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Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi was appointed as the 26th Chief of Naval Staff of the Indian Navy, succeeding Navy Chief Admiral Hari Kumar.

Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi was appointed as the 26th Chief of Naval Staff of the Indian Navy, succeeding Navy Chief Admiral Hari Kumar. Tripathi will take over the office from incumbent Chief Admiral Hari Kumar on April 30, 2024. Earlier this year, in January, Vice Admiral Tripathi assumed the role of Vice Chief of the Naval Staff. He was commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1985. After being promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral, he served as Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Policy and Plans) at NHQ and as the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet. In June 2019, he was promoted to the rank of Vice Admiral and appointed as Commandant of the Indian Naval Academy at Ezhimala, Kerala. He later served as the Director General of Naval Operations from July 2020 to May 2021, during which the Navy maintained a high operational tempo despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. From June 2021 to February 2023, Vice Admiral Tripathi served as the Chief of Personnel.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Senior IPS officer Nalin Prabhat as the Director-General of National Security Guard (NSG).

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Senior IPS officer Nalin Prabhat as the Director-General of National Security Guard (NSG). Prabhat, a 1992 batch IPS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, is presently working as Additional Director General in CRPF. The ACC has approved his appointment as the Director General, NSG for a period up to 31 August 2028 i.e. the date of his superannuation. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) chief Daljit Singh Chawdhary was holding the additional charge of the NSG.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Ajith Kumar K.K. as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of Dhanlaxmi Bank for a period of 3 years.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Ajith Kumar K.K. as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of Dhanlaxmi Bank for a period of 3 years. The name of Ajith Kumar K.K was proposed by the Dhanlaxmi Bank to the RBI. The Department of Banking Operations and Development of RBI approved the name of Ajith Kumar K.K as MD and CEO of the Dhanlaxmi Bank. After the formal approval from the Banking Operations and Development of RBI, Ajith Kumar K.K 's name needs to be approved by the Dhanlaxmi Bank's board of directors and shareholders. Ajith Kumar K.K will replace the current MD & CEO of the Dhanlaxmi bank, Shivan J.K. Ajith Kumar K.K has more than 36 years of banking experience. He is presently the chief human resource officer in the private sector Federal bank.

HDFC Life Insurance's chairman Deepak S Parekh stepped down from his role.

HDFC Life Insurance's chairman Deepak S Parekh stepped down from his role. Deepak S Parekh has decided to step down as the Chairman and NonExecutive Director of the Company with effect from close of the business hours on 18 April 2024. The company also have appointed Keki M Mistry as the Chairman of the Board. The board has unanimously approved the appointment of Keki M Mistry as the Chairman of the Board with immediate effect subject to approval of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority. Mistry has been associated with the company since December 2000 and is currently acting as Non-Executive Director. With the amalgamation of HDFC Limited with HDFC Bank, Mr Mistry superannuated from HDFC Limited and has been appointed as a Non-Executive Director on the Board of HDFC Bank Limited. He is also a Director on the Boards of several other prominent companies.

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Narpat Singh (IRTS) to the post of Railway Adviser in the High Commission of India, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Narpat Singh (IRTS) to the post of Railway Adviser in the High Commission of India, Dhaka, Bangladesh. ACC has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Railways for the appointment of Singh for the above-mentioned post with the diplomatic status as Counsellor, for a period of 3 years from the date of assumption of charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Singh is an Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) of 2009-batch. Previously, he was posted as Director (Traffic Transpiration) in the Railway Board.

Amitabh Chaudhry has been re-appointed as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of Axis Bank.

