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April 2024

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Aditya Birla Capital launched a new fintech app, 'ABCD'.

Aditya Birla Capital, a non-banking financial company, launched a new fintech app, 'ABCD'. The company has also announced the launch of an omnichannel ABCD Direct to Customers (D2C) platform to scale up its digital transformation journey. The platform, developed in 12 months, is poised to revolutionise the financial services landscape by offering a diverse range of products and services tailored to meet individual preferences. This app is a part of Aditya Birla Capital Digital Limited (ABCDL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL).

Vietnam's Vice President Vo Thi Anh Xuan was appointed interim president of Vietnam on 21st March 2024.

Vietnam's Vice President Vo Thi Anh Xuan was appointed interim president of Vietnam on 21st March 2024. Xuan, became vice president in 2021 and she will be serving as acting president for the second time. Võ Thị Ánh Xuân is a Vietnamese politician and former educator who serves as the Vice President of Vietnam since 2021. She is currently the Acting President of Vietnam since March 2024, having previously served in this position for two months in 2023.

The central government notified the appointment of National Stock Exchange CEO and managing director Ashish Kumar Chauhan and Zoho founder Sridhar Vembu as members of the University Grants Commission (UGC) for 3 year.

The central government notified the appointment of National Stock Exchange CEO and managing director Ashish Kumar Chauhan and Zoho founder Sridhar Vembu as members of the University Grants Commission (UGC) for 3 year. The move expands the UGC's membership from four to eight, aiming to enhance its regulatory capabilities. Joining Chauhan and Vembu are Sachidananda Mohanty, former vice chancellor of the Central University of Odisha, and Shashikala Gulabrao Wanjari, currently serving as vice chancellor of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration. Their tenure on the Commission is set for three years, or until further orders.

Iceland has appointed Bjarni Benediktsson to replace Katrín Jakobsdóttir as prime minister after she resigned to run in the country's upcoming presidential election.

Iceland has appointed Bjarni Benediktsson to replace Katrín Jakobsdóttir as prime minister after she resigned to run in the country's upcoming presidential election. Benediktsson, who was previously the Nordic country's foreign minister, officially took over from Jakobsdóttir after she stood down following more than 6 years in office. The announcement came after an agreement was reached between his party, the Independence party, which is conservative and pro-business and trade, and the other governing parties: the Progressive party and Jakobsdóttir's Left-Greens.

The executive board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) re-appointed Kristalina Georgieva's position as managing director for a 2nd five-year term starting on 1st October 2024.

The executive board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) re-appointed Kristalina Georgieva's position as managing director for a 2nd five-year term starting on 1st October 2024. The decision was unanimously approved by the board. Georgieva was the sole candidate for the position. She is the twelfth person to be IMF managing director, having replaced Christine Lagarde in 2019. Since its inception, the IMF's managing directors have all been European.

Kuwait's Emir appointed Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah as new prime minister of Kuwait.

Kuwait's Emir appointed Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah as new prime minister of Kuwait. Former Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah resigned in April 2024 only a few months after he was designated to form a government. His resignation was a procedural move after a new parliament was elected that month, the fourth since December 2020. Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has a notable career history, including roles at Kuwait's Finance Center and the Central Bank of Kuwait. Additionally, he served as chairman of the board for Burgan Bank before assuming several ministerial positions, such as Minister of Finance, Minister of Communications, Minister of Planning, Minister of State for Administrative Affairs, Minister of Health, and Minister of Oil.

The Ministry of Law and Justice notified a six-member committee to address issues related to the queer community, the committee, to be headed by the Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba.

The Ministry of Law and Justice notified a six-member committee to address issues related to the queer community, the committee, to be headed by the Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba. The committee will suggest measures to ensure that the queer community does not encounter any discrimination in accessing goods and services, social welfare schemes, or face threat of violence among others. The government order noted that the Supreme Court judgment dated October 17, 2023, directed the Centre to constitute a committee to be chaired by the Cabinet Secretary to examine the various issues relating to queer community. The committee will be headed by the Cabinet secretary as chairperson and will include -Secretary, Department of Home; Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development; Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare; Secretary, Legislative Department; and Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. The panel will examine measures that can be taken to ensure there is no discrimination against LGBTQ+ people in access to goods and services, and measures that can be taken to ensure that the LGBTQ+ community does not face any threat of violence,

harassment or coercion.

CNS Admiral R Hari Kumar presented Gallantry and Distinguished Service Awards to Naval personnel at South Goa.

Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), Admiral R Hari Kumar presented Gallantry and Distinguished Service Awards to Naval personnel at South Goa on 14 April 2024. CNS, Admiral R Hari Kumar presented the awards to the naval personnel on behalf of President Droupadi Murmu. The ceremony honored Naval personnel who have displayed gallantry, leadership, professional achievement and distinguished service of a high order. For this, a special Naval Investiture Ceremony 2024 was organized at INS Hansa, Goa, on 14 April 2024. A total of 35 personnel were honored with various awards during the Naval Investiture Ceremony at INS Hansa, Goa. In this, Navy Medal (Gallantry) was given mainly to the following: Commander Manish Singh Karki, Commander Kaustab Banerjee, Lieutenant Commander Panneerselvam Vishnu Prasanna, Lieutenant Commander Bhaskar.

The Five Wisden Cricketers of the Year have been announced in the 2024 edition of the Wisden Cricketers' Almanack.

The Five Wisden Cricketers of the Year have been announced in the 2024 edition of the Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, with Mitchell Starc, Usman Khawaja, Ash Gardner, Harry Brook and Mark Wood this year's award winners. Pat Cummins and Nat Sciver-Brunt have been named the Leading Cricketers in the World while Travis Head has picked up the Wisden Trophy. While Hayley Matthews has been named the Leading T20 Cricketer in the world. The Leading Cricketers in the World Award are chosen by the editor of the Wisden Cricketers' Almanack in consultation with some of the world's most experienced writers and commentators. Selection is based on a player's performances in the previous calendar. Players may win the award more than once. The corresponding T20 award is judged by the same criteria but based on T20I performances, and may be won by a male or female player.

Ananth Technologies Founder, CEO and Chairman Pavuluri Subba Rao has been conferred with the 'Aryabhata Award' instituted by the Aeronautical Society of India (ASI).

Ananth Technologies Founder, CEO and Chairman Pavuluri Subba Rao has been conferred with the 'Aryabhata Award' instituted by the Aeronautical Society of India (ASI). He was also presented with ASI's 'Distinguished Fellow' title. He received the award recognition of Rao's "tremendous lifetime contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India". A former ISRO scientist, Rao incorporated Ananth Technologies Limited in 1992 to indigenously design and develop some of the country's most sophisticated avionics for ISRO and the Defence sector. The Hyderabad-based company employs over 1,600 people across its three Centres of Excellence in Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Thiruvananthapuram.

Dr Gagandeep Kang, Director of Global Health at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, honoured with the prestigious John Dirks Gairdner global health award 2024.

Dr Gagandeep Kang, Director of Global Health at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, honoured with the prestigious John Dirks Gairdner global health award 2024. It is the most well-recognised global health award. The John Dirks Award in global health is awarded by the Gairdner Foundation in Canada. She is the first Indian woman to get this award. She was awarded for “extensive cohort-based epidemiological, environmental and clinical trial research on enteric diseases in children and their effects on life course, with significant impact on vaccine development and health policy in India and internationally. She has led studies that contributed to the development and introduction of two Indian rotavirus vaccines into the national immunisation programme.

Mathematician Avi Wigderson was named by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) as the recipient of the 2023 ACM A.M Turing Award.

