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PhonePe Partners Up with LankaPay for UPI Payment in Sri Lanka .

PhonePe, a Bengaluru-based company, has announced that it has partnered with LankaPay to enable PhonePe UPI payments in the country. This partnership will allow Indian travelers to make UPI payments in Sri Lanka via the PhonePe app in Sri Lanka that will be facilitated by LankaPay National Payment Network. Indian travelers no longer need to carry cash and worry about currency conversion as the amount will be debited from their account in Indian currency. The launch event was attended by Central Bank of Sri Lanka Governor Nandalal Weerasinghe and India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Santosh Jha.

Kapil Sibal elected president of Supreme Court Bar Association.

Rajya Sabha MP and senior advocate Kapil Sibal was elected President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Thursday, a position he has held thrice in the last three decades. The 75 year old veteran lawyer, who completed 50 years at the Bar last year defeated incumbent Vice President of the SCBA Pradeep Rai. Sources said that a total of 2330 advocates voted in the election of 2850 members in the voter list. It is learnt that while Sibal got 1066 votes, Rai got 689 votes and the current President Adish Agarwala got 307 votes.

Croatia conservative leader Plenkovic appointed as prime minister-designate for third term.

Croatian conservative leader Andrej Plenkovic was formally appointed prime minister-designate on Friday for a third consecutive term after he forged an alliance with an extreme right party following an inconclusive election. Plenkovic's ruling Croatian Democratic Union won the most votes at last month's parliamentary vote in the European Union nation, but not enough to stay in power on their own. The party this week agreed to form a coalition with far-right Homeland Movement for a parliamentary majority.

Chad junta chief Mahamat Idriss Déby officially declared winner of presidential election.

Chad's junta leader General Mahamat Idriss Déby has been confirmed the winner of the May 6 presidential election, with 61 percent of the vote. Chad's junta leader General Mahamat Idriss Déby won the May 6 presidential election with 61 percent of the vote, according to final results announced by the Constitutional Council Thursday. The court rejected his rival Prime Minister Succès Masra's bid to annul the result which he launched after claiming victory in the vote. Masra came second with 18.54 percent, while former prime minister Albert Pahimi Padacké won 16.93 percent, Constitutional Council president Jean-Bernard Padare said.

IndiaFirst Life Insurance names Rushabh Gandhi as MD & CEO.

The board of IndiaFirst Life Insurance has approved the promotion of Rushabh Gandhi, deputy chief executive officer, to MD and CEO. Gandhi will serve a five-year term that begins on July 1 or when regulatory approvals are received, whichever is later. He will succeed R.M. Vishakha, the managing director and CEO, who will retire on June 30. Gandhi's appointment is subject to approval by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), the company's shareholders, and other statutory clearances.

R. Lakshmi Kanth Rao Appointed as Executive Director of RBI.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed R. Lakshmi Kanth Rao as Executive Director, effective from May 10, 2024. Rao was previously serving as the Chief General Manager-in-Charge in the Department of Regulation. With over three decades of experience within the RBI, overseeing areas such as Regulation of Banks and NBFCs, Supervision of Banks, and Consumer Protection. His extensive background also includes roles such as Banking Ombudsman at RBI Chennai and Regional Director of Uttar Pradesh at Lucknow.

IIFL Securities appoints Nemkumar as managing director.

Financial Services firm IIFL Securities Ltd on Friday said that it has appointed Nemkumar H as managing director for five years. He would replace R Venkataraman, currently the chairman and managing director, from May 15, 2024. The said appointment is subject to requisite regulatory and shareholders' approval, IIFL Securities said in a regulatory filing.

UNDP Administrator Appoints Alain W. Noudéhou as the new Executive Director of the UN Multi- Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO).

United Nations Development Programme Administrator Achim Steiner announced today the appointment of Alain Noudéhou of Benin as the new Executive Director of the UN Multi – Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO). Mr. Noudéhou brings to the position extensive experience in international development and humanitarian affairs. Most recently, he has been serving as Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Mali.

ITC's Sanjiv Puri takes over as CII president for 2024-25.

Puri is also the chairman of ITC Infotech India Ltd. and its subsidiaries in the UK and the US. A diversified conglomerate, ITC's businesses include fast-moving consumer goods, hotels, packaging, and information technology. Sanjiv Puri, chairman and

managing director of consumer goods major ITC Ltd., has taken over as president of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the 2024-25 period, the industry body said in a statement on Sunday.

William Lai Ching-te urges peace as he becomes Taiwan's new president, Lai and Vice President Hsia Bi-khim took their oaths on Monday.

Taipei, Taiwan – William Lai Ching-te has been sworn in as president of Taiwan in a ceremony that included a 21-gun salute, as he later praised the self-governing island's democracy and urged China to stop its "intimidation". Lai and Vice President Hsia Bi-khim took their oaths on Monday beneath a portrait of Sun Yat-sen, the founder of the Republic of China (ROC), the formal name for Taiwan's government, in a ceremony at the presidential building in Taipei.

LIC granted 3-year time to achieve 10% public shareholding.

On Monday, Life Insurance Corporation got the nod from the markets regulator SEBI for an additional three years to achieve a 10% minimum public shareholding in the company. Now, the insurance major needs to achieve the 10% MPS on or before May 16, 2027, said the company in an exchange filing. "Pursuant to Regulation 30 of Listing Regulations, this is to inform that the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") vide its letter dated May 14, 2024, has conveyed its decision, to grant additional time of 3 years to Life Insurance Corporation of India ("the Corporation") to achieve 10% public shareholding under Rule 19(2)(b)(iv) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, i.e., within a period of 5 years from the date of listing. Accordingly, the revised timeline for the Corporation to achieve 10% public shareholding is on or before May 16, 2027," said LIC in a regulatory filing.

Bank of Maharashtra Leads Public Sector Banks in Business Growth for FY24 .

State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) emerged as the top performer among public sector banks (PSBs) in FY24, recording the highest growth rate in total business and deposit mobilisation. This achievement comes amid a challenging environment where many banks are struggling to achieve double-digit growth. Despite BoM's impressive percentage growth, SBI's total business in absolute terms was significantly higher at Rs 79,52,784 crore, compared to BoM's Rs 4,74,411 crore.

SEBI tweaks NISM certification requirement for AIF investment manager.

The Sebi circular says at least one key personnel should obtain relevant certification from the National Institute of Securities Market by passing the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Certification Examination. Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has recently tweaked regulations, making it mandatory for at least one key personnel within the investment team of the manager of an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) to have the relevant certification. As per a Sebi circular dated May 13, the investment team of the manager of an AIF should have at least one key

personnel with relevant certification from the National Institute of Securities Market (NISM). This is an eligibility criterion for obtaining certification of registration as an AIF. The requirement needs to be complied with on or before May 9, 2025, for a) existing schemes of AIFs, schemes of AIFs, and b) schemes of AIFs whose application for launch of scheme pending with Sebi as on May 10, 2024.

HDFC Bank PIXEL: India's first virtual credit card to allow you choose billing cycle, merchants.