Amitabh Chaudhry has been re-appointed as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of Axis Bank. The Board of the Axis Bank approved the re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry for the next three years, effective 1 January 2025. This was the second extension for Amitabh Chaudhary. Amitabh Chaudhry was appointed as the MD & CEO of the Axis Bank in 2019. Before his appointment as the MD & CEO of Axis Bank, Amitabh Chaudhry was the MD & CEO of HDFC Life Insurance company. In 2022, he was given a three-year extension by the Axis Bank.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Gita Sabharwal of India as the United Nations Resident Coordinator (designate) in Indonesia, with the host Government's approval.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Gita Sabharwal of India as the United Nations Resident Coordinator (designate) in Indonesia, with the host Government's approval. Sabharwal, who takes up her post on 22 April, brings close to 30 years of experience in development supporting climate transition, sustainable peace, governance and social policy, while leveraging digital technology and data to accelerate Sustainable Development Goals. Previously she served as UN Resident Coordinator in Thailand and as Peacebuilding and Development Advisor at the United Nations in Sri Lanka. Before joining the UN, Ms. Sabharwal was The Asia Foundation's Deputy Country Representative for Maldives and Sri Lanka and has held positions as the Poverty and Policy Advisor for the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) in India and Viet Nam.

The Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL), managed by the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL), has appointed Hardayal Prasad as its new Managing Director and CEO.

The Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL), managed by the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL), has appointed Hardayal Prasad as its new Managing Director and CEO. Prasad, with 36 years of experience, is a former Managing Director & CEO of SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd and PNB Housing Finance Ltd. In October 2021, the RBI had superseded the board of Srei while initiating the process of insolvency for the two companies — Srei Infrastructure Finance and Srei Equipment Finance.

Eight-time Olympic gold medallist Usain Bolt has been chosen as the ambassador for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, which will be co-hosted by the USA and West Indies in June, 2024.

Eight-time Olympic gold medallist Usain Bolt has been chosen as the ambassador for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, which will be co-hosted by the USA and West Indies in June, 2024. An athletics legend and world record holder in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m, Bolt is expected to play a key role in promoting the event. Usain Bolt, a keen cricket fan, is a legend in track and field athletics. In 2017, he set the world record in the 100-metre race. He also holds the record for winning three gold medals in three consecutive summer Olympics. At the 2012 London Olympics, he again won gold medals in the 100 metres, 200 metres and 4x100 metres.

Former Indian wrestler Narsingh Pancham Yadav was elected the Chairman of the 7 member Athletes' Commission of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).

Former Indian wrestler Narsingh Pancham Yadav was elected the Chairman of the 7 member Athletes' Commission of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI). With Narsingh Yadav's election to this post, the process mandated by the world governing body of sports was completed. A total of eight contenders were in the race for the election of seven seats in the commission. After voting, seven members were

elected. Apart from Narsingh Yadav, other members elected to the Athletes Commission are as follows: Sahil (Delhi), Smita A S (Kerala), Bhartiya Bhaghei (Uttar Pradesh), Khushboo S Pawar (Gujarat), Nikki (Haryana), Shweta Dubey (Bengal). Narsingh Yadav, a former Commonwealth Games gold medalist, came into the limelight before the 2016 Olympic Games.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named India's famous former cricketer Yuvraj Singh as the ambassador for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named India's famous former cricketer Yuvraj Singh as the ambassador for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. Yuvraj Singh joins Chris Gayle and Usain Bolt as previously announced ambassadors. Yuvraj Singh, is set to participate in all the promotional events ahead of the 10-team tournament starting on 1 June 2024. Yuvraj Singh was one of the key players in India's 2007 T20 World Cup win. This first T20 World Cup was organized in South Africa. In this, India won the first T20 World Cup title by defeating Pakistan. Yuvraj Singh also became the first player to hit six sixes in an over against England in a match of the first T20 World Cup.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has appointed A Ganesh Kumar and Debasis Kundu as members of the National Statistical Commission(NSC).

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has appointed A Ganesh Kumar and Debasis Kundu as members of the National Statistical Commission(NSC). Now, the total strength of members of the commission including chairman is 5. The commission, set up in 2005, aims to strengthen the statistical system, suggest survey standards, and coordinate with other departments. The appointments come amidst calls for reforming the country's statistics system. Kundu is a professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. Kumar was also a member of the task force for the 77th round of the ministry's National Sample Survey.

Pakistan's foreign minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar has been appointed deputy prime minister.

Pakistan's foreign minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar has been appointed deputy prime minister. Dar will continue in his role as foreign minister. The appointment comes a month after Pakistan's parliament elected Shehbaz Sharif as prime minister after a national election marred by mobile internet shutdown, arrests and violence. He has served as finance minister in two previous governments. He was considered the party's answer to all economic problems, serving as finance minister for the fourth and last time in the previous Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) coalition government.