Avi Wigderson, Herbert H. Maass Professor in the Institute for Advanced Study's School of Mathematics, was named by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) as the recipient of the 2023 ACM A.M Turing Award, often referred to as the "Nobel Prize of Computing". With this honor, Wigderson has become the first person to receive both a Turing Award and the Abel Prize, widely considered to be the highest recognition for lifetime achievement in mathematics. The Turing award recognizes Wigderson's foundational contributions to the theory of computation, which include reshaping understanding of the role of randomness in computation, and decades of intellectual leadership in theoretical computer science.

8 Indian origins made it to Time magazine's list of the 100 most influential people of 2024.

8 Indian origins made it to Time magazine's list of the 100 most influential people of 2024. 8 Indian origins- Alia Bhatt, Sakshi Malik, Satya Nadella, Ajay Banga, Dev Patel, Priyamvada Natarajan, Jigar Shah, Asma Khan. The list includes politicians, business leaders, artists, icons, movie stars, athletes, and scientists who have made significant impact in their fields. The annual list, which asks cultural and political icons to highlight the changemakers of the past year, features dozens of athletes, entertainers, artists and politicians.

Commercial vehicle maker Ashok Leyland Ltd has partnered with South Indian Bank for financing dealers.

Commercial vehicle maker Ashok Leyland Ltd has partnered with South Indian Bank for financing dealers. The company has signed a MoU to provide financing to dealers under the bank's dealer finance programme. Under this partnership, the bank will

provide competitive dealer finance options to the dealers. This partnership will meet the business needs of both organisations and create a strong positive impact.

Jana Small Finance Bank Limited has partnered with Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Limited to offer life insurance products to the Customers of the Bank.

Jana Small Finance Bank Limited has partnered with Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Limited to offer life insurance products to the Customers of the Bank. Further, the partnership will help 52 lakh customers of the Bank with a wide range of life insurance products offered by Kotak Life, including long-term savings and retirement solutions.

Karnataka Bank has partnered with FISDOM to offer 3-in-1 (savings, demat and trading accounts) through the bank's mobile banking app 'KBL Mobile Plus'.

Karnataka Bank has partnered with FISDOM to offer 3-in-1 (savings, demat and trading accounts) through the bank's mobile banking app 'KBL Mobile Plus'. This strategic association is all set to enhance the current value proposition of enabling customers to invest in stocks and mutual funds. This offering will empower its customers with seamless access to both investment opportunities and trading functionalities, all within a single, user-friendly interface. The 3-in-1 facility enables customers to streamline their investment journey by consolidating their demat and trading accounts. Karnataka Bank offer a wide range of customized products and services, including loans, deposits, and international banking solutions.

Computer Age Management Services Ltd (CAMS) has received a certificate of authorisation from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an online payment aggregator.

Computer Age Management Services Ltd (CAMS) has received a certificate of authorisation from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an online payment aggregator. The certificate of authorisation bearing No 183/2024 has been received by the company. The company received an in-principle authorisation from RBI in February 2023. The company made an application to RBI for the issue of a certificate of authorisation after the business became regulated consequent to the issue of 'Guidelines on Regulation of Payment Aggregators and Payment Gateways' (Guidelines) in March 2020.

Axis Bank has collaborated with Shoppers Stop Ltd to unveil their latest offering 'Axis Bank Shoppers Stop Credit Card'.

Axis Bank has collaborated with Shoppers Stop Ltd to unveil their latest offering 'Axis Bank Shoppers Stop Credit Card'. This co-branded credit card is designed to provide customers with benefits and features tailored to enhance their shopping experience. The Axis Bank Shoppers Stop Credit Card offers welcome benefits and rewards on

purchases. Cardholders can also get the convenience of fuel surcharge waivers, dining privileges, and more. features- 1% fuel surcharge waiver on all fuel transactions falling within the range of ₹400 to ₹5,000, with a maximum cap of ₹400 on waivers in a statement month. Rewards up to 20 First Citizen points earned for every spend at Shoppers Stop. Dining privileges with Eazy Diner, offering cardholders a 15% instant discount on transactions, subject to certain conditions.

SIDBI signed a MOU With Jeevika Bihar & UMED Maharashtra To Extend Prayaas Scheme To State Rural Livelihood Missions.

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in association with Women's World Banking (WWB) signed an MoU with Jeevika, Bihar State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM) & UMED, Maharashtra-SRLM to extend Prayaas scheme to SHG Individual Women through Cluster Level Federations (CLF). This partnership will help in unlocking the potential of Cluster Level Federations and will establish a new and scalable credit distribution ecosystem. SIDBI in the pilot phase will partner 35-40 CLFs across Bihar and Maharashtra with a target of serving affordable credit of up to ₹2 lakhs to 5,000 Women Entrepreneurs. It is supported by a grant from MetLife Foundation as part of its commitment to fostering inclusive economic mobility for underserved and underrepresented communities.

India's fintech sector logs robust 59% growth in Q1 2024!

India secured the third position globally in terms of funding raised for the fintech sector in the first quarter (Q1) of this year 2024. Total funding received by the fintech sector increased by 59 percent in Q1 2024, compared to Q4 2023. Q1 2024 witnessed a total funding of \$551 million compared to the \$346 million raised in the previous quarter, according to the report by Tracxn, a leading market intelligence platform. The fintech growth as the Indian economy exhibited a robust performance in the previous quarter, with a growth rate of 8.4 percent. According to the IMF, India will become the third-largest economy in the world by 2027, with a GDP of over \$5 trillion.

PayU partnered with the US-based fintech company PayPal to enhance the cross-border payment experience for Indian merchants.

PayU partnered with the US-based fintech company PayPal to enhance the cross-border payment experience for Indian merchants. Through this partnership, the company will leverage the PayPal ISU 2.0 Checkout to offer customers a more personalised and inclusive payment experience. Integrating PayPal's ISU 2.0 API (Application Programming Interface) sets a new standard for our payment services, benefiting our merchants who are looking to expand globally. With this integration, customers will get the flexibility to choose from a variety of payment methods at checkout, including PayPal, PayPal Paylater, and various local Alternative Payment Methods (APMs) from customers outside India, such as Apple Pay, Venmo, Discover, MyBank, GiroPay, Blik, SoFort, Bancontact, and Trustly, among others, where

available. PayPal ISU 2.0 facilitates a more efficient merchant onboarding process directly within the PayU dashboard, allowing Indian merchants to open accounts with PayPal, using an API-driven approach that reduces drop-offs and enables real-time activation.

Jio Financial Services is forming a joint venture with U.S asset manager BlackRock to set up a wealth management and broking business in India.

Jio Financial Services is forming a joint venture with U.S asset manager BlackRock to set up a wealth management and broking business in India. The announcement follows BlackRock and Jio Financial launching a joint venture last year to offer asset management services in India. The two companies plan to invest \$150 million each in the joint venture. The expansion of BlackRock and Jio Financial's partnership underscores Reliance's growing ambitions in the financial services sector. The \$237 billion Indian firm already leads the nation's refinery, retail and telecom sectors. (India's central bank doesn't permit tycoons to receive the banking license.)

RBI has directed all banks and regulated entities that it all lenders will have to provide key facts statement (KFS) about the loan agreement terms, including all-inclusive interest cost to borrowers for retail and MSME loans, with effect from 1st October 2024.

RBI has directed all banks and regulated entities that it all lenders will have to provide key facts statement (KFS) about the loan agreement terms, including all-inclusive interest cost to borrowers for retail and MSME loans, with effect from 1st October 2024. This is being done in order to enhance transparency and reduce information asymmetry on financial products being offered by different regulated entities (REs), thereby empowering borrowers to make an informed financial decision. Currently, KFS is specifically mandated with respect to loans by commercial banks to individual borrowers, digital lending by RBI- (REs) and microfinance loans. The harmonised instructions shall be applicable in cases of all retail and MSME term loan products extended by all regulated entities.