HDFC Bank has launched a new virtual credit card called 'PIXEL'. The card will come in two variants – PIXEL Play and PIXEL Go. PIXEL signifies HDFC Bank's debut in an end-to-end mobile app-based customizable credit card range. There are many key features of this card, among which are the ability to customize benefits to fit your lifestyle, select merchants of your choice to earn cashback, choose a card design, and select your preferred billing cycle date. While PIXEL Play will enable users to create their own cards with personalized benefits, PIXEL Go is tailored for beginners aiming to build their credit scores. Both credit cards will have a membership fee of ₹500 plus taxes. You can register for PIXEL cards on the bank's PayZapp mobile application. The PayZapp application will provide credit card users with features like card controls, rewards, EMI dashboard, notifications, statements, repayments, disputes, hotlisting, recent transactions, etc.

TATA AIG unveils India's first Satellite-based In-Orbit Third-Party Liability Insurance.

TATA AIG, India's leading general insurance provider, announced the launch of India's first Satellite In-Orbit Third-Party Liability Insurance policy, which will provide critical financial protection to meet the growing needs of satellite manufacturers and operators in the Indian space sector. TATA AIG's Satellite In-Orbit Third-Party Liability Insurance provides complete coverage for third-party bodily injury and property damage in the event of an incident involving a satellite in orbit, in accordance with international standards and best practices. The Indian space sector is rapidly expanding, with a projected market value in the tens of billions. With the privatisation of space launches, India aims to grow its worldwide launch market share fivefold to \$47.3 billion by 2032. The increase in satellite launches needs strong risk management solutions.

India's first multi-asset allocation mutual fund with dividend yield strategy launched :Bajaj Finserv Multi Asset Allocation Fund.

Bajaj Finserv Asset Management Company (Bajaj Finserv AMC) on Monday (May 13) launched Bajaj Finserv Multi Asset Allocation Fund. This scheme is the nation's first multi-asset fund with a dividend yield strategy. The new fund offer (NFO) for the scheme will remain open until May 27. Following this, it will be available for subscription until or before June 6, 2024. The mutual fund house noted that dividend

is due only when declared and there is no assurance that a company may continue paying dividend in future. The scheme is vulnerable to instances where investments in securities may not earn dividend or where lesser dividend is declared by a company in subsequent years in which investments are made by scheme, Bajaj Finserv Mutual Fund said. The Bajaj Finserv Multi Asset Allocation Fund offers a diversified portfolio across various asset classes, including equities, fixed income instruments, commodities such as gold and silver ETFs, and REITs/InvITs. With an equity allocation ranging from 35-80%, the fund employs a multi-theme, multi-sector, and multi-cap approach to investment.

SBI General announces Bima Central: A Game-changing Step in Customer Experience.

SBI General Insurance Company Limited, one of India's top general insurance carriers, has partnered with Bima Central, built by CAMS Insurance Repository, to launch industry-first policyholder servicing platform, Bima Central. This platform enables consumers to aggregate their insurance portfolios via an electronic Insurance Account (eIA) and manage them effortlessly through a single digital portal, BIMA Central. For the first time in the market, SBI General Insurance customers with an eIA through CAMS Rep Bima Central will have immediate access to their insurance portfolio via the SBI General Insurance Mobile App. They can also access these services using the Bima Central app.

Asian Development Bank Approves USD 148 Million Loan To Improve Power Supply In Sikkim.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 148.5 million loan to help modernise and enhance the reliability, quality and resilience of electricity supply in Sikkim. This project fully supports Sikkim's Power for All initiative, ensuring round-the-clock uninterrupted access to quality electricity for households, industries, businesses, and the public, ADB said in a statement on Thursday. The project will modernise Sikkim's power distribution system by upgrading it with approximately 770 kilometres of climate-resilient medium-voltage underground and/or covered conductors, it added. Additionally, it will replace 580 kilometres of ageing and low-capacity bare conductors with new ones to increase distribution network capacity, the statement said.

Tata AIG General Insurance partners Aurm for its vault services.

Aurm, a Bangalore based firm securing vault services has announced a strategic partnership with TATA AIG General Insurance to provide comprehensive insurance coverage up to Rs 25 lakh to Aurm customers for their entrusted valuables. Aurm partners with banks and real estate companies to offer state-of-the-art safe deposit storage facilities that are fully automated. Post this collaboration, Aurm's secure vaults will now benefit from full insurance coverage of up to Rs 25 lakh. Aurm has been

providing cutting-edge safe deposit storage facilities to various corporates. These facilities are fully automated and accessible at all times. Aurm's vaults also boast military-grade security infrastructure, along with active surveillance and intrusion detection systems.

IFC Extends US\$500 Million to HDFC Bank to Ramp Up Microloans to Underserved Women Borrowers in India.

Women, especially microloan borrowers in semi-urban and rural areas, will have increased access to finance with IFC financing of up to US\$500 million to HDFC Bank—the largest private sector bank in India—aiming to support lending for income generation purposes, fostering financial inclusion and socio-economic growth in the country. The Bank, with a long-standing history of lending to women, will use IFC's financing for on-lending as microloans to Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) enrolled in the Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative (SLI). SLI is the Bank's business line responsible for microfinance lending programs exclusively for women borrowers. IFC's loan will further enable the Bank to grow its microcredit and microlending to women, especially allowing SHG and JLG borrowers to graduate to individual lending schemes.

SBI Mutual Fund launches SBI Automotive Opportunities Fund.

SBI Automotive Opportunities Fund: The minimum application for lumpsum is ₹5,000, and for SIP, it is ₹500. SBI Automotive Opportunities Fund is a thematic mutual fund that aims to generate long-term capital appreciation for unit holders by investing in a portfolio of companies engaged in automotive and allied activities. The scheme opened for subscription on May 17 and will close on May 31.

YES Bank launches YES Grandeur for elite customers.

Yes Bank has launched premium banking services under the label 'Yes Grandeur' targeting elite and rising affluent class to drive business growth. Customers can also avail zero cross-currency markup charges on international debit card spends, complimentary airport lounge access, and lifestyle privileges. The exclusive banking program, tailored to meet distinctive financial and lifestyle needs, has an eligibility threshold of average monthly balance of ₹5 lakh or a Net Relationship Value (NRV) of ₹20 lakh, with additional consideration given to loan relationships.

Warburg Pincus to acquire Shriram Housing Finance for Rs 4,630 crore.

The board of Shriram Finance Ltd (SFL) on Monday approved the sale of its housing-finance subsidiary Shriram Housing Finance Ltd (SHFL) to Warburg Pincus, a leading global growth investor, for Rs 4,630 crore. Warburg Pincus will acquire the stake through its affiliate Mango Crest Investment from all the sellers. "The proposed transaction is valued at Rs 4,630 crore for equity and convertible instruments of SHFL," the company said in a statement. The transaction is subject to regulatory

approvals. SFL holds a controlling stake in SHFL while private-equity firm Valiant Partners LP (Valiant), Mauritius, holds the rest. As part of this transaction, Valiant will sell its equity stake to Warburg Pincus.

Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahṛdayāloka-Locana enter 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register'.

The Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahṛdayāloka-Locana have been included in 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register'. This inclusion is a proud moment for India, a confirmation of the country's rich literary heritage and cultural legacy. It signifies a step forward in global cultural preservation efforts, highlighting the importance of recognizing and safeguarding the diverse narratives and artistic expressions that shape our shared humanity. By honouring these literary masterpieces, society not only pays homage to the creative genius of their creators but also ensures that their profound wisdom and timeless teachings continue to inspire and enlighten future generations. The 'Ramcharitmanas', 'Panchatantra', and 'Sahṛdayaloka-Locana' are such timeless works that have deeply influenced Indian literature and culture, shaping the nation's moral fabric and artistic expressions. These literary works have transcended time and place, leaving an indelible mark on readers and artists both within and outside India. It is noteworthy that 'Sahṛdayaloka-Locana', 'Panchatantra', and 'Ramcharitmanas' were authored by Acharya Anandvardhan, Pt. Vishnu Sharma, and Goswami Tulsidas, respectively.

English author Ruskin Bond receives Sahitya Akademi Fellowship.

Eminent English author Ruskin Bond was awarded the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Fellowship at his Mussoorie home. Bond was named a recipient of Akademi's highest honour in September 2021. However, due to his ill health, he could not be given the honour in person. Sahitya Akademi president Madhav Kaushik and secretary K. Sreenivasarao handed the plaque to Bond at his home on May 11. Ruskin Bond has written over 300 short stories, essays and novels and more than 30 books for children besides several other works. He is the recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1992, Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar in 2012, Padma Shri in 1999 and Padma Bhushan in 2019 among other prestigious awards.

Retail Inflation Eases to 4.83% in April, 2024.

Retail inflation eased to 4.83 per cent in April as prices of some kitchen items declined, according to government data released on Monday.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation was 4.85 per cent in March. It was 4.7 per cent in April 2023. Inflation in the food basket was at 8.70 per cent in April, marginally up from 8.52 per cent in March, according to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

The government has tasked the Reserve Bank to ensure inflation remains at 4 per cent, with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

Pakistan conducts successful training launch of 'Fatah-II' rocket system.

Pakistan conducted a successful training launch of guided multi-launch rocket system 'Fatah-II', which is capable of engaging targets with high precision up to a range of 400 kilometres, the army said. The launch of Fatah-II Guided Rocket System was aimed at perfecting the launch drills and procedures, the army said in a statement. "Equipped with state-of-the-art navigation system, unique trajectory and manoeuvrable features, Fatah-II is capable of engaging targets with high precision and defeating any missile defence system," Army said.

7th INDIA- FRANCE JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE SHAKTI COMMENCES IN MEGHALAYA.

The 7th edition of India- France Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI commenced today, at Umroi, in a fully developed and modern Foreign Training Node in Meghalaya. The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 13th to 26th May 2024. The Opening Ceremony of the joint exercise was attended by H.E. Thierry Mathou, Ambassador of France to India and Major General Prasanna Sudhakar Joshi, General Officer Commanding 51 Sub Area. Exercise SHAKTI is a biennial training event conducted alternatively in India and France. Last edition was conducted in France in November 2021. Indian contingent comprising 90 personnel is being represented primarily by a Battalion of the RAJPUT Regiment besides personnel from other arms and services. Observers from the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force will also form part of the exercise. The French contingent comprising 90 personnel will be represented mainly by personnel from the 13th Foreign Legion Half- Brigade (13th DBLE). Aim of Exercise SHAKTI is to enhance joint military capability of both sides to undertake multi-domain operations in a Sub Conventional scenario under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate.

NSG & elite US SOF troops conduct 7TH joint counter-terror drill 'TARKASH' in Kolkata.

National Security Guard (NSG) is conducting joint counter-terror mock drills with the US Special Operations Forces (SOF) at multiple locations in Kolkata, to enhance interoperability and coordination between the two special forces. The seventh edition of the annual Indo-US joint counter-terrorism exercise 'Tarkash' commenced on April 22 at the Kolkata hub of NSG and shall culminate on May 15. The three-week exercise encompassed intense training and mock drills in urban counter terrorism scenarios. The primary objective of the Indo-US exercise 'Tarkash' is to build functional relation and enhance interoperability between their special forces in conducting coordinated counter-terror operations, particularly in urban counter-terrorism contingencies, an NSG spokesperson told TOI on Tuesday. It is also aimed at improving bilateral cooperation between India and US in matters relating to combating terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations. The previous

edition of Tarkash - considered crucial in terms of security challenges being faced by both countries in the current global scenario - was conducted at Chennai in Jan 2023.

Indian Army Takes Delivery Of 27,000 Locally-Made AK-203 Assault Rifles from IRRPL.

The Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) has delivered close to 27,000 AK-203 assault rifles to the Indian Army. Furthermore, an additional 8,000 rifles will be delivered to the army in the next two weeks. IRRPL is a joint venture between Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL) [erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)] and Russian defence major, Kalashnikov Concern, the manufacturer of the famed AK-47 rifles.

BEML Ltd bags order worth Rs 250 cr from Northern Coalfields for BH100 rear dump trucks.

BEML Ltd has secured an order worth Rs 250 crore from Northern Coal Fields Limited (NCL) for the supply of 28 units of BH100 rear dump trucks, the company said on Friday. The BH100 rear dump truck is engineered to transport payloads of up to 100 tonnes, specifically designed for the efficient handling of overburden and coal in mining operations, they said. In a statement, BEML Ltd said, "The dumpers will be maintained under a Guaranteed Spare Parts contract for a period of five years, ensuring uninterrupted service and operational efficiency."

SBI becomes the first bank to be a trading-cum-clearing member of India International Bullion Exchange at the GIFT City in Gujarat.

The State Bank of India (SBI) on Tuesday announced that it has secured the distinction of being the first bank to become a trading-cum-clearing (TCM) Member of India International Bullion Exchange at the GIFT City in Gujarat. This milestone enables SBI IBU Gift City to conduct trades on the IIBX platform and settle them on behalf of its clients, per an official release. RBI guidelines permitted branches of an Indian Bank in GIFT IFSC to act as a trading member (TM)/trading and clearing member (TCM) of IIBX. The central bank also allowed special category clients (SCC) which are nominated banks in India to import gold through IIBX. The entry of India's largest bank into the field as a TCM is poised to boost trading volumes at IIBX, the release added.

IRDAI approves Hinduja's acquisition of Reliance Capital's insurance businesses.

Insurance regulator IRDAI has approved the Hinduja Group's acquisition of Reliance Capital's life, general, and health insurance businesses on the condition that it does not pledge shares in the companies. The Hinduja Group has still to get approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for the transaction to be completed, according to the persons. The IRDAI issued its

clearance on Friday evening, adding that "the insurer's shares shall not be pledged or encumbered" without the regulator's approval, according to one of the people mentioned. The Hinduja Group verified that it had received the regulator's approval. IIHL is dedicated to promptly securing the necessary approvals and intends to finalize the transaction by the deadline set by the NCLT, which is May 27th. The NCLT has granted approval to a resolution plan worth ₹9,661 Crore proposed by the Hinduja Group's IndusInd International Holdings Ltd. The court ordered IIHL to make the money by May 27, subject to all requisite approvals. Furthermore, the Hinduja Group business would be compelled to pay an additional ₹211 Crore to lenders, which will be deducted from the capital infused by them in Reliance General Insurance to maintain its solvency buffer.