Two Indian students' teams from the New Delhi area and Mumbai have won awards from the NASA' 30th Human Exploration Rover Challenge (HERC) 2024.

Two Indian students' teams from the New Delhi area and Mumbai have won awards from the NASA' 30th Human Exploration Rover Challenge (HERC) 2024. The KIET Group of Institutions, Delhi-NCR has won the award in the "Crash and Burn" category of the annual Human Exploration Rover Challenge (HERC) award, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced. The Kanakia International School from Mumbai was given the "Rookie of the Year" award. Parish Episcopal School from Dallas won first place in the high school division, while the University of Alabama in Huntsville secured the college/university title. The concluding event of the 30th Human Exploration Rover Challenge (HERC) took place on April 19 and April 20 at the U.S Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama, near NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center.

Ratan N Tata, Chairman of Tata Trusts, has been conferred with the prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award 2021, in recognition of his unwavering commitment to social development and exemplary leadership.

Ratan N Tata, Chairman of Tata Trusts, has been conferred with the prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award 2021, in recognition of his unwavering commitment to social development and exemplary leadership. The award ceremony was held on 22 April 2024, at Mr Tata's residence in Mumbai. It was attended by Tata Group Chairman N Chandrasekaran and musician Ricky Kej. Dr Achyuta Samanta, Founder, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), presented the award to Mr Tata.

Puravankara Limited has been honoured with Achievement Award for Creating Social Development and Impact at the 15th Edition of the Vishwakarma Awards, hosted by the Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC).

Puravankara Limited has been honoured with Achievement Award for Creating Social Development and Impact at the 15th Edition of the Vishwakarma Awards, hosted by the Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC). The award recognises Puravankara's exemplary efforts in driving positive change through its impactful campaigns, particularly its collaboration with the Biome Environmental Trust in rejuvenating heritage wells as part of the "Million Wells for Bengaluru" campaign. Puravankara is actively contributing to the 'Million Wells for Bengaluru' campaign - an initiative that aims to combat the stressed water table in the city.

JSW Neo Energy Ltd has received a Letter of Award from NTPC Limited for a 700 MW solar project.

JSW Neo Energy Ltd has received a Letter of Award from NTPC Limited for a 700 MW solar project. This recent project win boosts JSW Energy's total locked-in

generation capacity to 13.3 GW, with 3.1 GW derived from solar power. JSW Neo Energy Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of JSW Energy, has been awarded the contract to set up the 700 MW ISTS-connected solar power project by NTPC Limited. This new solar project aligns with JSW Energy's ongoing focus on renewable energy and marks another step in its journey toward expanding its green energy portfolio. This project award by NTPC is seen as a significant achievement for JSW Energy, further cementing its position in the solar power industry and demonstrating its commitment to advancing renewable energy initiatives in India.

World no. 1 Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic was named Laureus World Sportsman of the Year 2024.

World no. 1 Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic was named Laureus World Sportsman of the Year 2024 at a ceremony held in Madrid to tie another all-time record, with his fifth Laureus Award (he won in 2012, 2015, 2016 and 2019). Djokovic had a remarkable 2023, winning three of the four major titles -- Australian Open, Roland Garros and the US Open -- in men's tennis and only missed out on a Calendar Slam after a classic Wimbledon final against eventual winner Carlos Alcaraz. Spain's World Cup winning midfielder Aitana Bonmati was named the Sportswoman of the Year. Bonmati, who has cemented her place at the top of women's football by winning FIFA's The Best, Ballon d'Or and World Cup MVP among other accomplishments.

Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, the Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP28 President, has been honoured with the 'Global Energy Transition Impact Award' by the World Energy Council.

Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, the Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and COP28 President, has been honoured with the 'Global Energy Transition Impact Award' by the World Energy Council. This prestigious accolade is in recognition of his pivotal role in steering the energy transition forward, underpinned by the UAE Consensus. His efforts have notably included the initiation of Net Zero energy transition alliances spanning various sectors, marking a significant stride in global climate action. The award serves as a testament to the UAE leadership's dedication to fostering a responsible shift towards renewable energy sources, as outlined in the UAE Consensus.

