

15th April

### National News:

- **Belgium Confirms Extradition Request:** Belgium authorities confirmed India's extradition request after Mehul Choksi's arrest. Choksi, along with his nephew Nirav Modi, is wanted in a PNB loan fraud case worth over ₹13,578 crore.
- **Murshidabad Waqf Bill Protest:** The Calcutta High Court directed the deployment of Central Armed Forces in Murshidabad amid protests against the Waqf law. Over 150 people have been arrested, according to the state government.

### International News:

- **Trump on Ukraine War:** Donald Trump stated that Volodymyr Zelensky shares the blame with Vladimir Putin for "millions of people dead" in the Ukraine war. He also criticized former US President Joe Biden, saying, "When you start a war, you got to know you can win," during a meeting with El Salvador's leader at the White House.
- **Xi Jinping's Hanoi Visit:** China's President Xi Jinping emphasized stronger trade and supply chain ties with Vietnam during his Southeast Asia trip. In Hanoi, 45 agreements were signed, including deals on rail links and supply chains, as well as a COMAC-Vietjet partnership.

### Economic News:

- **Criticism of Indian Startups:** Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal expressed dissatisfaction with Indian startups, sparking debate. He criticized their consumer focus and lack of innovation, attributing these issues to the government's economic model.
- **Ladakh's Non-Cooperation Campaign:** Ladakh initiated a non-cooperation movement, citing threats to its ecology and economy from external commercial interests and large corporations seeking control over its economic sector.

### Business News:

- **Tata Power-NTPC Agreement:** Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL) signed a Power Purchase Agreement with NTPC Ltd. for a 200-megawatt dispatchable renewable energy project. The deal involves a capital commitment of approximately ₹4,500 crore and spans 24 months.

### Sports News:

- **IPL 2025, CSK vs LSG:** MS Dhoni and Shivam Dube's late cameos helped Chennai Super Kings secure their first win after five consecutive losses against Lucknow Super Giants. The match was evenly poised, but LSG bowlers faltered in the final overs.

## Political News:

- **RLJP Chief Exits NDA:** Pashupati Kumar Paras, leader of the Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party, announced his departure from the BJP-led NDA, citing neglect and injustice towards his Dalit party.

## Legal News:

**States Support Waqf Amendment Act:** Assam, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, and Maharashtra filed intervention applications in the Supreme Court, endorsing the Waqf Amendment Act 2025 ahead of the hearing of petitions challenging the legislation.

# 16th April



## National

- **VHP Criticizes Bengal Government:** The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) urged the Bengal government to halt attacks on Hindus during Waqf Act protests.
- **Indian Army's Tech-Driven Exercise in Arunachal:** The Indian Army concluded a major field exercise in Arunachal Pradesh, showcasing advanced operational readiness and technological integration through the deployment of modern weapons, equipment, and systems in rugged terrain.

## International

- **U.S.-Harvard Tensions Escalate:** President Donald Trump threatened Harvard University's tax-exempt status, intensifying political conflict.
- **Hamas Rejects Israeli Ceasefire Proposal:** Hamas reportedly turned down Israel's proposal for a six-week ceasefire in Gaza, which included a demand for the disarmament of the armed group.

## Economic

- **India's Inflation Hits Record Low:** Retail inflation eased to 3.34% in March 2025 due to declining food prices.
- **India's Trade Deficit Widens:** The trade deficit increased to \$21.54 billion in March 2025, compared to \$15.31 billion a year earlier, as imports grew by 11% year-on-year to \$63.51 billion.

## Business

- **IndusInd Bank Reports Financial Loss:** A ₹1,979 crore discrepancy in derivatives impacted the bank's net worth.
- **Adani Green Energy Expands Capacity:** The company announced a 30% growth in operational capacity for FY25.

## Sports

- **IPL Match Thriller:** Chennai Super Kings claimed a 5-wicket victory against Lucknow Super Giants in IPL 2025.
- **Saurabh Chaudhary Secures World Cup Bronze:** Saurabh Chaudhary earned a bronze medal in the 10m air pistol event at the ISSF World Cup in Lima, while his cousin, Varun Tomar, narrowly missed the podium, finishing fourth.

## Politics

- **Protests Over National Herald Case:** Congress leaders alleged political vendetta in the case, intensifying protests.

## Legal

- **Speedy Trials in Trafficking Cases:** Supreme Court directed High Courts to complete child trafficking trials within six months.
- **Supreme Court to Hear Waqf Act Petitions:** The Supreme Court began hearing 73 petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, citing concerns over alleged religious discrimination, executive overreach, and dilution of Waqf protections.

## 17th April

### National

- **Breakthrough in Rishikesh-Karnaprayag Rail Link Project:** Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw witnessed the breakthrough of the 14.57-km-long tunnel no. 8, located between Devprayag and Janasu, as part of Uttarakhand's 125-km Rishikesh-Karnaprayag Broad Gauge Rail Link Project.
- **North East Investors Summit:** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar highlighted the northeastern region as a "gateway to Southeast Asia" during the North East Investors Summit.

### International

- **U.S.-India Technology Partnership:** U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance announced plans to visit India next week to discuss strengthening the India-U.S. technology partnership.
- **US-Ukraine Peace Talks in Paris:** Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff and top diplomat Marco Rubio are set to hold discussions with European counterparts in Paris today to explore efforts to end the ongoing war in Ukraine.

