
**CURRENT  
AFFAIRS**



**May Edition**

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**India finished its `campaign at the ISSF World Cup 2025 Lima with a total of seven medals, finishing third in the medal tally.** Simranpreet Kaur Brar won the silver medal in the women's 25m pistol event on April 22, 2025, to end the country's campaign on a high. This was her first medal at the mega event as well. Simranpreet scored a total of 33 hits in the final to finish second, while China's Sun Yujie took home the gold medal with a score of 34 and Yao Qianxun secured the bronze with a total of 29. Meanwhile, India's double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker returned with no medal in the women's 25m pistol event as she finished fourth with a score of 22. Thanks to Simranpreet's silver, India finished with seven medals - two golds, four silvers, and one bronze. Both gold medals came in the 10m air pistol event with Suruchi Singh and Saurabh Chaudhary claiming the honours. China and the USA finished in the top two with 13 and 7 medals respectively, and four gold medals each.



**On April 22, 2025; five terrorists attacked male Hindu tourists in Baisaran Valley, in the Indian-administered territory of Jammu and Kashmir, killing 26 and injuring more than 20 others, in the deadliest incident of its kind in India since the 2008 Mumbai attacks.** The incident took place in Baisaran Valley, a popular tourist destination near Pahalgam. US President Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin and EU chief Ursula Von der Leyen were among world leaders who condemned the attacks. India has taken a series of strong measures following the Pahalgam terror attack, including suspending the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960, suspending the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme and closing the Integrated Check Post Attari with immediate effect. India has halted all visa services to Pakistanis and has asked those currently in India to leave within 48 hours. India will reduce the Pakistani diplomatic staff strength from 55 to 30 by May 1, 2025. Pakistan denied India's accusations and retaliated by suspending the Simla Agreement, restricting trade, and closing airspace.



**Parliament has passed the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, with the Rajya Sabha approving it on April 4, 2025.**

The Upper House cleared the Bill with 128 members voting in favour of it while 95 members voted against the legislation. The Rajya Sabha held a discussion on the Bill for around 12 hours. The Lok Sabha has already approved the Bill. The Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2025 aims to streamline the management of Waqf properties, with provisions to safeguard heritage sites and promote social welfare. The legislation also aims to improve governance by enhancing transparency in property management, streamlining coordination between Waqf Boards and local authorities and protecting stakeholders' rights. The Bill also seeks to improve the economic and social status of Muslim women, particularly widows and divorced women. The Bill is intended to make the Waqf Board more inclusive, having representation from different Muslim sects for better Waqf governance and decision-making. The Waqf (Amendment) establishes a secular, transparent, and accountable system for Waqf administration.



**Two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra began his 2025 season with a winning effort at an invitational event in Potchefstroom, South Africa, on April 16, 2025. The Indian javelin star clinched the gold medal, topping a six-man field at the Potch Invitational Track event.** Chopra registered a best throw of 84.52m, opening the season with a confidence-boosting performance. He finished ahead of 25-year-old South African javelin thrower Douw Smit. He looked in good shape as he got in his first few competitive throws of the 2025 campaign. Only Neeraj and Douw managed to cross the 80-metre mark in the men's javelin final. While Neeraj's throw was below his personal best of 89.94m, Douw came close to his personal mark of 83.29m. In a significant change, Neeraj has been training in Potchefstroom in the lead-up to the new season. He parted ways with his long-time coach Klaus Bartonietz and began working with the legendary Jan Elezn ahead of the 2025 season.



**The President of Sri Lanka, H.E. Anura Kumara Disanayaka conferred on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi the Sri Lanka Mitra Vibhushana award, the country's highest honour bestowed on foreign leaders on April 5, 2025.** This is the first time that an Indian leader is receiving this award. The award was conferred on the Prime Minister for his enduring contribution to strengthening the India-Sri Lanka friendship. Accepting the award on behalf of 1.4 billion people of India, Prime Minister dedicated the honour to the special friendship between India and Sri Lanka and the age-old links between the people of the two countries. The award consists of a silver medal adorned with nine Sri Lankan gems, known as Navarathna. The design features a globe surrounded by lotus petals. At the centre is a Pun Kalasa, symbolising prosperity. The medal also includes symbols of the Sun and Moon, along with a Dharma Chakra, representing shared Buddhist heritage. It is presented with a 6.5cm wide ribbon for wearing around the neck. The honour is a symbol of mutual respect and cooperation. It also serves to strengthen diplomatic ties between nations.