Revolut India has received an in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to issue Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI), including prepaid cards and wallets.

Revolut India has received an in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to issue Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI), including prepaid cards and wallets. This licence builds upon Revolut India's existing licences from the RBI, allowing it to operate as a Category-II Authorised Money Exchange Dealer (AD II) for

issuing multi-currency forex cards as well as for cross-border remittance services. Revolut, the largest neobank in Europe, entered the Indian market in 2021 with expectations to challenge existing players in the domestic payments sector. PPIs are instruments or payment tools that utilise stored monetary value, such as digital wallets, smart cards, or vouchers, for transactions.

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) signed a MoU to empower tribal and underprivileged youth across India.

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) signed a MoU to empower tribal and underprivileged youth across India. The alliance intends to give vocational training to underprivileged people in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh. Short-term courses with industry-recognized certificates will be offered through the Skill India Digital Hub platform as part of this strategic cooperation. The purpose is to improve employability and provide trained persons with access to both domestic and foreign career prospects, which NSDC foreign will support.

3 Indian banks, SBI, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank, have been included in the top 50 banks of the Asia-Pacific region according to a report of S&P Global Market Intelligence released.

3 Indian banks, SBI, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank, have been included in the top 50 banks of the Asia-Pacific region according to a report of S&P Global Market Intelligence released. The list dominated by mainland Chinese banks has been ranked based on their assets (loans). SBI was ranked 20, HDFC Bank 33 and ICICI Bank 48 on the list. Only two Indian banks, SBI and HDFC, were included in the top 50 Asia-Pacific regions based on their assets in the 2022 list. The aggregate assets of these three top Indian lenders rose sharply by 50.5 percent to \$1.51 trillion in 2023. Mainland Chinese banks dominated the list. Out of the top 10 banks in the Asia-Pacific region, 6 were Chinese banks.

10 Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) launched a 'Global Collaborative Co-Financing Platform' that will enable them to channel additional capital for development scale and impact.

10 Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) launched a 'Global Collaborative Co-Financing Platform' that will enable them to channel additional capital for development scale and impact. During the 2024 IMF and World Bank Spring meetings in Washington D.C, 10 MDBs introduced the Global Collaborative Co-Financing platform. Hosted by the World Bank, this secure platform allows registered co-financiers to share project pipelines conveniently. Providing a space for diverse stakeholders, this forum facilitates discussions on co-financing opportunities,

sharing of best practices, and addressing common challenges. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and World Bank (WB), along with the African Development Bank (AfDB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), European Investment Bank (EIB), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and New Development Bank (NDB) are joining at this initial stage to enhance collaboration.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) marked the celebration of its Silver Jubilee (25th year) on 19th April 2024.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) marked the celebration of its Silver Jubilee (25th year) on 19th April 2024. Following the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee report, the IRDAI was constituted in 1999 as an autonomous body to regulate and develop the insurance industry. It was incorporated as a statutory body on April 19, 2000. The Authority has the power to frame regulations under Section 114A of the Insurance Act, 1938 and has, from 2000 onwards, framed various regulations ranging from registration of companies for carrying on insurance business to protection of policyholders' interests. The regulator's initiatives have not only led to development of consumer-centric insurance products but also enhanced the access by freeing up the distribution model.

NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL) in association with State Bank of India, has onboarded SBI National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) on its Bharat BillPay platform for the convenience of travellers.

NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL), a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), in association with State Bank of India (SBI), has onboarded SBI National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) on its Bharat BillPay platform for the convenience of travellers. This partnership aims to streamline the recharge process for National Common Mobility Cards (NCMC). The category is already live with SBI NCMC cards for Noida Metro, Nagpur Metro, MMRDA Line 2A & 7, Chennai Metro, Kanpur Metro, and Parliament Canteen via the bank's Bharat BillPay-enabled application, SBI Unipay. This new feature will enable customers to recharge or top-up their NCMC cards online. Commuters will be able to recharge their NCMC cards with amounts up to ₹10,000 using various payment methods, including prepaid, debit, and credit cards.

