

April 22, 2026 – Wednesday

Economy

India's economy projected to grow at 6.4% this year: UN

India's economy is projected to grow at 6.4 per cent this year and 6.6 per cent in 2027, according to a report by the United Nations. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) said in the report released Monday that economies in South and South-West Asia grew by 5.4% in 2025, compared to 5.2% in 2024, driven largely by strong growth in India. India's growth edged up to 7.4% in 2025, "supported by robust consumption, especially from the rural economy along with goods and services tax rate cuts, and export frontloading ahead of the United States' tariffs," the report, titled Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2026, said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/indias-economy-projected-to-grow-at-6-4-this-year-un/articleshow/130408206.cms

Finance

Tweak sought in capital norms for urban co-operative bank licence

The Reserve Bank of India is evaluating requests to lower the minimum capital requirement to ₹200 crore for co-operative credit societies seeking an urban co-operative bank (UCB) licence, people familiar with the matter said. The central bank had proposed a ₹300 crore threshold in a discussion paper issued in January. Other suggestions under consideration include allowing financially sound societies with a five-year track record to merge with existing UCBs, the people said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/tweak-sought-in-capital-norms-for-urban-co-operative-bank-licence/articleshow/130424861.cms

RBI issues e-mandate framework for digital payments

Reserve Bank of India on Tuesday issued the 'Digital Payments – E-mandate Framework, 2026,' whereby customers opting for e-mandates must complete a one-time registration process that requires additional factor authentication (AFA), and issuers will be required to send a pre-transaction notification at least 24 hours before a charge/ debit and a post-transaction notification.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/rbi-issues-e-mandate-framework-for-digital-payments/article70889540.ece

Retail investors turn net sellers in FY26 after six-year run

Amid heightened global uncertainty and choppy equity markets, individual investors reversed course in FY26, turning net sellers in the cash market segment after six consecutive years of inflows, according to the latest Market Pulse fiscal report by NSE. Net outflows by individual investors stood at ₹5,803 crore in FY26, a sharp swing from net inflows of ₹1.25 trillion recorded in the previous financial year.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/retail-investors-turn-net-sellers-in-fy26-after-six-year-run/article70889243.ece

Industry

Life insurers log 16% premium growth in FY26 on GST relief, shift to high-margin products

The life insurance industry reported a 16% increase in total new business premium income in FY26, aided by growth in regular premium products after the GST exemption announced in September 2025. A favourable base effect further boosted the growth metric. The industry reported total premium collection of ₹4.59 lakh crore during FY26, up from ₹3.97 lakh crore in FY25, when growth had been relatively modest at around 6%.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/insure/life-insurers-log-16-premium-growth-in-fy26-on-gst-relief-shift-to-high-margin-products/articleshow/130426653.cms

Govt extends interest subvention benefit to micro, small exporters of certain iron, steel goods

The government has extended interest subvention benefits to micro and small enterprises exporting 167 specific iron and steel product categories, to support the trading community, which is reeling under the impact of global uncertainties. However, the medium sector units are not eligible for this measure. In January, the government announced a Rs 7,295-crore export support package, comprising a Rs 5,181-crore interest subvention scheme along with a Rs 2,114-crore collateral support, to improve exporters' access to credit.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/govt-extends-interest-subvention-benefit-to-micro-small-exporters-of-certain-iron-steel-goods/articleshow/130422422.cms

Agriculture

El Nino may emerge between May and July

All major climate models, including those used by Australia's Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), project continued warming of the tropical Pacific, with El Nino possibly emerging between May and July. While some models indicate an earlier onset, others suggest a more gradual transition, with uncertainty hinging on ocean-atmosphere coupling — a critical factor for sustaining a full-fledged El Nino.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/el-nino-may-emerge-between-may-and-july/article70888657.ece

