

# Newsletter

## POLITY & GOVERNANCE

### INDIA AND TÜRKIYE REVIEW OF CURRENT STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS DURING 12TH ROUND OF FOREIGN OFFICE CONSULTATIONS



India and Türkiye on 08 April 2026 undertook a comprehensive review of the current state of bilateral relations during the 12<sup>th</sup> round of Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi. The discussions focused on areas such as trade and investments, tourism, technology and innovation, energy, cooperation in educational and cultural fields, people-to-people ties, and the fight against cross-border terrorism. The two sides also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. The consultations were chaired by Secretary (West), Sibi George, from the Indian side and Türkiye's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Berris Ekinci. The last round of Foreign Office Consultations was held in June 2022 in Ankara.

**READ MORE: [INDIA AND TÜRKIYE 12TH ROUND OF FOREIGN OFFICE CONSULTATIONS](#)**

### IMPLEMENTATION OF WOMEN'S RESERVATION ACT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the time has come for the implementation of the Women's Reservation Act in its true spirit and the 2029 Lok Sabha (India's Lower House of the Parliament) elections and Assembly (State Legislature) elections are conducted with the quota for women in place. The Women's Reservation Act will ensure an increase in the number of Lok Sabha seats to 816, of which 273 will be reserved for women. The provision to provide 33% reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies was brought by amending the Constitution in 2023.



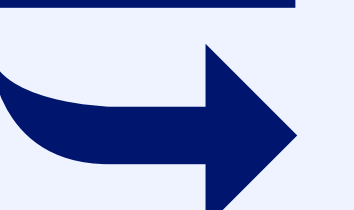
**READ MORE: [IMPLEMENTATION OF WOMEN'S RESERVATION ACT](#)**

### INDIA SWEEPS FOUR UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL BODY ELECTIONS



India has swept unopposed the four elections to Economic and Social Council bodies of the United Nations marking a significant diplomatic achievement. The elections, held at the United Nations headquarters, were conducted by acclamation, indicating unanimous support from member states. Former senior diplomat Preeti Saran was re-elected in her personal capacity to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. She had previously chaired the committee's session last year. In addition, India secured seats in the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations, and the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

**READ MORE: [INDIA SWEEPS FOUR UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL BODY ELECTIONS](#)**



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## **INDIA EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN OVER RISING NUMBER OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN LEBANON**

India has expressed deep concern over the rising number of civilian casualties in Lebanon amid continued strikes by Israel despite the two-week ceasefire in West Asia. It asserted that the protection of civilians remains its foremost priority. Addressing an Inter-Ministerial Briefing on recent developments in West Asia in New Delhi, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that the current situation is very disturbing, particularly given India's longstanding commitment to peace and stability in the region. He said that there are about 1,000 Indian nationals living in Lebanon. He assured that the Indian Embassy in Lebanon is in close touch with the Indian community for their safety and security. He underlined the importance of observing international law and respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.

**READ MORE: [INDIA EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN OVER RISING NUMBER OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN LEBANON](#)**

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## **INDIA DISPATCHES CONSIGNMENT OF 250 METRIC TONNES OF FOODGRAINS TO SEYCHELLES**

India has dispatched a consignment of 250 Metric Tonnes of foodgrains to Seychelles on 07 April 2026. In a social media post, the External Affairs Ministry said that more consignments are to follow under the US\$ 175 million Special Economic Package committed to Seychelles.

**READ MORE: [INDIA DISPATCHES CONSIGNMENT OF 250 METRIC TONNES OF FOODGRAINS TO SEYCHELLES](#)**

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## **ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT**

### **WORLD BANK RAISES INDIA'S GROWTH FORECAST FROM 6.3% TO 6.6%**

The World Bank has raised India's growth forecast from 6.3% to 6.6% for the current financial year, owing to strong domestic demand and free trade agreements. World Bank expects India to remain the primary engine of growth in South Asia. The World Bank Group, in its twice-a-year regional outlook report, stated that the growth outlook is driven primarily by India's performance, underpinned by robust domestic demand as well as tariff cuts and recent trade agreements, including the free trade agreement with the UK and European Union. World Bank Vice President for South Asia, Johannes Zutt, said that despite a challenging global environment, South Asia's growth prospects remain strong.