Bank of India and Indian Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGC) have signed agreement to provide mortgage guarantee-backed home loan products in the affordable housing segment.

Bank of India and Indian Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGC) have signed agreement to provide mortgage guarantee-backed home loan products in the affordable housing segment. It will cover salaried and self-employed home loan customers. IMGC's guarantee will mitigate the risk of defaults for the bank, allowing it to potentially offer more favourable loan terms to borrowers. The products will promote financial inclusion and aid in early home ownership. IMGC has surpassed Rs 25,000 crore in home loan guarantees for over one lakh customers across 400 locations nationwide.

SBI Life Insurance launched the 1st edition of 'IdeationX'.

SBI Life Insurance launched the 1st edition of 'IdeationX', to encourage young minds from B-Schools to innovate life insurance solutions. The innovative platform aims at engaging and encouraging future leaders from B-Schools across the country to think, innovate and present unconventional life insurance solutions that address consumer's evolving insurance needs and contribute towards reshaping India's life insurance sector landscape. In alignment with IRDAI's vision of 'Insurance for All by 2047', SBI Life's 'IdeationX' aims to involve, inspire & empower the young minds by nurturing a culture of innovation and thought leadership. The inaugural edition of SBI Life-IdeationX witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 1000 young minds representing B-Schools such as NIA in Pune, NIRMA in Ahmedabad, SIES in Mumbai, KJ Somaiya in Mumbai, IMI in Kolkata, BML Munjal in Gurgaon, IMT in Hyderabad, and XIME in Bangalore.

Airtel Payments Bank has launch of its NCMC (National Common Mobility Cards) enabled debit and pre-paid cards in association with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Airtel Payments Bank has launch of its NCMC (National Common Mobility Cards) enabled debit and pre-paid cards in association with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). These cards are powered by RuPay. These cards are in line with the bank's commitment to India's One Nation, One Card vision. The bank will offer NCMC-enabled debit cards for savings account holders and NCMC-enabled prepaid cards for wallet users. These cards are crafted from eco-friendly e-PVC material, certified for their environmental sustainability. Customers can use any of the cards to make payments at all merchant establishments, online (e-commerce), as well as offline NCMC transit transactions at metros, buses, parking, etc across the country. The card also facilitates the issuance of concession and monthly passes wherever supported by the transport operator.

Amazon Pay to introduce credit services on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Amazon Pay to introduce credit services on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). This initiative aims to enhance customer experience and value propositions. This news follows Amazon Pay's recent partnerships with RBL Bank for UPI payments, ICICI Bank for FASTag recharge, and the introduction of the Amazon Pay ICICI co-branded credit card. The platform obtained a payment aggregator license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in February 2024, expanding its financial services portfolio. Earlier, it had received the central bank's approval for a prepaid payment instrument licence.

The International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) has set up a standing committee that will come up with a framework for launching climate finance products.

The International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) has set up a standing committee that will come up with a framework for launching climate finance products. The committee is expected to submit its report to the government by the end of May 2024. The project would become a hub for climate finance. Banks in GIFT City have already started extending "green and sustainable credit. The 5 percent of the credit given by banks shall be green or sustainable. Secondly, many of them have started lending too. So far about \$700 million has been extended as green and sustainable credit out of the \$60 billion dollars of outstanding loans. Similarly, out of the \$55.5 billion worth of bonds raised from GIFT City, \$14 billion is green, social or sustainable or sustainable-linked bonds. Apart from banks and the bond market, more climate funds are scheduled to be launched in GIFT City.

British-American author Salman Rushdie releases his memoir "Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder".

British-American author Salman Rushdie releases his memoir "Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder". The book is his first since the 2022 stabbing that hospitalized Rushdie and left him blind in eye. In the opening lines of "Knife," Rushdie vividly recounts the August 12, 2022 attack in upstate New York, where he was assaulted with a knife shortly after beginning a discussion on writer safety at the Chautauqua Amphitheatre. The memoir was published by Penguin Random House.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was presented with a book titled "Sabke Ram" by Panchjanya editor Hitesh Shankar and Managing Director of Bharat Prakashan Arun Goyal.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was presented with a book titled "Sabke Ram" by Panchjanya editor Hitesh Shankar and Managing Director of Bharat Prakashan Arun Goyal. One special thing about this book is that people can read it as well as listen to it in Hindi and English. The book "Sabke Ram" narrates the history of Ayodhya. It contains the truth about Lord Ram's birth place and date of birth. The book was published by Prabhat Prakashan.

A biography chronicling the personal and political journey of Goa's former chief minister Pratapsingh Rane titled "Maker of Modern Goa – the untold story of Pratapsingh Rane", was released.

A biography chronicling the personal and political journey of Goa's former chief minister Pratapsingh Rane titled "Maker of Modern Goa – the untold story of Pratapsingh Rane", was released. The book was authored by his wife Vijayadevi Rane. In the introduction of the 236-page book, the author, who has been married to

Pratapsingh Rane for more than 55 years, says it is a dynamic and engaging biography that reveals how he brought in “stability and sane, reasoned governance” to Goa’s volatile and unstable politics every time he became the chief minister.

Renowned author Sam Pitroda has written a new book titled ‘The Idea of Democracy’.

Renowned author Sam Pitroda has written a new book titled ‘The Idea of Democracy’, which explores the current state of democracy and its potential challenges in countries like India and the United States. The book launch event was attended by Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal and other eminent personalities from the literary industry. Pitroda’s book addresses the paradox of so-called democratic success coupled with its liberal decline. Sam Pitroda is an internationally respected telecom inventor, entrepreneur, development thinker, and policymaker who has spent 50 years in information and communications technology (ICT) and related global and national developments.

Trishakti Corps, Indian Army, conducted a training exercise on Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) firing at a Super High-Altitude Area of 17,000 Feet in Sikkim.

Trishakti Corps, Indian Army, conducted a training exercise on Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) firing at a Super High-Altitude Area of 17,000 Feet in Sikkim. Missile Firing Detachments from Mechanized and Infantry Units of the entire Eastern Command participated in the training exercise. The training exercise encompassed comprehensive continuity training and live firing from different platforms on moving as well as static targets, depicting battlefield conditions. The ATGM Detachments demonstrated the capability to neutralize armored threats with unparalleled lethality, ensuring mission success in treacherous mountains. The ATGM system’s performance in high-altitude environments reaffirms the aim of “Ek Missile Ek Tank” and showcased the accuracy and effectiveness of the ATGM system in Super High-Altitude terrain.

5th edition of India-Uzbekistan joint military Exercise ‘DUSTLIK-2024’ is being conducted from 15th to 28th April 2024 in Termez District, Uzbekistan.

5th edition of India-Uzbekistan joint military Exercise ‘DUSTLIK-2024’ is being conducted from 15th to 28th April 2024 in Termez District, Uzbekistan. Exercise DUSTLIK is a yearly event conducted alternatively in India and Uzbekistan. Last edition was conducted at Pithoragarh (India) in February 2023. The Indian Armed Forces contingent comprising 60 personnel is being represented by 45 personnel from the Indian Army, majorly from a Battalion of the JAT Regiment, and 15 personnel from the Indian Air Force. The Uzbekistan contingent comprising approximately 100 personnel, from Uzbekistan Army and Air Force, will be represented by personnel from Southern Operational Command, part of South-West Military District. Aim of Exercise DUSTLIK is to foster military cooperation and enhance combined

capabilities to execute joint operations in mountainous as well as semi urban terrain.

India's economy is estimated to grow at 8-8.3 percent in FY25.