### Economic

- **India as a Connectivity Bridge via IMEC:** Union Minister Piyush Goyal addressed the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) High-Level Roundtable on Connectivity and Economic Growth in New Delhi, emphasizing India's role in strengthening regulatory connectivity beyond physical infrastructure.
- **Rise in US Cotton Exports to India:** US upland cotton exports to India surged significantly from February to April, reaching 155,260 running bales compared to

25,901 bales during the same period last year, driven by lower prices, tariff uncertainties, and increased demand in India.

## Business

- **Warburg Pincus and ADIA Investment in IDFC FIRST Bank:** The board of IDFC FIRST Bank has approved raising Rs 7,500 crore (\$877 million) from Warburg Pincus and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority affiliate firms, securing a combined 15% stake to support the bank's growth.

## Sports

- **Arsenal's Champions League Semifinal Triumph:** Arsenal secured its place in the Champions League semifinals with a 5-1 aggregate victory over Real Madrid, following a 3-0 first-leg win in London, and is set to face Paris Saint-Germain in the next stage.

## Politics

- **AIADMK Rules Out BJP Tie-Up:** AIADMK leader Edappadi K. Palaniswami ruled out a coalition government with BJP in Tamil Nadu.
- **Rahul Gandhi's Gujarat Confidence:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi expressed confidence in defeating BJP in Gujarat during his recent visit.

## Legal

- **Supreme Court on 'Waqf by User':** The Supreme Court, while hearing 73 petitions challenging the Waqf Amendment Act, observed that denotifying properties classified as 'waqf by user' would have significant consequences but refrained from issuing interim orders.

## 18th April

## National

- **EU Naval Force's Proposed Maritime Exercise:** The envisaged exercise, if approved, would involve two European ships practicing counter-piracy operations, tactical maneuvers, and communications with the Indian Navy.
- **Karnataka High Court on Waqf Act Protest:** The Karnataka High Court criticized the state government for allowing a protest against the Waqf (Amendment) Act in Mangaluru, calling it inappropriate and procedurally flawed as the issue is still pending before the Supreme Court.

## International

- **Florida Campus Shooting:** Florida State University witnessed a tragic shooting, leaving two dead and six injured.
- **Ukraine Signs Minerals Deal Outline with US:** Ukraine's economy minister Yulia Svyrydenko signed a memorandum of intent for a minerals deal with the US, paving the way for an "economic partnership agreement."

## Economic

- **Fitch Cuts India's Growth Estimate:** Fitch Ratings reduced India's GDP growth estimate for the current fiscal by 10 basis points to 6.4%, citing concerns over a severe escalation in the global trade war while retaining projections for the next financial year.
- **Impact of US Tariffs on Indian Chemicals Sector:** The Indian government is assessing the impact of US tariffs on the country's chemicals and petrochemicals industry and will determine measures after discussions with industry players.

## Business

- **Retail Inflation at 6-Year Low:** The Finance Ministry stated that the trajectory reflects the country's resilience and commitment to ensuring price stability without compromising on development goals.

## Sports

- **Rafael Nadal to Be Honoured at Roland Garros:** The 14-time Roland Garros champion and former World No. 1, Rafael Nadal, will be celebrated by the French Tennis Federation next month for his unparalleled dominance at the tournament.

## Politics

- **Naveen Patnaik Files Nomination for BJD President:** Naveen Patnaik filed his nomination papers for the BJD president's post for the 9th time on the 28th death anniversary of his father, Biju Patnaik, after whom the regional party is named.

## Legal

- **Shariat Law Challenges in Supreme Court:** The Supreme Court tagged multiple petitions challenging Shariat law enforcement with similar cases.
- **Murshidabad Violence Review:** The Calcutta High Court reviewed the law-and-order situation in violence-hit Murshidabad.

# 19th April

## National

- **Supreme Court Concerns Over Waqf Law Provisions:** The government has paused key provisions of the Waqf law until May 5 following concerns raised by the Supreme Court.
- **West Bengal Governor Visits Violence Victims:** Governor Ananda Bose met with Murshidabad violence victims, emphasizing the need to restore normalcy. Despite Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's request to postpone the visit, he proceeded.

## International

- **US Airstrikes in Yemen:** Airstrikes by the United States on Yemen's Ras Isa oil port have killed at least 80 people and injured 150, according to Houthi rebels. This marks one of the deadliest attacks by US forces on Yemen.
- **US Visa Revocations:** Over 1,000 international students in the US have had their visas or legal status revoked by the Trump administration in recent weeks.

## Economic

- **IMF Warns of Trade Wars:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised concerns about potential trade wars arising from declining trust in global systems.
- **Clarification on UPI Transactions:** The Indian government clarified that no GST will be applicable on UPI transactions above ₹2,000.

## Business

- **PM Modi Meets Elon Musk:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed potential collaboration in technology with Elon Musk during their meeting.
- **'Invest UP' Outreach Expands:** New 'Invest UP' offices are set to open in Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru to attract investments.

## Sports

- **Pakistan Qualifies for Women's ODI World Cup:** Pakistan's Fatima Sana led her team to qualify for the Women's ODI World Cup, which will be hosted in India.

## Politics

- **Opposition Criticizes VP Remarks:** Opposition parties expressed criticism over Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar's recent remarks against the Supreme Court.

## Legal

- **CBI Seeks Non-Bailable Warrant Against Mehul Choksi:** The CBI's request for a non-bailable warrant in the Canara Bank cheating case has been transferred to a Metropolitan Magistrate.

Shaping Minds Since 2007