Centre floats draft amendments to marquee Sugarcane Control Order, 1966

The central government has floated a draft amendment to the marquee Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, which regulates the entire sector, retaining the criterion of maintaining the minimum distance of 25 kilometre between mills, and underlying the need for khandsari units to pay the fixed fair and remunerative price (FRP) to cane growers. According to experts, the draft also seeks to regulate the khandsari units by making licence mandatory for them and also subjecting them to regular checks and inspections.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/centre-floats-draft-amendments-to-marquee-sugarcane-control-order-1966-126042101203_1.html

India's fertiliser production sees weakest growth in 13 years in FY26

India's fertiliser production within the Index of Eight Core Industries recorded its weakest annual growth in 13 years in 2025-26 (FY26), contracting 0.1 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y). This marks the first negative print since the 3.3 per cent plunge in 2012-13 (FY13) — the first full year under the current series. The slump caps a decelerating trend, with growth slowing from 3.7 per cent in 2023-24 to 2.9 per cent in 2024-25, in contrast to the sector's average annual expansion of over 2.1 per cent since FY13.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/march-drag-pulls-india-s-fertiliser-production-to-a-multi-year-low-126042101310_1.html

Despite rising prices, CCI sells over half the cotton procured during 2025-26 season

The state-run Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has sold over half of the natural fibre procured in the 2025-26 season at the minimum support price, driven by strong demand from mills and traders. The CCI procured 105 lakh bales (170 kg each) this season, up from 100.16 lakh bales last year. As of Monday, CCI's sales had crossed 55 lakh bales, said Lalit Kumar Gupta, Chairman and Managing Director.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/despite-rising-prices-cci-sells-over-half-the-cotton-procured-during-2025-26-season/article70889367.ece

As cotton prices rise, textiles industry seeks removal of 11% duty on imports

As domestic cotton prices continue to rise tracking global clues, a worried textile industry has urged the government to allow the duty-free imports of the fibre crop to safeguard the export competitiveness and stabilise the value chain. Cotton prices have been climbing steadily in recent weeks, putting pressure across the textile ecosystem -- from spinning mills to garment exporters.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/as-cotton-prices-rise-textiles-industry-seeks-removal-of-11-duty-on-imports/article70889109.ece

Infrastructure

West Asia conflict clouds outlook, but infra investments seen rising 45–50% through FY27–28: Crisil

The ongoing West Asia conflict could add inflationary pressure to India's infrastructure sector, but investment is still expected to grow 45–50% over the current and next fiscals, supported by strong domestic demand and policy backing, according to Crisil Ratings. Investments across key sectors—including renewables, roads, real estate and emerging segments—are projected to rise to Rs 23–24 lakh crore, broadly in line with growth seen in the past two years. While largely insulated from direct geopolitical impact, these sectors may face indirect cost pressures if the conflict persists.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/west-asia-conflict-clouds-outlook-but-infra-investments-seen-rising-4550-crisil/articleshow/130410024.cms

Energy

Household LPG sales fall 8% in March

LPG sales to households fell 8% year-on-year in March as state-run oil companies optimised supplies to offset a sharp decline in imports triggered by the Iran war. Indian refiners processed 5.55 million barrels per day in March, 2% lower than a year earlier, even as overall crude imports fell 17%, according to oil ministry data. However, the crude import bill declined only 5% to $11.7 billion in March. For the full year, the import bill fell 11% to $121.8 billion, driven by lower average crude prices.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/household-lpg-sales-fall-8-in-march/articleshow/130425668.cms

India ramps up PNG adoption with over 5 lakh new connections amid Israel-Iran war

India has accelerated its shift to piped natural gas, with more than 5.01 lakh new PNG connections gasified since March and over 5.68 lakh consumers registering for fresh connections, even as authorities manage LPG supplies amid geopolitical disruptions. With the war in West Asia disrupting cooking gas LPG supplies, the government is pushing households as well as industries to move to piped natural gas -- a more convenient alternative whose supplies have not been very badly hit.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/india-ramps-up-png-adoption-with-over-5-lakh-new-connections/articleshow/130420440.cms