The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) has said that India's Gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to grow at 8-8.3 percent in the current fiscal (FY25). The country's GDP will grow at an average of 6.7 percent over the next 23 years to become a \$34.7 trillion economy by 2047, with a per capita income of \$21,000. Gradually after 2035, the growth rate will start decelerating from the peak, and on an average, our growth rate, the real GDP (gross domestic product), will be 6.7 percent overall in the next 23 years. India's economy will attain the size of \$34.7 trillion by 2047 with a per capita income of \$21,000. The 10-pronged approach also suggests bolstering the renewable energy segment to enhance its installed capacity to 1,500 GW by 2047. The recommendation also includes capacity building for exports -- with a potential 75 products to be focused on to enhance export volumes in global trade.

The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur and Blockchain For Impact (BFI) have announced a strategic partnership under the BFI-Biome Virtual Network Programme to nurture innovations and driving advancements in healthcare in India.

The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur and Blockchain For Impact (BFI) have announced a strategic partnership under the BFI-Biome Virtual Network Programme to nurture innovations and driving advancements in healthcare in India. As part of this collaboration, BFI will support IIT Kanpur in promoting entrepreneurial initiatives through the Startup Incubation & Innovation Centre (SIIC), IIT Kanpur. As part of this programme, BFI has pledged to allocate over \$150,000 across three years to develop programmes specifically tailored to healthcare-focused startups at IIT Kanpur's Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC).

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of stake in PAMP Technologies (India) Private Ltd (PAMP Technologies) and MMTC PAMP India Private Ltd by PAMP Ventures SA.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of stake in PAMP Technologies (India) Private Ltd (PAMP Technologies) and MMTC PAMP India Private Ltd by PAMP Ventures SA. The proposed combination relates to the acquisition by PAMP Ventures SA (PAMP Switzerland/Acquirer) of 100 percent of the share capital of PAMP Technologies and 72.65 percent of the share capital of MMTC PAMP India Private Ltd. PAMP Switzerland is a holding company and does not undertake any operational activities on its own. PAMP Technologies captively provides IT services to only MKS PAMP Group companies.

Moody's Analytics has projected a 6.1% expansion for India's economy in 2024,

a slight decrease from the 7.7% growth recorded in 2023.

Moody's Analytics has projected a 6.1% expansion for India's economy in 2024, a slight decrease from the 7.7% growth recorded in 2023. Moody's Analytics report titled 'APAC Outlook: Listening Through the Noise'. The report forecasts 3.8 percent growth for the APAC economy in 2024, in contrast to the global economy's 2.5 percent growth. The RBI maintained its retail inflation projection for the current fiscal year 2024-25 at 4.5 percent. The central bank forecasted inflation rates of 4.9 percent for the June quarter, 3.8 percent for the September quarter, and 4.6 percent and 4.7 percent for the December and March quarters, respectively.

India's economy is projected to grow by 6.5% in 2024, according to a report by the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

India's economy is projected to grow by 6.5% in 2024, according to a report by the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD). India grew by 6.7% in 2023 and is expected to expand by 6.5% in 2024, continuing to be the fastest-growing major economy in the world. Global growth is projected to be 2.6% in 2024, slightly slower than the 2.7% in 2023. This makes 2024 the third consecutive year in which the global economy will grow slower than before the pandemic when the average rate for 2015–2019 was 3.2%. China's economy, projected to grow 4.9 percent in 2024. Growth in India is projected to remain strong at 6.8% in 2024 and 6.5% in 2025, with the robustness reflecting continuing strength in domestic demand and a rising working-age population.

IMF raised India's GDP growth projection for 2024-25 by 30 basis points to 6.8 percent in its update to the World Economic Outlook (WEO).

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised India's GDP growth projection for 2024-25 by 30 basis points to 6.8 percent in its update to the World Economic Outlook (WEO), citing buoyant domestic demand. However, the fund's estimate is below the 7 percent growth projection by the government. Growth in India is projected to remain strong at 6.8 percent in 2024 (FY25) and 6.5 percent in 2025 (FY26), with the robustness reflecting continuing strength in domestic demand and a rising working-age population. For FY24, the IMF raised India's GDP growth projection to 7.8 percent, compared to 6.7 percent in its January report. For FY26, the IMF expects the country's economic growth to slow down slightly to 6.5 percent -- the same as projected in its January update. According to the second advance estimates by the National Statistical Office, the growth rate of GDP during 2023-24 was estimated at 7.6 percent, compared to a growth rate of 7 percent in 2022-23.

IndusInd International Holdings has acquired 60% stake in Invesco Asset Management India for undisclosed amount.

IndusInd International Holdings has acquired 60% stake in Invesco Asset Management India for undisclosed amount. Invesco, the existing promoter, will hold

the remaining 40 percent stake in the joint venture company and both IHL and Invesco will have sponsor status of the mutual fund house. With an AUM of ₹85,393 crore, IAMI is the 17th largest domestic asset manager in India and has presence in 40 cities across the country.

Larsen & Toubro concludes Divestment of its entire stake 51% in L&T Infrastructure Development Projects Limited (L&T IDPL).

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has announced the completion of divestment of L&T Infrastructure Development Projects Limited (L&T IDPL), a joint venture between Larsen & Toubro Limited and the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPP Investments) holding 51% and 49% shares respectively. Both L&T (51%) and CPP Investments' (49%) stakes have been acquired by M/s Epic Concesiones Private Limited, an investee company of Edelweiss Infrastructure Yield Plus Strategy, managed by Edelweiss Alternative Asset Advisors Limited (EAAA). This deal is in line with L&T's strategy to exit non-core businesses for reducing its exposure to the asset-heavy developmental projects portfolio, thereby enhancing its Return on Equity.

Bain Capital sold a 1.08% stake in Axis Bank for ₹3,575 crore through an open market transaction.

Bain Capital sold a 1.08% stake in Axis Bank for ₹3,575 crore through an open market transaction. According to BSE block deals data, Bain Capital sold 33.37 million shares at ₹1,071 per share on BSE. Integral Investments South Asia IV sold 8.35 million shares, while BC Asia Investments VII and BC Asia Investments offloaded about 25 million shares. Some of the buyers included Birla MF, Blackstone, BofA Sec, Mirae MF, Nippon India MF, Nomura, Norges Bank, T Rowe Price, among others.

BNP Paribas has agreed to buy a 9% stake in Ageas from China's Fosun Group for about 730 million euros (\$780 million).

BNP Paribas has agreed to buy a 9% stake in Ageas from China's Fosun Group for about 730 million euros (\$780 million), making it the biggest shareholder in the Belgian insurer. This partnership is materialized by an exclusive distribution agreement for Life and Non-Life insurance between AGI and BNP Paribas Fortis and by a stake of 25% (plus one share) held by the latter in AGI. BNP Paribas Group acquisition of a minority stake in ageas does not modify any term of this historic and strategic partnership.

Researchers discovered a new species 'Impatiens neo-uncinata' of garden balsam in Kerala.

Researchers discovered a new species 'Impatiens neo-uncinata' of garden balsam in Kerala. It is a new species of Impatiens (family Balsaminaceae). It has been discovered in the Western Ghats and is a rare. It bears morphological resemblances

to *Impatiens uncinata* but it differs in the size of the flowers, basal and distal lobes, the dorsal petal and pollen. In India, the Himalayan and the north-eastern regions account for the highest diversity of *Impatiens*. The southern arm of the Western Ghats stands second in that respect.

The International Day for Street Children is annually observed on 12 April.

The International Day for Street Children is annually observed on 12 April. The International Day for Street Children was launched on 12th April 2011. It aims to raise awareness of the millions of street children all around the world and support the vital recognition of their rights. All countries (except the US) ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and have a legal obligation to work towards ensuring that all children's rights are integrated into national law. However, the rights of street children are often overlooked.