**Indian Chess Grandmaster Koneru Humpy won the Pune FIDE Women's Grand Prix on April 23, 2025.** Humpy won the final round with White pieces against Bulgarian International Master Nurgul Salimova by a score of 7/9 points. However, Chinese Grandmaster Zhu Jiner also won her final round game against Russian International Master Polina Shuvalova with the Black pieces, and scored 7/9 points. But she was placed 2<sup>nd</sup> as per tiebreaks. The Grand Prix points and prize money will be shared between Humpy and Zhu. With this win, Humpy's qualification chances to the next Women's Candidates Chess tournament has greatly increased. After the 2025 Women's World Cup, the Grand Prix series is the most high-profile tournament in this cycle. The Pune event, which has an €80,000 (77 lakh) prize fund, is the fifth of six events in the 2024-2025 Women's Grand Prix cycle. Based on the event's final standings, players also earn Grand Prix points. The two with the most points at the end of the series get spots in the next Women's Candidates Tournament.



**The UN Human Rights Council has recognised the connection between plastic pollution, ocean protection, and the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.**

This landmark decision, made during the 58<sup>th</sup> session on April 4, 2025, acknowledges that plastic waste and marine degradation directly threaten human rights, particularly in coastal and island regions. The resolution underscores the need to address plastic pollution not just as a waste management issue but as a matter of protecting lives, livelihoods, and long-term ecological justice. The resolution explicitly states that plastic pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss are together threatening the health of the world's oceans- and, by extension, imperilling basic human rights. It underscores that safeguarding marine ecosystems is not only vital for ecological balance, but also essential for protecting human dignity and well-being.





**The University Grants Commission (UGC) has introduced new regulations to enhance the recognition of foreign academic qualifications.** This initiative aims to assist Indian students returning from abroad who often encounter challenges in having their degrees recognised. The UGC's regulations, effective from April 4, 2025, establish a clear and technology-driven process for assessing foreign qualifications. The regulations focus on a transparent equivalence process. They outline specific parameters for assessing foreign qualifications. These include the legitimacy of the institution, the duration of the course, and the level of the qualification. A Standing Committee on Equivalence has been established to evaluate institutions and qualifications. Certain professional degrees are not included in this equivalence framework. Fields such as Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, Law, and Architecture will continue to follow existing regulatory norms. These disciplines require adherence to specific guidelines set by statutory regulatory councils in India.



**PM Modi on April 4, 2025; presented a comprehensive 21-point action plan during the 6<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok, outlining an ambitious roadmap for cooperation across various sectors among member nations.** The action plan includes a diverse set of proposals aimed at enhancing regional economic integration, digital transformation, disaster preparedness, energy security, and cultural exchanges. Among the key proposals, PM Modi stressed the need for economic integration within BIMSTEC nations. He proposed the creation of a BIMSTEC Chamber of Commerce, an annual BIMSTEC Business Summit, and a feasibility study to enable trade in local currencies across member countries. Turning his focus to digital transformation, PM Modi urged member nations to leverage the potential of the IT sector and technological strengths. He proposed a pilot study to assess the needs of BIMSTEC countries for adopting India's Digital Public Infrastructure model and integrating India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with regional payment systems.



**ISRO successfully achieved a milestone by demonstrating a controlled re-entry of the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM-4) into Earth's atmosphere, impacting the Indian Ocean on April 4, 2025.** This event marked the end of POEM-4's mission, which had been part of the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission and was responsible for conducting experiments and hosting payloads. The controlled re-entry was a key demonstration of ISRO's commitment to managing space debris and promoting sustainable space operations. To ensure a safe re-entry, ISRO engineers performed engine restarts to reduce POEM-4's orbit. The module was also passivated by venting remaining fuel, further minimizing the risk of accidental break-up during descent. POEM-4 hosted various payloads, including innovative experiments like India's first astrobiology experiments, demonstrating the platform's utility for scientific research.



**India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and star batter Smriti Mandhana were honoured as the Leading Men's and Women's Cricketers in the World, respectively, in the prestigious Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 2025 edition, celebrating their exceptional performances in 2024 on April 22, 2025.** Bumrah, 31, had a phenomenal year across formats, particularly in Test cricket. He claimed a staggering 71 wickets in Tests in 2024, averaging just 14.92, the best for any bowler in a single calendar year with that volume of wickets. His ability to deliver under pressure was highlighted in high-voltage matches, including a match against Pakistan. On the women's side, Smriti Mandhana had a year to remember. The elegant left-hander scored 1659 runs across formats in 2024, making her the highest run-scorer in international women's cricket that year. Her run tally included four centuries in ODIs, setting a new record in women's cricket.



**Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid a State Visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on April 22, 2025.** Prime Minister was received by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the Royal Palace in Jeddah and accorded a ceremonial welcome. Prime Minister and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia held official talks and co-chaired the second meeting of the India–Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council (SPC). HRH Crown Prince strongly condemned the ghastly terror attack in Pahalgam and offered deepest condolences on the innocent lives lost. The two leaders resolved to combat terrorism tooth and nail. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi cut short his two-day visit to Saudi Arabia and returned to New Delhi early after at least 26 tourists were killed at a resort in Pahalgam, Kashmir.



**Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna recommended Justice B.R. Gavai to the government for appointment as the 52<sup>nd</sup> Chief Justice of India.**

Chief Justice Khanna is scheduled to retire on May 13. Born on November 24, 1960 in Amravati, Justice Gavai joined the Bar on March 16, 1985. Justice Gavai's father, Ramakrishna Suryabhan Gavai, also known as 'Dadasaheb', was a former Governor of Bihar and a prominent Dalit leader. He was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019 and is due to retire on November 23, 2025. Justice Gavai, as a Supreme Court judge, was part of many impactful decisions, including the upholding of abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and the striking down of the electoral bonds scheme. The judge laid down pan-India guidelines against illegal demolitions or the 'bulldozer culture' of States. He was part of a Constitution Bench which held that States have a right to sub-classify Scheduled Castes notified in the Presidential List in order to provide them more preferential treatment in public employment and education.



**Pope Francis passed away at the age of 88, following a serious illness caused by pneumonia. He died at his residence in Casa Santa Marta, near St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican on April 21, 2025.** Pope Francis was the first Latin American Cardinal to be elected as the leader of the Roman Catholics. Pope Francis, born Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina, became the first Latin American and southern hemisphere Cardinal to be elected as the Pope in 2013, following the retirement of Pope Benedict XVI — the first pope in 600 years to voluntarily step down. Before Pope Francis, the last non-European to hold the papacy was Gregory III, a Syrian-born Pope who died in 741 AD, making Pope Francis a significant figure in the history of the Roman Catholic Church. World leaders including Donald Trump, Emmanuel Macron, and Emmanuel Macron, and EU officials were gathered in St Peter's Square, where around 200,000 mourners gathered to pay their last tributes to Pope Francis.



**The Constantine the philosopher university in Nitra, Slovakia, conferred the degree of Honorary Doctorate, Honoris Causa to President of India Droupadi Murmu on April 11, 2025.** The president was awarded the Doctorate of Honoris Causa in recognition of her distinguished career in public service and governance, advocacy for social justice and inclusion, and contribution towards education, empowerment of women, and preservation and promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity. The president of India, in her address, said that education is a tool for change. I have seen it in my life as I have gone from teacher to public servant to the highest office of the state. She said that India has placed education at the heart of its policies. NEP is designed to harness the demographic dividend focused on research, innovation, and global collaboration. The president of Slovakia, Peter Pellegrini, said that the President of India's visit to Slovakia is a meaningful milestone in the growing and dynamic relationship between our two nations.





**On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the Architect of the Constitution, Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar on April 14, 2025, PM Modi dedicated a host of development projects to the people of Haryana.** He laid the foundation stone for the third unit of 800 MW at Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Plant in Yamunanagar, which will be built at a cost of 8,469 crore rupees. Additionally, he laid the foundation stone for a GOBAR DHAN Plant in Yamunanagar worth 90 crore rupees and inaugurated the Rewari Bypass built at a cost of 1069 crore rupees. Union Minister Manohar Lal, Union Minister of State Rao Inderjit Singh, Union Minister of State for Cooperation Krishan Pal, Haryana Cabinet Ministers, Anil Vij, Krishan Lal Panwar and Shyam Singh Rana were also present on this occasion. Earlier in the morning, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the new terminal of Maharaja Agrasen Airport and flagged off the first flight for Ayodhya from the Airport. Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini was present on this occasion.



**The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoSPW), Shri Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off Cruise Operations from the Mumbai International Cruise Terminal (MICT), India's largest cruise terminal, in Mumbai on April, 21, 2025.** The Union Minister also inaugurated a renovated Fire Memorial at Victoria Docks as well as renovated two heritage buildings — Fort House Ballard Estate and Evelyn House at Colaba and Sagar Upvan Garden along with Shore to Ship Electric Supply under Green Port Initiative. The MICT, developed as per Cruise Bharat Mission, was developed as per latest global standards and is expected to take a pioneering role in developing cruise tourism in India. Spread over a built-up area of more than 4,15,000 Square Feet, the MICT is developed at Ballard Pier. MICT is India's largest world class cruise terminal. Equipped with 72 Check in and Immigration counters spreading over an area of 2,07,000 Square Feet on the first two floors (G+1) while the other two floors (2 + 3) are developed as commercial floors.

## Quick Reads...

**The Indian Air Force (IAF) has dispatched a contingent to the UAE to participate in Exercise Desert Flag-10, a multinational air combat training event.** It is scheduled from April 21 to May 8, 2025, the exercise is hosted by the UAE Air Force and includes air forces from 11 other nations. The primary objective is to engage in complex fighter operations, facilitating the exchange of operational knowledge and best practices among the air forces. The IAF has deployed its MiG-29 and Jaguar aircraft for this purpose. The MiG-29, tasked with engaging aerial targets within radar range and attacking ground targets in clear visibility, is armed with an array of weaponry.