**READ MORE: [WORLD BANK RAISES INDIA'S GROWTH FORECAST FROM 6.3% TO 6.6%](#)**

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## **INDUSTRY & SECTORAL INSIGHTS**

### **A NEW CHAPTER IN INDIA'S NUCLEAR JOURNEY: INDIGENOUSLY BUILT 500 MWE FAST BREEDER REACTOR ATTAINS FIRST CRITICALITY**

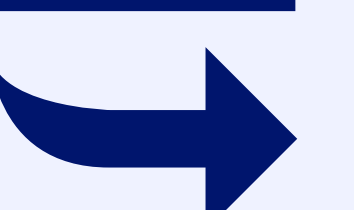
India has marked a major milestone in its nuclear energy programme as indigenously designed and built Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu attained criticality. This advanced reactor, capable of producing more fuel than it consumes, reflects the depth of the nation's scientific capability and the strength of its engineering enterprise. This is a decisive step towards harnessing India's vast thorium reserves in the third stage of the programme.



The 500 Megawatt electric Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor PFBR is located at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu and operated by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd (BHAVINI). It represents a key component of India's long-term nuclear strategy. Once fully operational, India will become only the second country after Russia to have a commercial fast breeder reactor. Criticality marks the point at which a nuclear reactor achieves a self-sustaining chain reaction. The project has been built indigenously with contributions from over 200 Indian industries, including several MSMEs.

**READ MORE: [INDIGENOUSLY BUILT 500 MWE FAST BREEDER REACTOR ATTAINS FIRST CRITICALITY](#)**

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## IAEA DIRECTOR GENERAL RAFAEL GROSSI HAILS INDIA'S PFBR CRITICALITY ACHIEVEMENT



Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Mariano Grossi, has appreciated India's achievement in attaining criticality of the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu. Mr. Grossi described the development as impressive progress by India, a key step forward in fuel sustainability and the future of nuclear energy. He reaffirmed the IAEA's commitment to India, saying that the organisation will continue supporting the safe and secure development of India's nuclear programme. The IAEA chief in his message on X extended congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**READ MORE: [IAEA DIRECTOR GENERAL RAFAEL GROSSI HAILS INDIA'S PFBR CRITICALITY ACHIEVEMENT](#)**

## INDIA'S COFFEE EXPORTS HIT A RECORD HIGH OF US\$ 2.13 BILLION IN 2025-26 FISCAL

India's coffee exports registered a 17% growth to a record US\$ 2.136 billion for the financial year ending March 2026 on higher prices and a modest increase in volume. In the previous year, shipments were to the tune of US\$ 1.82 billion. As per the latest data released by the Coffee Board, export volumes increased by 4.65% rise during FY26 over 2024-25. In dollar terms, the exports grew 22.47% to US\$ 2.13 billion. The per unit value realised by exporters was up 17%.



**READ MORE: [INDIA'S COFFEE EXPORTS HIT A RECORD HIGH OF US\\$ 2.13 BILLION IN 2025-26 FISCAL](#)**

## INDIA & US AGREE TO EXPAND COOPERATION UNDER PAX SILICA AND TECHNOLOGY SECTORS



India and the US agreed to further their cooperation under Pax Silica and broader economic and technology engagements, including in AI and critical minerals. The issues were discussed during talks between Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and US Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Jacob S Helberg. India formally joined Pax Silica on the sidelines of the AI Impact Summit in February, marking a significant step in technology cooperation between New Delhi and Washington. Pax Silica brings strategic partnerships and coordinated action across every layer of the supply chain. Misri is on a three-day visit to the US to review the bilateral relationship, particularly in trade and defence sectors.

**READ MORE: [INDIA & US AGREE TO EXPAND COOPERATION UNDER PAX SILICA AND TECHNOLOGY SECTORS](#)**

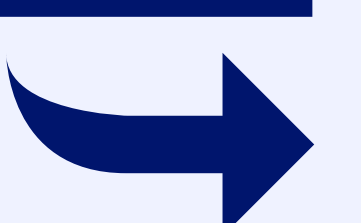
## ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

### INDIA RECORDS HIGHEST-EVER ANNUAL SOLAR CAPACITY ADDITION

India has recorded its highest-ever annual solar capacity addition of around 45 gigawatts in the financial year 2025-26. In a social media post, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said that this achievement reflects India's unwavering commitment to energy security, sustainable development, and the vision of a Viksit Bharat. Mr Joshi said that Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra have led this extraordinary growth, powering India's transition towards a cleaner, greener and more self-reliant future. The Minister further informed that the country has recorded 6.65 Giga Watt solar capacity in March 2026, the highest-ever solar installation in a single month.