Fintech firm CRED has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the payment aggregation (PA) business.

Fintech firm CRED has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the payment aggregation (PA) business. Once it gets the final approval, the Peak XV-backed Bengaluru-based startup, which primarily runs a credit card bill payment platform for creditworthy customers, can double down on the merchant

payments business too, joining the ranks of Razorpay and Cashfree. As an online payment aggregator CRED can offer merchant payments to any online seller.

Bandhan Financial Holdings Ltd has renamed Aegon Life Insurance to Bandhan Life after acquiring the life insurer.

Bandhan Financial Holdings Ltd has renamed Aegon Life Insurance to Bandhan Life after acquiring the life insurer. As part of its growth strategy, the new company has charted a five-year plan to become a multi-channel life insurer. It will recruit 1,000 new employees soon. BFHL acquired its stake from BCCL and Aegon Indian Holding to become the new promoter in Feb 2024.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched its Climate Strategy 2030 document.

On Earth Day (22 April 2024), the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched its Climate Strategy 2030 document, which aims to meet India's growing demand for green funding. The strategy seeks to mobilize resources for climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience projects throughout the country. India requires around \$170 billion per year to accomplish a total of more than \$2.5 trillion in green financing by 2030. Only \$5 billion was invested to adaptation and resilience, indicating low private sector engagement due to bankability and economic viability issues.

AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) launched an suite of financial products including Rupay credit card and ATM insurance.

AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) launched an suite of financial products including Rupay credit card and ATM insurance. Among the latest offerings are two innovative credit cards: the AU SPONT Rupay Credit Card and Secured Credit Card - NOMO (No Missing Out), developed in collaboration with NPCI and VISA, respectively. The NOMO Credit Card marks AU SFB's debut into the realm of secured credit cards, backed by a fixed deposit. AU SFB has unveiled the AU 0101 Business App, designed to offer customized solutions for proprietorships and MSMEs, alongside AU0101 Version 2.0, engineered to provide customers with an enhanced mobile banking experience, complete with exciting new features.

IndusInd Bank has become the first bank to successfully execute RBI's programmable CBDC pilot in an exchange filing.

IndusInd Bank has become the first bank to successfully execute RBI's programmable CBDC pilot in an exchange filing. The pilot project is being carried out in partnership with Circularity Innovation Hub India Private Limited (CIH) as a substitute for CBDC, allowing the Bank to plan how money would be used in the end and provide it to farmers instead of producing carbon credits. IndusInd Bank launched the programmable CBDC payout to 50 farmers in the Ratnagiri area of

Maharashtra as part of this trial, and it will eventually cover about 1000 farmers. This is a major step forward in the adoption of creative financial solutions for the agriculture industry. As part of this project, IndusInd Bank is creating digital wallets and overseeing CBDC transfers.

Razorpay launched its own Unified Payments Interface (UPI) infrastructure, or 'UPI switch', in partnership with Airtel Payments Bank.

Razorpay launched its own Unified Payments Interface (UPI) infrastructure, or 'UPI switch', in partnership with Airtel Payments Bank. The infrastructure is designed to handle up to 10,000 transactions per second, at any given time, and enable five times faster access to UPI innovations for businesses. The infrastructure must be hosted by a bank for businesses to use it. Airtel Payments Bank is Razorpay's banking partner for this. This infrastructure is powered by technology service providers (TSPs) for banks and plays a crucial role in processing UPI transactions at scale. This UPI switch will serve as a platform driving UPI innovations while supporting existing solutions like Turbo UPI and third-party payment solutions.

Indian Bank has partnered with Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd (TPSSL) to empower residential consumers by providing them with financial support for solar installations.

Indian Bank has partnered with Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd (TPSSL) to empower residential consumers by providing them with financial support for solar installations. Under the alliance, Indian Bank will extend financial assistance to residential consumers under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana scheme. The scheme offers support for installations up to 3 KW and extends further assistance for installations ranging from 3 to 10 KW under the regular scheme. Residential consumers can avail loans up to ₹2 lakh at an annual interest rate of 7 percent, with a nominal margin money requirement of 10 per cent and collateral-free financing. The repayment tenure is set at 10 years, ensuring convenience and flexibility for consumers. Interest rates ranging from 8.4 percent to 10.8 percent per annum ensure competitive financing options.