**South India's first AC EMU (Electric Multiple Unit) train was launched on the Chennai Beach– Chengalpattu corridor, offering Metro-like comfort, and marking a major advancement in the region's suburban rail network on April 19, 2025.** The 12-car train, manufactured by Integral Coach Factory, features modern amenities such as automatic sliding doors, air conditioning, GPS-based displays, CCTV, stainless steel seating, and an energy-saving regenerative braking system. The service operates six days a week (except Sundays) with six total services daily: 4 between Chennai Beach–Chengalpattu and 2 between Chennai Beach– Tambaram, with fares ranging from Rs. 35 to Rs. 105 depending on distance. This initiative by Southern Railway's Chennai division aims to provide a comfortable, safe, and efficient travel experience, especially beneficial during summer and for daily commuters, echoing the success of Mumbai's AC EMU model.

## Quick Reads...

**The Shrimad Bhagavad Gita and Bharat Muni's Natyashastra have been inscribed in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register, a global initiative that preserves documentary heritage of outstanding value on April 18, 2025.** UNESCO's Memory of the World Register recognises important historical texts, manuscripts, and documents that have influenced societies across generations. The Bhagavad Gita, a sacred dialogue between Lord Krishna and Arjuna, has long been regarded as a spiritual and philosophical cornerstone. Meanwhile, Natyashastra, penned by ancient sage Bharat Muni, is considered the foundational text on performing arts, especially theatre, dance, and music. PM Modi hailed this as a proud moment for all Indians, noting that these ancient texts have shaped civilisation and continue to inspire globally.

**US President Donald Trump on April 3, 2025, announced sweeping 'discounted' reciprocal tariffs on several countries, including India, which will be charged 27% of its imports.** Calling the move a "kind reciprocal", Trump said the tariffs will not be fully reciprocal and the US will charge countries around half of the levies they put on Washington. In a press conference at the White House, Trump showed a chart showing the list of countries, including India, with the new tariffs to be imposed on them and the current levies the nations impose on the United States. He said that India imposes a 52% tariff on US imports. The US President also announced a minimum baseline tariff of 10% on all imports, with higher rates on countries that have the highest trade deficits with the US.

## Quick Reads...

**The state police on April 4, 2025; launched GP-DRASTI initiative. Through this initiative, drones will reach crime scenes faster than PCR vans.** To reduce response time and enable immediate action, Gujarat Police has decided to deploy drones. During a 10-day pilot project conducted in Surat and Ahmedabad, it was observed that drones reached the scene in less than half the time taken by PCR vans—sometimes within just two to two and a half minutes. The footage captured by the drone will be transmitted in real-time to officers at the drone base station, allowing them to assess the severity of the situation and deploy the necessary police force accordingly.

**The commerce ministry is closely monitoring global trade dynamics, including tariff changes and import surges.** To aid stakeholders, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has launched a 'Global Tariff and Trade Helpdesk' on April 11, 2025. This initiative addresses import/export challenges, EXIM clearance, logistics, financial issues, and regulatory compliance, amidst evolving trade landscapes and tariff measures.

**The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India has successfully trialled the Mk-II(A) Laser-Directed Energy Weapon (DEW) system.** This achievement, announced on April 13, 2025, marks India's entry into a select group of nations with high-power laser weaponry capabilities. The Mk-II(A) DEW system is designed to disable missiles, drones, and smaller projectiles efficiently.

## Quick Reads...

**The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in Exercise INIOCHOS-25.** This biennial multinational air exercise is hosted by the Hellenic Air Force in Greece. Scheduled from 31 March to 11 April 2025, the exercise aims to enhance international cooperation among air forces. It focuses on simulating modern air warfare challenges.

**PM Modi inaugurated the New Pamban Bridge in Tamil Nadu on April 6, 2025.** This landmark project is India's first vertical-lift sea bridge, showcasing the nation's growing engineering and infrastructural capabilities. The 2.07 km long bridge, spanning the Palk Strait, stands as a testament to India's engineering prowess and visionary infrastructure development. PM Modi, accompanied by Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi, flagged off the first train to cross the sea bridge. A demonstration showcased the bridge's functionality, with visuals capturing key moments.

**The DRDO successfully conducted release trials of the Long-Range Glide Bomb (LRGB) 'Gaurav' from a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft on April 10, 2025.** During the trials, the weapon was integrated to multiple stations in different warhead configurations, with land target on Island. The trials successfully demonstrated range close to 100 kms with pin-point accuracy. The LRGB is a 1,000-kg class glide bomb, designed and developed indigenously by Research Centre Imarat, Armament Research and Development Establishment and Integrated Test Range, Chandipur.