Urban jobless rate reaches four quarter high in Q4FY24: PLFS data.

Urban unemployment rate increased to touch 6.7 per cent in Q4 (January-March) of FY24, up sequentially from 6.5 per cent in the preceding quarter, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data, released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Wednesday. The headline unemployment rate in the current weekly status (CWS) terms for those above 15 years is the highest since the January-March 2023 quarter, when the unemployment rate touched 6.8 per cent. In CWS, the activity status is determined on the reference period over the past seven days preceding the date of the survey.

India to extend budgetary support of \$50 million to Maldives.

In a goodwill gesture, India has decided to extend vital budgetary support to the Maldives with the rollover of a \$50 million Treasury Bill for another year at the Maldivian government's special request, it was announced on Monday. The State Bank of India has subscribed for one more year to the \$50 million Government Treasury Bill, issued by the Ministry of Finance of Maldives, upon maturity of the previous subscription, the High Commission of India said in a brief statement on.

India's GDP to expand at 6.6% in FY25; will fuel NBFCs' growth: Moody's.

Moody's Ratings on Tuesday said the Indian economy is projected to expand 6.6 per cent in the current fiscal year and said strong credit demand fuelled by robust economic growth will support the NBFC sector's profitability. "We expect India's economy to expand 6.6 per cent in the year ended March 2025 (FY25) and 6.2 per cent the following year, and this will lead to robust loan growth at NBFCs, mitigating the impact of rising funding costs on their profitability," Moody's Ratings said. In a commentary on the non-banking finance companies, Moody's said robust economic conditions will help them preserve their asset quality even as rise in interest rates increase the debt burdens of their customers. Aggregate year-on-year loan growth at NBFCs accelerated to 20.8 per cent in September 2023 from 10.8 per cent a year earlier, driven by demand for retail loans, including financing for housing and

automobiles.

SEBI revamps market cap computation basis for LODR compliance.

Market regulator SEBI has modified the basis for the computation of market capitalisation of listed companies under its LODR regulations. As against an earlier practice of determining the applicability of provisions linked to market capitalisation on a single day's market cap (currently calculated on March 31), SEBI has now introduced a concept of 'average market capitalisation' for a defined period.

India's 2024 economic growth projection revised upwards by U.N. to nearly 7%.

The World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2024 said "India's economy is forecast to expand by 6.9% in 2024 and 6.6% in 2025, mainly driven by strong public investment and resilient private consumption". The World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2024, released Thursday, said, "India's economy is forecast to expand by 6.9% in 2024 and 6.6% in 2025, mainly driven by strong public investment and resilient private consumption. Although subdued external demand will continue to weigh on merchandise export growth, pharmaceuticals and chemicals exports are expected to expand strongly."

DPIIT organizes ONDC Startup Mahotsav in New Delhi, 12 Unicorns, over 125 startups commit to onboarding ONDC.

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) organised the 'ONDC Startup Mahotsav', a first of its kind event, on 17th May 2024 at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. The event symbolized the celebration and collaboration of two of DPIIT's flagship initiatives – the Startup India initiative and Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). Secretary, DPIIT, Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, underlined the Government's unwavering commitment to nurturing and encouraging ecosystem for startup growth and innovation. He said, "The ONDC Startup Mahotsav is an inflexion point for startups in India to leverage the opportunities unlocked by ONDC. The network has rapidly grown and matured over the past one and a half years, and today's session reflects both the DPIIT's and industry's commitment to democratising digital commerce in India."

Assam: Digital Platform For Reporting Damages During Disasters 'DRIMS' Launched.

The Disaster Reporting and Information Management System (DRIMS), a digital platform for online reporting of damages incurred during various disasters, was launched in Guwahati, on Wednesday by Assam Chief Secretary Dr Ravi Kota. DRIMS is a state-of-the-art initiative of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), for accurate reporting and assessment of damages caused by disasters, and disbursement of aid to those affected. This platform, developed in collaboration with UNICEF, efficiently captures critical impact indicators of damages

during disasters, which helps to deliver relief and rehabilitation grants expeditiously to the affected beneficiaries. It also tracks damages to crops, loss of livestock and other damages, expediting post-disaster restoration efforts.

IAF conducted 'Bambi Bucket' Operation to douse Nainital forest fire.

Indian Air Force's MI 17 V5 helicopter was deployed on Saturday (April 27) to extinguish the raging forest fires in Nainital district, Uttarakhand, according to the state's Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. The helicopter used a "Bambi Bucket", also known as a helicopter bucket or a helibucket, to collect water from Bhimtal lake, located near Nainital, and poured it over the burning forests. Bambi Bucket is a specialised aerial firefighting tool which has been in use since the 1980s. It is essentially a lightweight collapsible container that releases water from underneath a helicopter to targeted areas. The water is released by using a pilot-controlled valve.

International Day of Plant Health - MAY 12TH, 2024

International Day of Plant Health 2024: Plant health, safe trade and digital technology. Each year, over 240 million containers move between countries, carrying goods including plant products, posing biosecurity risks. In addition, about 80 percent of international trade consignments include wood packaging material, providing a pathway for pest transmission. As a result, damages from invasive pest species incur global economic losses of approximately USD 220 billion annually. Protecting plant health across borders is essential by promoting global collaboration and international standards, such as the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). Innovative solutions like electronic phytosanitary certification (ePhyto) streamline the process, making trade quicker and more secure. The International Day of Plant Health 2024 calls on everyone to raise awareness and take action to keep our plants healthy and ensure food safety and safe trade for sustainable economies and livelihoods.

India highlights Forest Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management initiatives at the 19th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

India participated in the 19th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), held at the UN Headquarters in New York from May 6th to 10th May 2024. During the session, India highlighted the Country's significant advancements in forest conservation and sustainable forest management which led to consistent increase in forest cover over the past fifteen years. Globally, India ranks third in the net gain, in average annual forest area, between 2010 and 2020. India shared the high priority the Country provides towards biodiversity and wildlife conservation, having expanded the network of protected areas to over a thousand wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, tiger reserves, biosphere reserves, and other wildlife habitats. The recent celebrations marking 50 years of Project Tiger and 30 years of Project Elephant underscore India's commitment to species conservation and habitat protection. India

also highlighted the creation of the International Big Cat Alliance, another important step aimed to protect and conserve the seven big cat species around the world through collaborative international efforts.

Despite two decades of concerted action, wildlife trafficking persists worldwide with more than 4,000 species affected, says new UNODC World Wildlife Crime Report.