World Art Day (WAD) is celebrated every year on 15 April to promoting the development, distribution, and enjoyment of art worldwide.

World Art Day (WAD) is celebrated every year on 15 April to promoting the development, distribution, and enjoyment of art worldwide. The 40th session of UNESCO's General Conference proclaimed World Art Day in 2019. The day was established in order to reinforce the link between artistic productions and society, raise awareness of the variety of artistic expressions, and highlight the contributions of artists to sustainable development. World Art Day was officially established on April 15, 2012, during a General Assembly meeting of the International Association of Art (IAA) in Guadalajara, Mexico.

World Voice Day is annually observed on 16 April.

World Voice Day is annually observed on 16 April. The purpose of World Voice Day is to raise awareness about the importance of the human voice and the need for preventative care. It is also to encourage people to assess their vocal health and take steps to improve or maintain good voice habits. The theme of World Voice Day 2024 is 'Resonate, Educate, Celebrate'. This day was first established in Brazil in 1999 as the Brazilian National Voice Day. It was a collaboration between physicians, speech-language pathologists, and singing teachers of the former association 'Sociuldade Brasileira de Laringologia e Voz – SBLV'.

World Hemophilia Day is annually observed on 17 April to raise awareness around haemophilia.

World Hemophilia Day is annually observed on 17 April to raise awareness around haemophilia, a rare bleeding disorder in which the blood does not clot properly. The foundation of the day was laid in 1989 by the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH). April 17 was decided as the date to observe the health day every year to honour the founder of the organisation Frank Schnabel, who played a significant role in

advocating for hemophilia awareness and treatment and dedicated his life towards improving lives of those suffering from the disorder. The theme for World Hemophilia Day 2024 is 'Equitable access for all: recognizing all bleeding disorders'.

The International Day of Human Space Flight is celebrated on 12 April to honour the first person, Yuri Gagarin, to go to space.

The International Day of Human Space Flight is celebrated on 12 April to honour the first person, Yuri Gagarin, to go to space. The day is also dedicated to the beginning of the space era for mankind, the contribution of space science and technology, and ensuring to conservation of outer space for peaceful purposes. On April 7, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly finalised April 12 as the International Day of Human Space Flight. On October 4, 1957, a human-made satellite named, Sputnik I, was sent to space. This was the first ever human effort to explore space. After understanding space and enhancing the technologies, on April 12, 1961, Yuri Gagarin from the Soviet Union became the first human to travel around the earth in space. Later, on June 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first person on Earth to set foot on the moon.

13th April 2024 marks the 105th Anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (also known as the Amritsar Massacre).

13th April 2024 marks the 105th Anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (also known as the Amritsar Massacre), held on 13 April 1919 in Amritsar, Punjab, British India (now in Punjab). On 13 April 1919, people gathered at Jallianwala Bagh (Amritsar) to protest against the arrest of the two nationalist leaders, Satya Pal and Dr Saifuddin Kitchlew. Suddenly, a British military officer, General Dyer, entered the park with his troops. Without even giving a warning to the people to disperse, he ordered his troops to fire at the unarmed crowd for ten minutes and when their ammunition was exhausted, they left. In those ten minutes, according to the estimates of the congress, about a thousand persons were killed and about 2000 wounded. The bullet marks can be still seen on the walls of the Jallianwala Bagh which is now a national memorial.

World Liver Day is observed annually on 19th April to raise awareness about liver-related diseases and the importance of liver health.

World Liver Day is observed annually on 19th April to raise awareness about liver-related diseases and the importance of liver health. It aims to educate people about the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of liver diseases such as hepatitis, liver cirrhosis, fatty liver disease, and liver cancer. The World Health Organisation (WHO) introduced World Liver Day to bring issues to light about liver illness and empower investment in liver disease research. It was first officially recognized on April 19, 2012, and has since developed popularity. The theme for World Liver Day 2024 is 'Be Vigilant, Get Regular Liver Check-Ups and Prevent Fatty Liver Diseases'.

The Indian Army observed the 40th Siachen Day on 13 April 2024.

Siachen Day is observed every year on April 13 to honour the bravery and sacrifice of the Indian Army soldiers, who serve on the highest battlefield in the world. The day commemorates the anniversary of 'Operation Meghdoot', which was launched by the Indian Army on April 13, 1984, to secure the strategic Siachen Glacier, located near the Indo-Pak Line of Control. The Indian Army launched Operation Meghdoot on April 13, 1984, preempting Pakistan's plans to establish its presence on the Siachen Glacier. The operation was named after an ancient Indian epic and remains one of the costliest and longest ongoing military operations of the Indian Army.

World Chagas Disease Day is annually observed on 14 April to raise awareness around Chagas disease.

World Chagas Disease Day is annually observed on 14 April to raise awareness around Chagas disease. It was first celebrated on April 14, 2020, and was named after Carlos Ribeiro Justiniano Chagas, the Brazilian doctor who diagnosed the first case on April 14, 1909. World Chagas Disease Day was approved for creation on May 24, 2019, at the 72nd session of the World Health Assembly, and officially created at the WHA plenary on May 28, 2019. The theme for World Chagas Disease Day 2024 is "Tackling Chagas disease: detect early and care for life".

National fire service day was observed on 14th April.

National fire service day was observed on 14th April. The theme for National fire service day 2024 is 'ensure fire safety to contribute towards nation building'. On April 14, 1971, a significant fire occurred onboard the British cargo 'SS Fort Stikine' on the Victoria dock at Bombay Port during World War II. 71 firefighters sacrificed their lives attempting to save people and property. The day also honors all courageous firefighters who sacrificed their lives during a ship explosion at Mumbai dockyard in 1944.

Every year 18th April is celebrated as World Heritage Day or International Day for monuments and sites.

Every year 18th April is celebrated as World Heritage Day or International Day for monuments and sites. The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) proposed to UNESCO in 1982 that 18 April be designated as World Heritage Day. This idea was supported by UNESCO in its 22nd conference held in 1983. Since 1983, ICOMOS has taken the initiative to recommend a specific theme to guide global celebrations of World Heritage Day each year. This day was organized for the first time in 1983. Since then this day is organized every year. This day is supported by UNESCO. The theme of International Day for Monuments and Sites 2024 is 'Disasters & Conflicts Through the Lens of the Venice Charter'.

In the top 10 busiest airports of the world in 2023, Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport has secured the 10th position globally with a passenger traffic of 72.2 million flyers.

In the top 10 busiest airports of the world in 2023, Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport has secured the 10th position globally with a passenger traffic of 72.2 million flyers. America's Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport tops the list. Dubai International Airport is at second place in the ACI World list and Dallas Airport is at third place. Airports Council International (ACI) World has released this list. Five of the busiest airports in the ACI World list are from the US. In 2023, 8.5 billion (850 crore) passengers travelled by air all over the world. Tokyo Haneda, which jumped from 16th in 2022 to 5th in 2023.

As per UN DESA's FSDR 2024, to overcome or close the development financing gap in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), now estimated at 4.2 trillion U.S dollars annually.

UN DESA released the 9th edition of Financing for Sustainable Development Report: 'Financing for Development at a Crossroads (FSDR 2024)'. As per it, to overcome or close the development financing gap, now estimated at 4.2 trillion U.S dollars annually, up from 2.5 trillion dollars before the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, rising geopolitical tensions, climate disasters and a global cost-of-living crisis have hit billions of people, battering progress on healthcare, education, and other development targets. It's projected that debt service in the least developed nations will reach an annual sum of 40 billion dollars from 2023 to 2025, marking an increase of over 50 percent from the 26 billion dollars recorded in 2022. Additionally, corporate income tax rates have been on a decline, with the global average plummeting from 28.2 percent in 2000 to 21.1 percent in 2023, attributed to the impacts of globalization and competitive tax practices.