States

Andhra Pradesh mango pulp industry seeks central support

Mango processors in Andhra Pradesh have sought an intervention from the central government as the escalating conflict in West Asia disrupts exports. The All India Food Processors Association has made a representation to the ministries of finance and commerce and industry through Rajampet's MP PV Midhun Reddy, while processors from Chittoor have also written to the finance minister.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/andhra-pradesh-mango-pulp-industry-seeks-central-support/articleshow/130425627.cms

Telangana shows 79% installation of digital payment applications: MFIN–NCAER Study

Telangana has emerged as a `strong' and evolving microfinance ecosystem, with over 90 per cent of borrowers contributing to household income and 79 per cent of the borrowers reporting installation of digital payment applications, according to a study by the Microfinance Industry Network (MFIN) in collaboration with the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/telangana-shows-79installation-of-digital-payment-applicationsmfinncaer-study/article70888913.ece

Odisha govt clears 18 new industrial projects worth over ₹3,877 crore

Odisha continued its aggressive industrialisation drive, with the State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA) approving 18 new projects worth Rs 3,877.14 crore across 11 districts on Tuesday. The new projects are expected to generate 7,565 employment opportunities. The approvals, granted at the SLSWCA meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Anu Garg, are aimed at converting investment proposals into grounded projects through faster clearances and sector-focused policy support.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/odisha-govt-clears-18-new-industrial-projects-worth-over-3-877-crore-126042101348_1.html

Healthcare

Govt's ammonia rule to hurt pharma cos as directive restricts sale of surplus to fertiliser firms

India's pharmaceutical industry faces a potential raw material crunch after the department of fertilizers issued an advisory restricting the sale of surplus ammonia to the fertiliser sector. The move has raised concern among drugmakers that rely on ammonia as a key input in the production of a wide range of medicines and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs). Industry executives said the directive, if implemented in its current form, could disrupt domestic production, lead to medicine shortages and affect India's export commitments.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/govts-ammonia-rule-to-hurt-pharma-cos-as-directive-restricts-sale-of-surplus-to-fertiliser-firms/articleshow/130426646.cms

External

WTO accepts request of India, Taipei to defer ICT import duty dispute ruling until Oct 2026

The WTO's dispute settlement body has agreed to India's and Taiwan's request to defer the adoption of a ruling against New Delhi's import duties on certain information and technology products till October 2026, as both sides are engaged in resolving the matter mutually, an official said on Tuesday. The request was made during a meeting of the WTO's dispute settlement body (DSB) in Geneva on April 21.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/wto-accepts-request-of-india-taipei-to-defer-ict-import-duty-dispute-ruling-until-oct-2026/articleshow/130424327.cms

India, Korea ink MoU to boost MSME ties

India and the Republic of Korea signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector, the MSME ministry said on Tuesday. The agreement was finalised on Monday during the visit of a delegation led by Lee Jae Myung. The MoU creates a structured framework for collaboration between the two countries, enabling continuous dialogue on key MSME issues and encouraging exploration of mutually beneficial opportunities, the ministry said in a statement.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-korea-ink-mou-to-boost-msme-ties/articleshow/130425228.cms

$166 bn Trump tariff refunds open in US, but India still has to ask for a slice

A sweeping tariff rollback in the United States has set off a $166 billion refund process, but any financial upside for India is far from guaranteed and will depend largely on how exporters negotiate with American buyers, as per a report by GTRI. Refund applications opened on April 20 through a new digital platform, CAPE (Consolidated Administration and Processing of Entries), operated by US Customs and Border Protection.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/us-trump-tariff-refund-166-billion-india-export-impact-gtri-report-delhi-has-to-ask-for-a-slice/articleshow/130410707.cms

Seafood exports up 11.2% in 2025-26

The country's seafood exports rose by 11.2 per cent year-on-year to USD 8.28 billion, driven by higher shipments to European markets and China, the Commerce Ministry said on Tuesday. Though the US is the largest destination for these goods, India's exports to America in the last fiscal year dipped 14.15 per cent in value terms to USD 2.32 billion and 19.8 per cent in volume terms.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/seafood-exports-up-11-2-in-2025-26/articleshow/130423199.cms