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) new World Wildlife Crime Report finds that – despite positive signs in reducing trafficking impacts for some iconic species like elephants and rhinoceros – wildlife trafficking overall has not been substantially reduced over two decades. More consistent enforcement to tackle both supply and demand, effective implementation of legislation, including anti-corruption laws, and stronger monitoring and research are needed. The global scope and scale of wildlife crime remain substantial, the report finds, with seizures during 2015–2021 indicating an illegal trade in 162 countries and territories affecting around 4,000 plant and animal species. Approximately 3,250 of these species are listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). However, some of the species worse affected – like rare orchids, succulents, reptiles, fish, birds and mammals – receive little public attention, though wildlife trafficking appears to have played a major role in their local or global extinctions.

Government hosts 'Run for Sun' Marathon in New Delhi to celebrate International Sun Day. All-India Intra-School Solar Art Competition Solart to be held.

The Government of India joined the global community in commemorating International Sun Day today, 3rd May, 2024, as an annual reminder of the significant benefits of solar energy in fostering a greener and healthier planet. On this day, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, organized a 'Run for Sun' Marathon at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi. The 'Run for Sun' Marathon, featuring 3 km and 5 km races, was designed to raise awareness about the pivotal role of solar power in mitigating climate change and promoting a cleaner and healthier future for all. On the occasion, the Ministry has also announced Solart, an All-India Intra-School Solar Art Competition, which would be an engaging and educational way to celebrate solar energy through artistic expressions, in recognition of International Sun Day. The competition seeks to spark creativity and promote awareness of solar energy among school students across India. Winners, as adjudged by schools, will receive commendation certificates from the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy.

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd celebrates 250th Foundation Day.

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) celebrated its 250th Foundation Day on May 14, 2024. To mark the day, a series of events were organized in Mumbai, presided over by Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane. These included the inauguration of adjacent land acquired from Mumbai Port Authority (MPA); launch of a prototype of an indigenous midget submarine; commissioning of a Solar Electric Hybrid boat and Fuel Cell Electric Ferry; release of MDL's Commemorative Coin; and a day-long technical seminar. Giridhar Aramane asserted that India occupies a central role in the Indo-Pacific region and consistent efforts are being made to strengthen the shipbuilding capabilities of the country by involving and motivating the private sector to be a part of the country's growth story. Underscoring the importance of achieving self-reliance in today's times, he exhorted MDL to fully realize its true potential in warship building technology. He urged the shipyard to work with the private sector and build a consortium of shipbuilders to cater to domestic needs as well as the requirements of friendly nations.

May 15 : International Day Of Families 2024

The International Day of Families is commemorated annually on May 15 to highlight the importance of families in society. The day offers a great opportunity to focus on the key role that family plays in our lives and also to recognise the challenges families face today. Family is the most important part of anyone's life. It offers a sense of security of having someone with whom we can discuss and thoughts and celebrate our happiness. In short, family is our whole world. The International Day of Families is commemorated annually on May 15 to highlight the importance of families in society. The day offers a great opportunity to focus on the key role that family plays in our lives and also to recognise the challenges families face today. Family is the most important part of anyone's life. It offers a sense of security of having someone with whom we can discuss and thoughts and celebrate our happiness. In short, family is our whole world.

World AIDS Vaccine Day - May 18

World AIDS Vaccine Day, also known as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, is observed on May 18 annually to mobilise greater support for the development of an AIDS vaccine. AIDS stands for Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome - a chronic and potentially life-threatening condition caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). AIDS is the last stage of HIV infection which leaves the patient with a severely compromised immune system, making them more susceptible to certain cancers and diseases.

International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia - 17th May

The world is seeing hard-won progress in protecting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual people – but there is still a long road ahead. To spotlight the advances and challenges, the theme of the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia this year is: "No one left behind:

Equality, freedom and justice for all.” Among the recent advances: Social and legal norms have shifted away from criminalizing LGBTQIA+ people and towards safeguarding their rights. Since 2019, 11 countries have legalized marriage equality. Since 2017, 13 countries have removed laws criminalizing LGBTQIA+ sexuality.

National Endangered Species Day- May 17th

Every year on the third Friday of May, the world comes together to celebrate National Endangered Species Day. This year, on May 17th, 2024, we recognise the plight of vulnerable animals and plants facing extinction and recommit to their conservation.

This day serves as a critical reminder of the human impact on biodiversity. Habitat loss, poaching, climate change, and pollution are all pushing countless species towards extinction. National Endangered Species Day is a call to action – a day to learn about the amazing animals and plants at risk, and to explore ways we can all contribute to their survival.

World Hypertension Day - May 17th

World Hypertension Day is observed every May 17th in order to raise awareness and promote hypertension prevention, detection and control (deferred to October 17, 2020, due to COVID-19 pandemic). High blood pressure is the main risk factor to develop cardiovascular disease. More than one billion people around the world live with hypertension (high blood pressure), which is a major cause of cardiovascular disease and premature death worldwide. The burden of hypertension is felt disproportionately in low- and middle-income countries, where two thirds of cases are found, largely due to increased risk factors in those populations in recent decades. What's more, around half of people living with hypertension are unaware of their condition, putting them at risk of avoidable medical complications and death.

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY - May 18.

Every year on May 18th, International Museum Day provides an opportunity for museum professionals to alert the general public about the importance of museums and the challenges they face. Museums help to preserve the world's culture and history. Their role of collecting objects and materials of cultural and historical importance helps us to better understand our heritage. Museums also help to provide an all-important link to the past.

International Day of Living Together in Peace - 16 May

Living together in peace is all about accepting differences and having the ability to listen to, recognize, respect and appreciate others, as well as living in a peaceful and united way. The UN General-Assembly, in its resolution 72/130, declared 16 May the International Day of Living Together in Peace, as a means of regularly mobilizing the

efforts of the international community to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity. The Day aims to uphold the desire to live and act together, united in differences and diversity, in order to build a sustainable world of peace, solidarity and harmony.

International Day of Light 2024 - May 16

International Day of Light 2024: The International Day of Light was proclaimed by UNESCO on November 24, 2017. The date, May 16, was chosen to commemorate the first successful laser operation in 1960 by physicist and engineer Theodore Maiman. The International Day of Light is celebrated annually on May 16 to highlight the importance of light and its various applications in science, culture, art, education, and sustainable development.

National Dengue Day 2024 - 16 May

Dengue fever is a viral infection carried by mosquitos that occurs when an individual is bitten by an infected mosquito carrying the dengue virus. Every year, May 16 is designated as National Dengue Day. The day is marked to raise awareness of the condition and how to avoid it. Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral infection. Usually, mosquitoes bite someone with the virus, which can transfer to other people via mosquito bite. Some of the symptoms of dengue are high fever, headache, rash and muscle and joint pain. In severe cases, there can be serious bleeding and shock – at this stage, dengue can be life-threatening. However, dengue can be prevented with the right kind of treatment at the right time. Mainly in the tropical and subtropical regions, dengue can spread easily. It is endemic to more than 100 countries in the world. Every year, National Dengue Day is observed to spread awareness about the disease and how we can combat it.