According to a report by the UNFPA, India's population is estimated to have reached 1.44 billion, with 24 percent in the 0-14 age bracket.

According to a report by the UNFPA, India's population is estimated to have reached 1.44 billion, with 24 percent in the 0-14 age bracket. India leads globally with an estimated population of 1.44 billion, followed by China at 1.425 billion. India's population was recorded at 1.21 billion during the last census, conducted in 2011. The report further detailed that an estimated 24 percent of India's population is aged 0-14 while 17 percent is within the 10-19 age range. The segment aged 10-24 is estimated to constitute 26 percent, with the 15-64 age group making up 68 per cent. Additionally, 7 percent of India's population is aged 65 years and above, with men having a life expectancy of 71 years and women 74 years. The child marriage percentage in India was at 23 between 2006-2023.

Qatar's Hamad International Airport in Doha has been named the world's best airport in 2024 by London-based air transport rating organisation Skytrax, with Singapore Changi Airport coming in at second place.

Qatar's Hamad International Airport in Doha has been named the world's best airport in 2024 by London-based air transport rating organisation Skytrax, with Singapore Changi Airport coming in at second place. During the award ceremony at the Passenger Terminal Expo 2024 in Frankfurt, Germany, the airport also clinched the titles of world's best airport shopping and best airport in the Middle East. Hamad International Airport has experienced significant growth in the past decade, with the integration of lifestyle and shopping facilities including Orchard, an indoor garden with a bridge. In 2023, it enjoyed a 31 per cent increase in passenger traffic, serving over 45 million passengers over 250 destinations. Second-place winner Singapore Changi Airport – which won the world's best airport award in 2023 – also clinched the titles of best airport in Asia and world's best airport immigration service. Crowne Plaza Changi Airport was also named world's best airport hotel, for the ninth time.

Sweden has become 38th signatory to the Artemis Accords.

Sweden has become 38th signatory to the Artemis Accords. Swedish Minister for Education Dr. Mats Persson signed the accords at an event in Stockholm. Sweden has consequently affirmed its dedication to the sustainable use of space at the Swedish Government Offices. Participants at the signing included Persson and Ambassador Erik D. Ramanathan, the U.S ambassador to Sweden, who gave remarks welcoming the Scandinavian Country to the Accords family. By joining the Artemis Accords, Sweden strengthens its strategic space partnership with the U.S. on space covering areas such as Swedish space research and the space industry, which in turn also strengthens Sweden's total defense capability.

The Higher School of Economics (HSE), situated in Russia, and the University of Delhi have forged an agreement for strategic collaboration and joint initiatives.

The Higher School of Economics (HSE), situated in Russia, and the University of Delhi have forged an agreement for strategic collaboration and joint initiatives, marking the commencement of a significant research hub at the partner institution. The Indo-Russian Education Summit held in New Delhi recently marked a milestone in the bilateral relations between India and Russia. Over 60 Russian universities, representing various regions such as Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Siberia, Crimea, and the Urals, congregated in the national capital for this event. The aim was to explore fresh avenues for collaboration in education, science, innovative technologies, and professional training.

Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi, for co-operation in various fields.

Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi, for co-operation in research and technology, product development, in the areas of semiconductors, quantum technologies, and drones. The MoU aims at leveraging the complementary strengths and capabilities of BEL and IIT-Mandi. It will support indigenisation of products/solutions being supplied by BEL to its customers and is in line with the Government of India's 'Make in India' initiative.

Sany India, a manufacturer of construction and mining equipment, introduced the SKT105E Electric Dump Truck, the first of its kind to be made in India.

Sany India, a manufacturer of construction and mining equipment, introduced the SKT105E Electric Dump Truck, the first of its kind to be made in India. The SKT105E Electric Dump truck was intended to withstand the harsh conditions of open-cast mining operations. This electric off-highway dump truck has an amazing payload capacity of 70 tonnes and is extremely energy efficient and cost effective. The SKT105E represents a historic moment for Sany India and the Indian mining industry. By localizing production and implementing cutting-edge electric technology, we not only improve operational efficiency but also contribute to the country's aim of sustainable growth.

The Union finance ministry notified amendments to the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules, 2019 to operationalise the new foreign direct investment (FDI) limits for satellite-related activities.

The Union finance ministry notified amendments to the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules, 2019 to operationalise the new foreign direct investment (FDI) limits for satellite-related activities. The notification follows a nod from the Union Cabinet on February 21 that approved changes to FDI policy for space sector, allowing up to 100 percent foreign investment under the automatic route for certain activities. These include manufacturing of components and systems and sub-systems for satellites. The notification that will come into effect from 16 April 2024 has been issued just a few days away from the SpaceX CEO Musk's likely meeting with India's burgeoning space tech startups during his first-ever visit to the country on April 22. Up to 100 percent FDI is now allowed under the automatic route for manufacturing of components and systems or sub-systems for satellites, ground segment and user segment, Up to 74 percent FDI is now permitted under the automatic route for satellite manufacturing and operation, satellite data products and Ground Segment and User Segment. Up to 49 percent will be permitted under the automatic route for launch vehicles and associated systems or sub-systems and creation of spaceports for launching and receiving spacecraft.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has signed a record number of 125 Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) with Indian taxpayers in 2023-24.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has signed a record number of 125 Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) with Indian taxpayers in 2023-24. This includes 86 Unilateral APAs (UAPAs) and 39 Bilateral APAs (BAPAs). This marks the highest ever APA signings in any financial year since the launch of the APA programme. The number of APAs signed in 2023-24 also represents a 31 percent increase compared to the 95 APAs signed during the preceding financial year. With this, the total number of APAs since inception of the APA programme has gone up to 641, comprising 506 UAPAs and 135 BAPAs.

Government Establishes Panel to Drive Legislation for Optimal Mining of Critical Minerals.

The government has set up a panel that would recommend legislative measures to facilitate economically viable recovery of critical minerals which are found in small quantities. Critical mineral blocks like lithium are crucial for manufacturing of electric vehicles. The 7-member panel under the chairmanship of NITI Aayog member V K Saraswat, will suggest legislative measures to ensure optimal and scientific mining of deep-seated mineral deposits such as copper, gold, and diamond among others, which are formed in the form of veins and can generally be extracted through underground mining only. The committee will also formulate a strategy to popularise the impact of mining reforms among states. Critical mineral blocks like lithium are crucial for manufacturing of electric vehicles. Last year, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) established 5.9 million tonnes of inferred resources of lithium in the Salal-Haimana area of Jammu & Kashmir.

The government has notified specifications of a new product 'Nano Urea Plus' fertiliser to be manufactured by cooperative IFFCO in the country for the next 3 years.

The government has notified specifications of a new product 'Nano Urea Plus' fertiliser to be manufactured by cooperative IFFCO in the country for the next 3 years. Nano Urea Plus is a new version of nano urea meant for meeting crop nitrogen requirements at critical growth phases. The government has approved Nano Urea Plus in liquid form with 16 percent nitrogen content and pH value of 4-8.5 and viscosity of 5-30. This product will be manufactured by the cooperative major IFFCO for a period of three years. IFFCO's Nano Urea Plus is an advanced formulation of Nano Urea in which nutrition is redefined to meet crop nitrogen requirements at critical growth phases. It is used in place of conventional urea and other nitrogenous fertilisers for promoting soil health, farmer's profitability & sustainable environment.

Tirangi Barfi of Varanasi has been given the status of GI product.