**READ MORE: [INDIA RECORDS HIGHEST-EVER ANNUAL SOLAR CAPACITY ADDITION](#)**



## INDIA EV SALES HIT RECORD 2.45 MILLION IN FY26; CARS JUMP 84%, TWO-AND THREE-WHEELERS LEAD VOLUMES



According to the retail sales numbers released by the Federation of Automobile Dealer's Association, India's electric vehicles sales crossed a record 2.45 million in FY26, against 1.96 million in FY25. A large part of the volumes came in two-wheelers, led by brands such as TVS, Bajaj and Ather. Rising consumer adoption, expanding charging infrastructure and industry momentum are driving a large-scale shift towards clean mobility and strengthening India's position as a global EV leader.

[READ MORE: INDIA EV SALES HIT RECORD 2.45 MILLION IN FY26](#)

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

### AI INVESTMENT HITS US\$ 800 BILLION, INDIA EMERGES AS KEY APPLICATIONS HUB

Global AI investment reached US\$ 800 billion in 2025, with venture capital funding nearly doubling to US\$ 226 billion. Notably, 79% of this capital was concentrated in mega-rounds (US\$100 million+), underscoring a market increasingly driven by larger, high-conviction bets, according to SenseAI Ventures' report, State of AI Report 2026, which highlights a fundamental shift in the global AI landscape from a technology trend to an economic imperative.



The report challenges the conventional view of India as merely a follower in the global AI race, arguing instead that the country is emerging as a key driver of the application layer, where most commercial value is created. It notes that about 75% of Indian AI startups are focused on building applications, nearly 80% of funding is directed towards this segment, and a majority of startups are reaching the revenue stage early.

[READ MORE: AI INVESTMENT HITS US\\$ 800 BILLION, INDIA EMERGES AS KEY APPLICATIONS HUB](#)

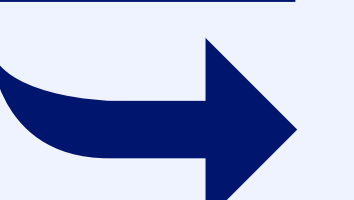
### ISRO SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTS 2<sup>ND</sup> INTEGRATED AIR DROP TEST FOR GAGANYAAN MISSION



The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted the second integrated air drop test (IADT-02) for the upcoming Gaganyaan mission at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. The system is essential to ensure safe recovery of the crew module, the capsule in which astronauts sit during a human flight. After the module's release, a parachute system, comprising 10 parachutes, was deployed, helping the capsule decelerate to a safe splashdown speed. Air drop tests recreate the last leg of a spacecraft's return to the Earth.

An aircraft or helicopter drops the spacecraft from a height to test various systems under different scenarios. These are the deployment of the parachute system in case the mission is aborted mid-flight, system performance when one parachute fails to open, and the spacecraft's orientation and safety during splashdown. Union Minister Jitendra Singh congratulated the ISRO for successfully conducting the test. India's first human spaceflight will be launched from Sriharikota in 2027.

[READ MORE: ISRO SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTS 2<sup>ND</sup> INTEGRATED AIR DROP TEST FOR GAGANYAAN MISSION](#)



## EMBASSY & CONSULATE UPDATES



On the occasion of 77<sup>th</sup> ICCR Foundation Day, the Embassy of India Ankara organised a special screening of the iconic Bollywood film 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge' at Tagore Hall on 10 April 2026. The evening brought together members of Indian Diaspora, media, & friends of India for a magical journey through one of Indian cinema's greatest love stories.



The 45th Istanbul Film Festival has commenced today with an opening gala and will take place from 9-19 April 2026.

Consulate General of India in Istanbul is pleased to partner with IKSVM for this prestigious event.



Ambassador Muktesh Pardeshi visited the Nation's Library of Türkiye: Cumhurbaşkanlığı Millet Kütüphanesi and presented a curated collection of books on India covering history, culture, literature, foreign policy, etc. for their India Corner. During the visit, he discussed the library's institutional growth, vision, and goals with Mr Ayhan Tuğlu, Head of the Department of Libraries.

**THANK YOU FOR READING**

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