World Bee day - may 20

By observing World Bee Day each year, we can raise awareness on the essential role bees and other pollinators play in keeping people and the planet healthy, and on the many challenges they face today. We have been celebrating this day since 2018, thanks to the efforts of the Government of Slovenia with the support of Apimondia, that led the UN General Assembly to declare 20 May as World Bee Day. The date for this observance was chosen as it was the day Anton Janša, a pioneer of modern apiculture, was born. Janša came from a family of beekeepers in Slovenia, where beekeeping is an important agricultural activity with a long-standing tradition.

World Metrology Day 2024 - May 20

World Metrology Day is celebrated annually on May 20 globally to understand the meaning of the science of measurement and the reasons behind our heavy reliance on it. The day commemorates the anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention

in 1875, which established the foundations for international collaboration in the science of measurement and maintaining uniformity in measurements worldwide. Metrology, the science of measurement and its application has always been at the forefront of technological and scientific advancements. Its impact can be seen in all aspects of society, and it is omnipresent in our lives, according to the official website.

Maiden India Pavilion at World Hydrogen Summit 2024, Netherlands showcases National Green Hydrogen Mission.

For the first time, India has set up its own pavilion, at the World Hydrogen Summit 2024, being held in Rotterdam, Netherlands, during May 13 – 15, 2024. The India Pavilion, set up by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India, is one of the largest pavilions at the Summit and has been inaugurated by Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Shri Bhupinder S. Bhalla on May 12, 2024. The World Hydrogen Summit is a prestigious event in the global green hydrogen ecosystem. Around 15,000 delegates from around the world are expected to attend the Summit. The India Pavilion at the conference provides India an opportunity to showcase to the world the progress made by the country in the field of Green Hydrogen.

Singapore's Lawrence Wong Sworn In As New PM In 2 Decades.

Wong, formerly deputy prime minister, was inaugurated at the Istana government office shortly after 8 pm local time (1200 GMT), to become the second person outside the Lee family to lead the affluent nation. Singapore swore in Lawrence Wong as the city-state's new prime minister in a ceremony broadcast live on television on Wednesday after Lee Hsien Loong stepped down following two decades in office.

ReNew and Societe Generale signs MoU for energy transition projects of \$1 billion over 3 years.

Renew has signed an agreement with Societe Generale to support the financing and development of its strategic energy transition projects in India and globally. The agreement involves up to \$1 billion of support over the next three years, primarily through debt financing and advisory solutions. Under the agreement, they will focus on utility-scale energy projects, including solar, wind, complex renewables, green hydrogen, energy storage, and solar module manufacturing.

Hyderabad based Greenko firm inks Ammonia Supply pact with Norwegian co Yara.

Hyderabad-based Greenko has entered into an agreement with Norway's Yara Clean Ammonia to supply renewable ammonia to the Norwegian firm, which is the world's largest trader and distributor of ammonia. Greenko will supply green ammonia from Phase 1 of its ammonia production facility in Kakinada, India. The company signed

the term sheet through its green ammonia production arm AM Green -- earlier Greenko ZeroC."This term sheet and the subsequent offtake agreement covers the long-term supply of up to 50 per cent of renewable ammonia from Phase 1 of AM Green's ammonia production facility in Kakinada. The plant will produce, and export renewable ammonia derived from round-the-clock carbon free energy by 2027," said a statement issued by Greenko.Yara Clean Ammonia will utilise the renewable ammonia supply to produce low-emission fertilizer and for decarbonizing other industries like shipping, power, and other industries.

India, Iran to sign 10-year agreement for operations at Chabahar port.

The long-term agreement was being negotiated by the two sides over the past three years or so and had been primarily held up by differences on a clause related to arbitration.Ports and shipping minister Sarbananda Sonowal left for Iran on Monday for the signing of a crucial long-term agreement for India's operations at the strategic Chabahar port, people familiar with the matter said.It will replace an initial pact inked in 2016 that covered India's operations at Shahid Beheshti terminal of Chabahar port and has been renewed on an annual basis. Sonowal flew from New Delhi to Tehran on a special Indian Air Force (IAF) flight and people familiar with the matter on both sides said his visit was linked to the signing of the 10-year agreement for operations by state-run India Global Ports Limited (IGPL) Shahid Beheshti terminal.

FICCI-IESA Sign MoU To Boost India's Semiconductor And Electronics Industry.

India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) to promote innovation, support the semiconductor and electronics industry, strengthen supply chains, and foster development of the ecosystem in India."This collaboration will work on setting up joint task force on semiconductor and critical technologies of the future. Conducting technology consultative roundtables, fostering business partnerships would be the core objective of this MoU" said SK Pathak, Secretary General, FICCI.

MSCI May 2024 Update: 13 New Additions and 3 Dropped

MSCI has made important adjustments to its Global Standard Index in its May 2024 review, by adding 13 new stocks. These additions include:

- Canara Bank
- JSW Energy
- NHPC
- Indus Towers
- Phoenix Mills
- PB Fintech
- Sundaram Finance
- Bosch

Jindal Stainless
Solar Industries
Torrent Power
Mankind Pharma
Thermax

The inclusion of these stocks is expected to result in healthy capital inflow into their shares signaling positive investor sentiment. Exclusions from the Global Standard Index

Conversely three stocks have been excluded from the index:

Berger Paints
Indraprastha Gas
Paytm

MSCI or Morgan Stanley Capital International is a leading provider of equity, fixed income and hedge fund indices globally. MSCI Global Standard Index is a widely recognized benchmark for global equity markets used by institutional investors such as mutual funds, exchange traded funds or ETFs and pension funds to track the performance of their investments.

Forbes 30 Under 30 ASIA 2024: Statiq founders Akshit Bansal, Raghav Arora & TDC founder Bhagya Shree Jain find a spot.

Forbes on Thursday released its ninth edition of the “30 Under 30 Asia” list, celebrating 300 young entrepreneurs, leaders, and trailblazers under 30 who are driving innovation and transforming industries across the Asia-Pacific region. The list also features India's Akshit Bansal and Raghav Arora, Co-founders of Statiq and Bhagya Shree Jain, Founder of The Disposal Company.

Arunachal: Sela Tunnel recognised as India's highest tunnel by International Book of Honour.

The Sela Tunnel, constructed by BRO India, has been officially recognised as the highest tunnel in the country by the International Book of Honour, England. The tunnel guarantees year-round connectivity to the strategic Tawang Region. BRO India celebrates as the Sela Tunnel is officially recognised as the highest tunnel in the country by the International Book of Honour, England. The 2.598 Km long tunnel is situated at an altitude of 13000 ft on the Tezpur-Tawang Road and has been constructed by BRO India to guarantee year-round connectivity to the strategic Tawang Region.

After Iran President Ebrahim Raisi's Death, Mohammad Mokhber To Take Over as the Interim president.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his Foreign Minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, died in a helicopter crash last night. The aircraft, carrying top officials, went down while crossing mountainous terrain in heavy fog while en route to the Iranian city of

Tabriz following the inauguration of the Qiz Qalasi Dam on the Iranian-Azerbaijani border. Under the Iranian constitution, the death of a sitting president triggers specific protocols. First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber, 69, will assume the presidency in an interim capacity. Mokhber, a seasoned political figure with close ties to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, has a history of significant influence within the regime. He formerly headed the Setad, a powerful state-owned foundation, and holds advanced degrees in international law and management.