Tirangi Barfi of Varanasi has been given the status of GI product. Besides, another product of Varanasi, Dhalua Murti Metal Casting Craft, has also been included in the GI category. On April 16, 2024, the Geographical Indication (GI) Registry Office

based in Chennai has released the list of new products. After this tag, these products of Varanasi will now get a special identity in the world. In this way, a total of 34 products in Banaras region and 75 products in Uttar Pradesh have now received the GI tag. Kashi is also called the most diverse GI city. Apart from this, GI registration has also been issued for Bareilly Zardozi, Cane-Bamboo Craft, Tharu Embroidery, Pilkhuwa Hand-block Print Textile. With this the number of GI products at the state level has now reached 75. There are 58 handicrafts and 17 agricultural and food products. This is the record for most GI tags in the name of any state.

A team of archaeologists have discovered a unique Iron Age megalithic site at Ooragutta near Bandala village in SS Tadvai mandal of Mulugu district, Telangana.

A team of archaeologists have discovered a unique Iron Age megalithic site at Ooragutta near Bandala village in SS Tadvai mandal of Mulugu district, Telangana. The site was discovered by a team comprising K.P Rao, history professor of the University of Hyderabad, and Ch Praveen Raju, research scholar from Yogi Vemana University, Andhra Pradesh. The site slabs are arranged with slabs following the shape of the cap-stone. Hence, each 'dolmenoid cist' has a unique shape as dictated by the cap-stone. This site has new types of monuments, which have not come to light so far anywhere in other regions of India. Another significant discovery is an Iron Age megalithic site at Ooragutta near Bandala village in SS Tadvai mandal of Mulugu district. Additionally, two new rock art sites have been discovered at Damaratogu in Gundala mandal of Bhadradi Kothagudem district. One of these sites, known as 'Devarlabanda Mula', exclusively depicts animals and no humans, suggesting a cultural significance possibly related to hunting or animal worship.

NTPC Limited launched latest edition of Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM), its flagship Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

NTPC Limited launched latest edition of Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM), its flagship Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. The program aligns with the Government of India's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao initiative and aims to tackle gender inequality by nurturing girls' imaginations and fostering their ability to explore opportunities. GEM does this through a 1-month workshop for young girls during summer holidays, by offering them a platform for their all-round upliftment and development. Starting from April 2024, the new edition of GEM will add nearly 3,000 meritorious children belonging to underprivileged sections of the society at 42 identified locations of the power sector PSU. With this, the total number of children benefiting from the Mission will cross 10,000.

According to the latest data from the Global Forest Watch monitoring project, India has lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000, equivalent to a 6% decrease in tree cover during 2001-2023.

According to the latest data from the Global Forest Watch monitoring project, India has lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000, equivalent to a 6% decrease in tree cover during 2001-2023. The Global Forest Watch tracks forest changes in near real-time using satellite data and other sources. The country lost 4,14,000 hectares of humid primary forest (4.1 percent) from 2002 to 2023, making up 18 percent of its total tree cover loss in the same period. Forests in India emitted 51 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent a year and removed 141 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent a year. This represents a net carbon sink of 89.9 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent a year. In total, 1.12 gigatons of carbon dioxide equivalent was emitted during this period.

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) has introduced a new platform - CDP-SURAKSHA - to disburse subsidies to horticulture farmers under the Cluster Development Programme (CDP).

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) has introduced a new platform - CDP-SURAKSHA - to disburse subsidies to horticulture farmers under the Cluster Development Programme (CDP). SURAKSHA (System for Unified Resource Allocation, Knowledge, and Secure Horticulture Assistance) is essentially a digital platform. The platform will allow an instant disbursement of subsidies to farmers in their bank account by utilising the e-RUPI voucher from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The CDP-SURAKSHA has features such as database integration with PM-KISAN, cloud-based server space from NIC, UIDAI validation, eRUPI integration, local government directory (LGD), content management system, geotagging, and geo-fencing.

Linking of the Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) number with the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) Beneficiary ID has been extended for 120 days or four months from 30 June 2024.

Linking of the Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) number with the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) Beneficiary ID has been extended for 120 days or four months from 30 June 2024. To better assist CGHS beneficiaries, the government said in a statement that kiosks would be made operational at all wellness centres by June 30. The government was aiming to allocate ABHA ID and benefits for all Indians at every health facility. The ministry came up with the statement to clarify "misinformation" in the healthcare sphere around the recent move to link the CGHS Beneficiary ID to the ABHA number. ABHA is a unique health ID based purely on Aadhaar. The need for ABHA (separate health ID) arose because one cannot save or store an Aadhaar on any system without implementing an Aadhaar vault and other security systems.

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras launched India's first medical devices calibration facility on wheels.

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras launched India's first medical devices calibration facility on wheels. The initiative boosts the United National Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-3), which calls for health and well-being for all. Calibration is key for life-saving medical devices as it will help check the accuracy of medical instruments for precise disease diagnosis, which will lead to improved treatments. Irrespective of geographical locations across the country, the new mobile facility will ensure quality healthcare. This will also help test and maintain medical devices that are used in a wide range of hospitals including those in remote villages. The initiative boosts the United National Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-3), which calls for health and well-being for all.

Bernd Holzenbein, a FIFA World Cup winner with West Germany in 1974, has passed away aged 78.

Bernd Holzenbein, a FIFA World Cup winner with West Germany in 1974, has passed away aged 78. 'Holz', as he was affectionately known, spent the majority of his career with Eintracht Frankfurt, winning a hat-trick of DFB-Pokal trophies between 1974 and 1981, as well as the UEFA Cup in 1980. He played 532 times in total for the Eagles, netting a club record 160 Bundesliga goals in the process. As a player he won four trophies with Eintracht and his club record of 160 Bundesliga goals will probably never be surpassed.

Noted Carnatic musician K.G. Jayan passed away in Ernakulam district of Kerala.

Noted Carnatic musician K.G. Jayan passed away at Thripunitura in Ernakulam district of Kerala. Born to the late Gopalan Thanthrikal and late Narayani Amma in Kottayam on November 21, 1934, Jayan and his brother K.G. Vijayan were known as the 'Jaya-Vijaya' duo in the world of music. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2019, the fourth highest civilian award in India. He composed more than 1,000 songs for Tamil and Malayalam films.

Nigeria has become the 1st country in the world to launch a new vaccine (called Men5CV) recommended by the WHO.

Nigeria has become the 1st country in the world to launch a new vaccine (called Men5CV) recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), which protects people against five strains of the meningococcus bacteria. The vaccine and emergency vaccination activities are funded by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, which funds the global meningitis vaccine stockpile, and supports lower-income countries with routine vaccination against meningitis. Nigeria is one of the 26 meningitis hyper-endemic countries of Africa, situated in the area known as the African Meningitis Belt. Last year, there was a 50% jump in annual meningitis cases reported across Africa.

Gopi Thotakura is set to become the first Indian to venture into space as a tourist on Amazon founder Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin's NS-25 mission.

Gopi Thotakura, an entrepreneur and a pilot, is set to become the first Indian to venture into space as a tourist on Amazon founder Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin's NS-25 mission. Thotakura was selected as one of the six crew members for the mission, making him the first Indian space tourist and the second Indian to venture into space after the Indian Army's Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma in 1984. The flight date is yet to be announced. This mission will be the seventh human flight for the New Shepard programme and the 25th in its history. New Shepard is a fully reusable sub-orbital launch vehicle developed for space tourism by Blue Origin.

ISRO has developed lightweight Carbon-Carbon (C-C) nozzle for rocket engines.

ISRO has developed lightweight Carbon-Carbon (C-C) nozzle for rocket engines. This innovation accomplished by Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) promises to enhance the vital parameters of rocket engines, including thrust levels, specific impulse, and thrust-to-weight ratios, thereby boosting the payload capacity of launch vehicles. VSSC, continuing its pioneering work in space research, has leveraged advanced materials like Carbon-Carbon (C-C) Composites to create a nozzle divergent that offers exceptional properties. A key feature of the C-C nozzle is its special anti-oxidation coating of Silicon Carbide, which extends its operational limits in oxidizing environments. This substitution is projected to increase the payload capability of the PSLV by 15 kg, a notable enhancement for space missions.