Australia's Macquarie Group launched its electric vehicle (EV) financing and end-to-end solutions platform 'Vertelo' in India, which will invest \$1.5 billion in electrifying fleets of buses and cars.

Australia's Macquarie Group launched its electric vehicle (EV) financing and end-to-end solutions platform 'Vertelo' in India, which will invest \$1.5 billion in electrifying fleets of buses and cars. The platform will offer financing, fleet management, and charging infrastructure solutions. Around 5 percent of this investment would go towards creating charging infrastructure and other requirements. Most of the investment will be for acquiring the vehicles. They planned to apply to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a non-banking financial company (NBFC) licence.

The NBFC would engage in lending for EV financing. The new platform has received anchor investment from the Green Climate Fund which has committed to invest up to \$200 million. Overall, Vertelo plans to invest \$1.5 billion over 10 years with the aim of achieving a potential greenhouse gas emissions reduction of 9.5 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalent (MtCO_{2e}).

BharatPe launched BharatPe One, India's first all-in-one payment product that integrates POS (point of sale), QR code, and speaker into one device.

BharatPe launched BharatPe One, India's first all-in-one payment product that integrates POS (point of sale), QR code, and speaker into one device. The company plans to launch the product in about 100 cities in the first phase. It will further scale it to around 450 cities over the course of the next 6 months. Equipped with a high-definition touchscreen display, 4G and Wi-Fi connectivity, and powered by the latest Android operating system, BharatPe One delivers enhanced performance and security. With user-friendly interface, portable design, and comprehensive transaction dashboards, BharatPe One caters to the diverse needs of the offline merchants.

NABARD partners with Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) Hub to fast-track digital agri lending.

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has partnered with Reserve Bank's arm RBIH to put in place a system which will enable faster processing of agricultural loans. NABARD will integrate its e-KCC loan origination system portal with the Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit (PTPFC) of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI. NABARD has developed the loan origination system portal to facilitate digital Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loan processing for cooperative banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). The digitisation of agricultural lending will ensure instant doorstep delivery of credit to farmers while improving the efficiency of banks, advancing NABARD's mission of fostering rural prosperity. Through the integration with PTPFC, about 351 district and state cooperative banks and 43 RRBs will gain access to a range of services including digital state land records, satellite data, KYC, credit history and transliteration for more effective credit underwriting.

SBI Card has launched three variants of its first travel-focused core credit card, 'SBI Card MILES'.

SBI Card has launched three variants of its first travel-focused core credit card, 'SBI Card MILES'. The variants are SBI Card MILES ELITE, SBI Card MILES PRIME, and SBI Card MILES. Each variant comes with benefits that cater to the needs of modern-day travelers. With these credit card variants, users can accumulate travel credits with every expenditure, earning up to six travel credits for every ₹200 spent on travel bookings across airlines and hotels. Alternatively, they can utilise the credits directly through SBI Card's exclusive travel aggregator for booking flights and

accommodations. The flagship variant, SBI Card MILES ELITE, offers milestone benefits, including up to 5,000 travel credits upon reaching a spend milestone of ₹1 lakh within 60 days of enrolment. Further, milestones such as spends of ₹12 lakh and ₹15 lakh unlock travel credits and fee reversals.

Groww Mutual Fund has received the approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to introduce India's 1st Nifty Non-Cyclical Consumer Index Fund.