Former Bihar deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi dies at 72.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Bihar deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi died on Monday after a prolonged battle with cancer. He was 72 years old. In April, Modi revealed that he was diagnosed with cancer six months ago, and would not take part in the party's campaign for the 2024 Lok Sabha poll. In a political career spanning over three decades, Modi was an MLA, an MLC, a member of Lok Sabha, and a Rajya Sabha MP. He was the deputy chief minister of Bihar twice – from 2005 to 2013, and from 2017 to 2020.

Author, storyteller Padma Shri awardee Malti Joshi passes away.

Veteran author and storyteller, and a Padma Shri recipient Malti Joshi passed away here on Wednesday aged nearly 90, family sources said. She died at the residence of her son, Sachchidanand Joshi, litterateur and member secretary of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), they said. Her distinctive storytelling style earned her a unique identity with research conducted on her literary works in numerous universities across the country, a family source said. The final rites will take place on Thursday at the Lodhi Road crematorium, the sources said.

Legendary banker and former ICICI Bank Chairman N Vaghul passes away

Narayanan Vaghul, legendary banker and former ICICI Bank Chairman, passed away at Apollo hospital, Chennai, earlier today. According to people familiar with the development, Vaghul was unconscious and critical for the last two days after he had a fall at home. "Sincerely regret to inform you that Padma Bhushan Narayanan Vaghul Sir passed away this afternoon at Apollo hospital, Chennai. He was 88 and is survived by his wife, daughter, son, and their families. A number of close friends and admirers deeply respect him for what he achieved and stood for," said Vaghul's family in a statement.

Padma Shri awardee Birubala Rabha, an activist who campaigned against witch hunting, dies.

Assam-based social activist Birubala Rabha, who campaigned against witch hunting in the state, died in Guwahati on Monday after battling with cancer. She was honoured with the Padma Shri award by the central government in 2021 and nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. Rabha was diagnosed with cancer recently and she was

undergoing treatment at the State Cancer Institute in Guwahati where she breathed her last on Monday morning. The superintendent of Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), Dr Abhijit Sarma said that Rabha was admitted there on April 22 on May 4, she was shifted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). She breathed her last at 9:23am due to multi-organ failure, doctors said. Born in 1949, Rabha had a struggling childhood and had to drop out of school due to financial issues at home. She was married off at the age of 15 and gave birth to three kids.

Nobel Prize-winning author Alice Munro dies aged 92.

The first Canadian author to win the Nobel Prize in literature, Alice Munro, has died at the age of 92 in Ontario. Acclaimed author Alice Munro was the first Canadian to win the Nobel Prize in literature. Her collections of short stories were celebrated for their complexity and authenticity. She died at the age of 92. A titan of short-story writing, Munro revolutionized the architecture of short stories and demonstrated that the format was worthy of the Nobel Prize. She published 14 original short-story collections and several short-story compilations. With this body of work, she became the first Canadian to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2013.

SAIL-Bhilai to install 15 MW floating solar project in Chhattisgarh.

Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP), a subsidiary of Steel Authority of India (SAIL), is all set up to install Chhattisgarh's first 15 MW floating solar project at its Maroda-1 reservoir. The venture is part of BSP's broader strategy to curtail carbon emissions, conserve energy, and advance renewable energy solutions. Operated through NTPC-SAIL Power Supply, a joint venture equally owned by NTPC Limited and SAIL, the solar installation will be situated in Durg district. The project is anticipated to generate approximately 34.26 million units of green power annually, which will be utilised by BSP as captive power. NTPC, the consultant for the project, floated the tender for the project in January 2024, and the engineering, procurement, and construction contract is likely to be awarded soon. The project is scheduled to be completed by 2025.

Indian Air Force tests BHISHM'S world's 1ST portable hospital for airdrop in Agra.

Indian Air Force (IAF) on Tuesday successfully tested its portable hospital BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita and Maitri) wherein portable cubes were airdropped from a height of 1000 feet at Malpura dropping zone in Agra. It is equipped with several innovative tools designed to enhance disaster response and medical support during emergencies. It integrates Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data analytics to facilitate coordination, real-time monitoring and management of medical services. The indigenous BHISHM software system, which is integrated into a tablet, allows in locating items quickly and ensuring quick deployments. Portable hospital BHISHM, weighing about 720 kg, landed on the ground with the help of two parachutes from AN-32 aircraft of the Air Force. Following the successful testing, portable hospital can

now be deployed at any remote place to cater during emergencies or natural disasters. Treatment can be provided in just eight minutes by air landing or through helicopter. This will be particularly useful in areas of Ladakh and Kargil.

Japan unveils first-ever 6G device 20 times faster than 5G.

A Japanese consortium of four leading telecommunications companies – DOCOMO, NEC Corporation, NTT Corporation and Fujitsu – collaborated to create the prototype. After extensive testing, they discovered that the prototype device could achieve such high speeds using the 100 gigahertz (GHz) and 300 GHz wireless bands. They conducted the tests at an exact distance of 328 feet (100 meters) from the transmitter. It can transmit data wirelessly at 100 gigabits per second (Gbps) over distances of over 300 feet.

Astronomers Uncover a Baffling “Cosmic Mystery” – A Giant Planet As Fluffy as Cotton Candy.

This exoplanet is larger but seven times less massive than Jupiter and is the second least dense planet discovered to date. An international team led by researchers from the EXOTIC Laboratory of the University of Liège, in collaboration with MIT and the Astrophysics Institute in Andalusia, has just discovered WASP-193b, an extraordinarily low-density giant planet orbiting a distant Sun-like star. WASP-193b, a new exoplanet, is 50% larger than Jupiter but seven times less massive, with an extremely low density similar to cotton candy. Discovered by WASP and confirmed with observatories in Chile, its formation challenges current planetary theories and demands further study. Credit: SciTechDaily.com

'Robotic transport system': Nasa announces plans to build first railway system on Moon.

The space agency proposed the details of its project named - Flexible Levitation on a Track (FLOAT) - which would provide reliable, autonomous and efficient transportation on the moon, in its blog. NASA said that the transportation would be critical to the daily operations of a sustainable lunar base in the 2030s, like the Robotic Lunar Surface Operations 2 (RLSO2), NASA said, "We want to build the first lunar railway system, which will provide reliable, autonomous, and efficient payload transport on the Moon." "A durable, long-life robotic transport system will be critical to the daily operations of a sustainable lunar base in the 2030's, as envisioned in NASA's Moon to Mars plan and mission concepts like the Robotic Lunar Surface Operations 2 (RLSO2)."

3AI Holding Limited and SML India launched Hanooman globally : India's GenAI platform speaks 98 languages worldwide.