Russia test-launched its Angara-A5 space rocket for the first time from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in the Far East.

Russia test-launched its Angara-A5 space rocket for the first time from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in the Far East, successfully putting a test load in low orbit as part of an effort to develop a new post-Soviet launch vehicle. The launch was intended to showcase Russia's post-Soviet space ambitions and the growing role played by Vostochny. The Angara-A5 is a heavy-lift version of the new Angara family of rockets that has been developed to replace the Soviet-designed Proton rockets.

Israel for the first time deployed its ship-mounted defence system, called the C-Dome.

Israel for the first time deployed its ship-mounted defence system, called the C-Dome, against a "suspicious" target that entered the country's airspace near the southern city of Eilat. The C-Dome is a naval version of the Iron Dome air defence system used to shield against rocket and missile attacks. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) reported an alert in the area of Eilat, which was targeted by intercepted ballistic missile fire from Yemen's Houthi rebels, allies of Hamas.

A state-of-the-art Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterization and Evaluation (SPACE) was inaugurated by Secretary of Defence (R&D) and Chairman of DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat at the Underwater Acoustic Research Facility, Kulamavu, in Idukki, Kerala.

A state-of-the-art Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterization and Evaluation (SPACE) was inaugurated by Secretary of Defence (R&D) and Chairman of DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat at the Underwater Acoustic Research Facility, Kulamavu, in Idukki, Kerala. The Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory of DRDO set up the SPACE. This facility is a center for testing and evaluating sonar systems used by the Indian Navy on different types of vessels, including ships, submarines, and helicopters. The facility is made up of two structures: a floating platform on the water's surface and a submersible platform that can be lowered up to 100 meters. The SPACE will mainly be utilized to evaluate complete sonar systems, allowing for quick deployment and easy recovery of scientific packages such as sensors and transducers.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-test of Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-test of Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. During the test, all subsystems performed as per expectation. The missile performance was monitored by several Range Sensors like Radar, Electro Optical Tracking System (EOTS) and Telemetry deployed by ITR at different locations to ensure complete coverage of the flight path. The flight of the missile was also monitored from the Su-30-Mk-I aircraft of the Indian Air Force. The missile followed the desired path using way point navigation and demonstrated very low altitude sea-skimming flight. This successful flight test has also established the reliable performance of the indigenous propulsion system developed by Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE), Bengaluru.

Intel has built Code-named 'Hala Point', the world's largest neuromorphic system to support research for future brain-inspired artificial intelligence.

Intel has built Code-named 'Hala Point', the world's largest neuromorphic system to support research for future brain-inspired artificial intelligence. The large-scale neuromorphic system was initially deployed at Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico. It mimics the human brain in processing information. Hala Point advances Intel's first-generation large-scale research system, Pohoiki Springs, with architectural improvements to achieve over 10 times more neuron capacity and up to 12 times higher performance. It can support up to 20 quadrillion operations per second, or 20 petaops, with an efficiency exceeding 15 trillion 8-bit operations per second per watt (TOPS/W) when executing conventional deep neural networks.

The senior Indian wrestling team finished their campaign at the 20th Asian Wrestling Championship by winning 9 medals - 4 silvers and 5 bronzes.

The senior Indian wrestling team finished their campaign at the 20th Asian Wrestling Championship by winning 9 medals - 4 silvers and 5 bronzes. A total of 30 Indian men and women wrestlers competed in the championship. The men's wrestlers participated in the freestyle and Greco-Roman events while the women's team participated only in the freestyle events. The 20th Asian Wrestling Championship 2024 was held in the Kyrgyzstan capital, Bishkek, from 11 -16 April 2024. Amongst the Indian wrestlers, only Antim Panghal has secured a quota for the Paris Olympics 2024. Antim Panghal qualified for the Paris Olympics for her bronze medal-winning performance in the 53 kg category at the 2023 World Wrestling Championships. Ravi kumar Dahiya won the gold medal for India in the 2020, 2021, and 2022 editions of the championships. Aman Sehrawat won gold for India in the 2023 edition.

Tennis player Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece defeated Casper Ruud of Norway in a straight set 6-1, 6-4 to win his third ATP Monte Carlo Masters 1000 title.

Tennis player Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece defeated Casper Ruud of Norway in a straight set 6-1, 6-4 to win his third ATP Monte Carlo Masters 1000 title. He also won the title in 2021 and 2022. World No. 6 ranked Casper Rudd defeated world no 1 Novak Djokovic in the semifinal to qualify for the final. Stefanos Tsitsipas defeated Alexander Zverev in the quarter-final and world no 2 Jannik Sinner in the semi-finals. Rafael Nadal has won the Monte Carlo Masters a record 11 times.

Anupama Upadhyaya and Tharun Mannepli won the women's and men's singles titles, respectively at the Kazakhstan International Challenge tournament in Astana.

Anupama Upadhyaya and Tharun Mannepli won the women's and men's singles titles, respectively at the Kazakhstan International Challenge tournament in Astana. Former Junior World No. 1 Anupama Upadhyaya beat Isharani Baruah in an all-Indian women's final with a 21-15, 21-16 scoreline in 41 minutes. The 19-year-old has previously won the India International Challenge 2021, Tajikistan International Series 2023 as well as the Polish Open in 2022 and this year. In the men's final, Tharun defeated eighth-seeded Malaysian Soong Joo Ven 21-10, 21-19. The 22-year-old Tharun, national championships runner-up, bagged his first title on the senior circuit.

Indonesian Badminton player Jonatan Christie won his first Asian Badminton Championship by defeating the Chinese player Li Shi Feng in the final of the 2024 Badminton Asia Championships.

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Badminton Asia Championships. The 41st Badminton Asia Championships was held in the coastal city of Ningbo, located in the Zhejiang province of China, from 9-14 April. The Badminton Asia Championships is a BWF Super 1000 event. It means that the winner of the event in both singles, doubles earns 1000 points. It was also the last qualifying event before the Summer Paris Olympic to be held from 26 July to 11 August 2024. Wang Zhi Yi (China) won Singles Women title.

Top Indian athlete Aishwarya Mishra's 400m bronze medal at 2023 Asian Championships will be upgraded to silver.

Top Indian athlete Aishwarya Mishra's 400m bronze medal at 2023 Asian Championships will be upgraded to silver as original second-place finisher Farida Soliyeva of Uzbekistan failed a dope test. The AIU has banned Farida Soliyeva (Uzbekistan) for 3 years from 13 September 2023 for Presence/Use of a Prohibited Substance (Meldonium) DQ (disqualify) results from 13 July 2023. Soliyeva had finished second with a time of 52.95 seconds while Aishwarya was third in 53.07 seconds. Nadeesha Ramanayake of Sri Lanka had won gold with a time of 52.61 seconds. Aishwarya was also part of the mixed 4x400m relay team that won gold as well the women's 4x400m relay team that bagged a bronze in the championships.

Former World No. 1 badminton player Kento Momota has announced his retirement from international badminton after featuring in the Thomas Cup for Japan.

Former World No. 1 badminton player Kento Momota has announced his retirement from international badminton after featuring in the Thomas Cup for Japan. The former World No. 1 confirmed that he will not represent his country again after the Thomas and Uber Cup, scheduled to be held in Chengdu in China from 27 April 2024. Kento Momota acknowledged that he has not been able to get back to the level he was playing before his near-fatal car accident in 2019. Momota won the World Championships title in 2018 and 2019, a glorious year in which he won as many as 11 titles on the tour.