Groww Mutual Fund has received the approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to introduce India's 1st Nifty Non-Cyclical Consumer Index Fund. The fund will operate as an open-ended scheme, closely mirroring the performance of the Nifty Non-Cyclical Consumer Index-TRI (Total Return Index). By tracking this index, the fund aims to attain long-term capital growth by strategically investing in securities that constitute the Nifty Non-Cyclical Consumer Index (TRI). The minimum investment amount will be Rs500 and in multiples of Re 1 for purchases and of Re 0.01 for switches. For SIP, the minimum amount is Rs1,200 (subject to a minimum of 12 SIP instalments of Rs100 each for monthly instalments and Rs300 for quarterly instalments). The minimum redemption amount for all plans will be Rs500 and in multiples of Re 1.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved CRISIL ESG Ratings & Analytics as a Category 1 provider of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) ratings.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved CRISIL ESG Ratings & Analytics as a Category 1 provider of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) ratings. CRISIL ESG Ratings, a unit of Crisil, was incorporated after Sebi amended the SEBI (Credit Rating Agencies) Regulations, 1999, to include provisions on ESG Rating Providers (ERPs) 2023. The rating provider launched its ESG scoring business in 2021 and now tracks over 1,000 companies across 65 sectors. This business will now be transferred to the subsidiary Crisil ESG Ratings. The approval comes at an opportune time when ESG disclosures have been improving and there is increasing realisation in the financial markets on the need for independent ESG ratings that will support decision-making for issuers and investors, and channel funds towards sustainable growth of the Indian economy.

Hitachi Payment Services has launched India's first upgradable ATMs.

Hitachi Payment Services has launched India's first upgradable ATMs wherein, an ATM unit can be converted to a cash recycling machine (CRM) as and when a bank needs it, eliminating the need for a separate CRM. Most banks offer deposit services at branches, and withdrawals can happen at off-branch locations. With a way to upgrade ATMs to CRMs, banks eliminate the need to replace ATMs. These machines will be UPI-enabled for cash deposit and withdrawal.

Effective from 24 April 2024, the RBI has raised the minimum capital requirement for ARCs from ₹100 crore to ₹300 crore.

Effective from 24 April 2024, the RBI has raised the minimum capital requirement for asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) from ₹100 crore to ₹300 crore. Under the new directives, ARCs, as of 11 October 2022, have been granted a transition period to achieve the revised minimum Net Owned Fund (NOF) requirement. They are expected to maintain a NOF of ₹200 crore by March 31, 2024, and reach the ₹300 crore mark by March 31, 2026. Furthermore, ARCs with a minimum NOF of ₹1,000 crore will be eligible to act as resolution applicants. However, these investments are subject to a cap of 10% of the ARC's NOF on maximum investment in such short-term instruments.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) barred Kotak Mahindra Bank from onboarding new customers through its online and mobile banking channels, and from issuing fresh credit cards.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) barred Kotak Mahindra Bank from onboarding new customers through its online and mobile banking channels, and from issuing fresh credit cards. The bank shall, however, continue to provide services to its existing customers, including its credit card customers. These actions were necessitated based on significant concerns arising out of the RBI's IT examination of the bank in 2022 and 2023 and the bank's continued failure to address these concerns in a comprehensive and timely manner. For two consecutive years, the bank was assessed to be deficient in its IT Risk and Information Security Governance, contrary to requirements under Regulatory guidelines.

PayU Payments Pvt Ltd has received the Reserve Bank of India's in-principle approval to operate as a payment aggregator and onboard new merchants onto its platform.