Hanooman, India's Gen AI platform, launched in 98 languages. Android users can access the fully functional multilingual web platform and app, while an iOS release is forthcoming. 3AI Holding Limited and SML India have made waves with the launch of 'Hanooman', an indigenous GenAI platform tailored for India. Operating in an impressive array of 98 global languages, including 12 Indian languages, Hanooman aims to cultivate a Gen AI ecosystem in India by capitalizing on the nation's rich linguistic and cultural tapestry.

IN-SPACE honoured with Geospatial World Forum Leadership Award.

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) has been honoured with the Geospatial World Forum (GWF) Leadership Award for "Public Policy: Enabling Industry Development." The award was presented at the 2024 Geospatial World Forum in Rotterdam in a special ceremony on May 14, 2024. The award recognizes IN-SPACe's contributions to the global geospatial industry through its ground-breaking work in fostering the growth and development of India's space sector and support to non-government entities working in the space economy, stated an official release.

Blue Origin's New Shepard 25 rocket lifts off with six crew on board, including one Indian.

US billionaire Jeff Bezos-backed aerospace company Blue Origin's New Shepard (NS) rocket lifted off Sunday (May 19) with six crew members, including one Indian. Blue Origin is reviving space tourism after a gap of two years, after an unsuccessful uncrewed test flight in 2022. Overall, this is the seventh New Shepard crewed flight. Other members of the crew include Kenneth L Hess; Sylvain Chiron, founder of Brasserie Mont-Blanc; Mason Angel, a venture capitalist and Carol Schaller. During their time in space, all six passengers will enjoy several minutes of weightlessness and breathtaking panoramic views of Earth through the cabin windows.

ISRO Unveils Ambitious Plans for Mangalyaan-2: Includes Crane, Helicopter, and Communications Satellite.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) is betting big on its second mission to Mars after the historic success of Mangalyaan. The Indian space agency, which is already working to develop the second mission to Mars, has revealed how it plans to land its mission on the Red Planet. The feat has only been achieved by the United States and China until now.

Thailand Open 2024 badminton: Chirag Shetty-Satwiksairaj Rankireddy win second doubles title of the year.

The world No. 3 Indian badminton pair beat their 29th-ranked opponents Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi of China for their eighth title on the BWF World Tour. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty clinched the Thailand Open 2024 badminton men's

doubles title with a win over the People's Republic of China's Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi in the final on Sunday.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen held off a late charge by McLaren's Lando Norris to win the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix by less than a second.

The triple Formula One world champion took the chequered flag 0.7 seconds ahead of the man who beat him at the previous round in Miami. The win was Verstappen's fifth in seven races this season, the 59th of his career and the third time in a row at Imola. F1 has been a tough sell these past two years, -Verstappen romping to the championship all but unchallenged last season and the opening meetings of 2024 were more of the same – a Groundhog Day narrative that was becoming somewhat stale until McLaren and Norris arrived at the last round in Miami to breathe invigorating life into what was becoming a torpid season.

'Dream come true' Brazil selected to host 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup.

For the first time in the nation's history, Brazil will host the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2027. The decision was announced at the 74th FIFA Congress in Bangkok, Thailand. Brazil received 119 votes to beat a joint bid from Belgium, Netherlands and Germany. The latter received 78 votes. Debinha, who joined the Current as a free agent in 2023, has 61 caps with the Brazil national team. That includes a pair of World Cups in 2019 and 2023. She is one of a dozen players from Brazil competing in the National Women's Soccer League this season.

Football: Australia to host 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup; 2029 edition in Uzbekistan.

Australia and Uzbekistan have been confirmed as the hosts of the 2026 and 2029 editions of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Asian Cup, respectively, the AFC said on Wednesday. The AFC Executive Committee ratified the AFC Women's Football Committee's recommendations at its third meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand, on the eve of the 34th AFC Congress, said the Asian football governing body. "The development of the women's game in Asia has grown immensely in recent years and the launch of the AFC Women's Champions League later this year is a monumental stride forward that will transform the standards of our flagship women's national team competition in the decades to come," said AFC President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa.

Puma lands kit deal with Athletics Federation of India.

The German brand PUMA will provide apparel, and footwear to Indian athletes at domestic and international competitions. The Indian arm of German sportswear giant Puma has agreed a multi-year deal with the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) to become its official kit partner. Through the tie-up, Puma will provide apparel, accessories, and footwear to all AFI competitors (of which there are over 400) across

a variety of track and field disciplines in international and domestic events. The partnership does not, however, cover the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, nor the quadrennial Commonwealth Games and Asian Games regional events, both of which will next take place in 2026. Sports agency IOS Sports and Entertainment brokered the agreement. Speaking on the deal, Puma chief executive Arne Freundt stated that India is one of Puma's "most dynamic markets", signifying the value of the country to the brand's future plans.

Neeraj Chopra clinches gold medal at Federation Cup 2024 with 82.27 meter throw .

Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra aced the Federation Cup 2024 championship in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, as he clinched gold in his first javelin throw competition on Indian soil in three years. Neeraj Chopra, who recently finished second at the Doha Diamond League, started on a slow note in Bhubaneswar but took the lead in the fourth round with an 82.27-meter throw.

Cristiano Ronaldo tops Forbes' list of world's highest-paid athletes.

While Cristiano Ronaldo is first in the list, Spanish golfer Jon Rahm and Argentine football star Lionel Messi hold the second and third spots respectively. Cristiano Ronaldo has topped the Forbes' list of highest-paid athletes for the fourth time. The Portugal football star is followed by Spanish golfer Jon Rahm in the second spot while footballing rival Lionel Messi is third. Ronaldo became the world's highest-paid athlete after his move to Saudi Arabian side Al-Nassr and Forbes said the 39-year-old's estimated total earnings were in the region of \$260 million, an all-time high for a soccer player.

Shyam Nikhil becomes India's 85th GM: Incredible tale of 12-year wait.

In a sport often featuring teenage prodigies, Shyam Nikhil is the poster boy for patience. The Tamil Nadu chess player became an International Master (IM) at the age of 18 way back in 2010, before collecting two out of the three norms needed to become a GM within a year. By 2012, he had also crossed the threshold of 2500 rating points necessary to become a grandmaster. He seemed destined to become India's 28th grandmaster very soon, but fate had other plans. It took Shyam 12 more years to attain the elite status he was seeking. This week, the now 31-year-old from Tamil Nadu earned that third norm which will make him India's 85th grandmaster. His elevation is in stark contrast to that of Gukesh, who will challenge for the world chess championship crown later this year, was India's youngest-ever grandmaster at the age of 12.

India's Star Javelin Thrower Neeraj Chopra Seals Second-Place Finish In Doha Diamond League 2024.

India's star javelin thrower, Neeraj Chopra sealed a second-place finish in the Doha Diamond League 2024. With an unusual slow start, Chopra's spear landed at 88.36 metre, just 2 centimetres short of event topper Jakub Vadlejch's 88.38 metre. The windy conditions in Doha played an unfriendly part in Chopra's attempt to win the second Doha season in a row. Fellow Asian Games medallist Kishore Jena, returned disappointed as he was eliminated at the halfway stage after a throw of 76.31 metre