PayU Payments Pvt Ltd has received the Reserve Bank of India's in-principle approval to operate as a payment aggregator and onboard new merchants onto its platform. The firm, backed by Prosus, can now on-board new merchants and provide them digital payment services. PayU is a payment gateway that also offers services including buy-now-pay-later, and competes with the likes of Tiger Global-backed Razorpay and Walmart-owned PhonePe. Last year 2023, the RBI returned the fintech firm's application to operate as a payment aggregator due to its complex corporate structure and directed it to reapply. Following this, PayU had to pause on-boarding new merchants for its online payment aggregation business. Similar bans were imposed on Paytm, Razorpay and Cashfree.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lay out with guidelines for the voluntary conversion of small finance banks (SFBs) into universal banks.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lay out with guidelines for the voluntary conversion of small finance banks (SFBs) into universal banks. To be eligible for conversion into a universal bank, the RBI stipulates that only listed SFBs will qualify. Those intending to convert must have a minimum net worth of Rs1,000 crore. Also, the SFBs must have a scheduled status and a satisfactory track record of at least five years with a gross non-performing asset (NPA) of 3 percent or less and a net NPA of 1 percent or less in the past two financial years. Furthermore, interested SFBs must have reported a net profit in the past two financial years and met the prescribed capital adequacy norms. The RBI requires SFBs to provide a detailed rationale for their desire to convert into universal bank. Those with a diversified loan portfolio will be preferred. Further, upon transition, the bank will be subjected to all the norms including NOFHC structure (as applicable) as per the said guidelines.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) allowed AIFs (alternative investment funds) to pledge their shares in investee companies in the infrastructure sector.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) allowed AIFs (alternative investment funds) to pledge their shares in investee companies in the infrastructure sector. The regulator has also provided additional flexibility to AIFs and their investors to deal with unliquidated investments of their schemes. Category I and Category II AIFs may create an encumbrance on equity of investee company, which is in the business of development, operation or management of projects in any of the infrastructure sub-sectors. SEBI existing schemes of category I and category II AIFs who have not on-boarded any investors prior to April 25, 2024, may create an encumbrance on the equity of the investee company for the purpose of borrowing of the investee company. During the liquidation phase of a scheme, an AIF can give unsold investments to investors or go into dissolution, but it needs approval from at least 75 percent of investors by value. Before getting investor consent, the AIF/manager must arrange bids for at least 25 percent of the unliquidated investments' value.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) committed \$23.6 billion from its own resources in 2023 to help Asia and the Pacific progress on sustainable development.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) committed \$23.6 billion from its own resources in 2023, including \$9.8 billion for climate action, to help Asia and the Pacific progress on sustainable development. These figures are among the financial and operational results published today in ADB's Annual Report 2023. The report summarizes how ADB supported its developing member countries (DMCs) to address the worsening climate crisis as well as the impacts of conflicts, food insecurity, and increased debt burdens, among other challenges. The \$23.6 billion comprised loans, grants, equity investments, guarantees, and technical assistance provided to governments and the private sector. Supplementing its own resources, ADB mobilized an additional \$16.4

billion in cofinancing through its strong partnerships.

HDFC Life, one of India's leading insurers, and Peerless Financial Products Distribution Ltd (PFPDL) have entered into a corporate agency tie-up.

HDFC Life, one of India's leading insurers, and Peerless Financial Products Distribution Ltd (PFPDL) have entered into a corporate agency tie-up. This partnership would enable PFPDL to distribute life insurance products of HDFC Life to its customers. Through this tie-up, PFPDL would offer financial protection to its customers. The Company provides both digital and physical platforms to customers thereby enabling them to choose their preferred mode of service.

Ericsson India and the Foundation for Innovation & Research in Science & Technology (F.I.R.S.T) at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur partnered to boost Mobile Fintech innovation.

Ericsson India and the Foundation for Innovation & Research in Science & Technology (F.I.R.S.T) at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur have announced a two-year strategic partnership to drive innovation in Mobile Financial Services (MFS) and Fintech solutions. The partnership will identify emerging technologies, trends, and market insights to address real customer needs. This collaboration comes at a pivotal moment as the digital wallet market is predicted to surpass \$16 trillion in transactions by 2028.

Fintech company Cred has launched a UPI-based 'Scan and Pay' service that enables members to use any QR code for payments directly from their bank accounts.

Fintech company Cred has launched a UPI-based 'Scan and Pay' service that enables members to use any QR code for payments directly from their bank accounts. The launch move marks Cred's foray into the offline payments space dominated by PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm. Cred has been pushing its UPI (Unified Payments Interface) payments feature aggressively. The feature will be convenient to make offline retail payments at large format stores. Such stores comprise supermarkets, fast-food joints, beauty salons, fashion boutiques, and various lifestyle retailers. The focus is on merchants with substantial average transaction amounts and whose patrons predominantly opt for credit card payments

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept the investment limit by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) in government securities unchanged at 6 percent of the outstanding securities stocks for 2024-25.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept the investment limit by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) in government securities unchanged at 6 percent of the outstanding securities stocks for 2024-25. Moreover, the central bank, in a statement, announced that it would maintain the FPI limits for investment in state government securities and

corporate bonds at 2 percent and 15 percent, respectively, of the outstanding securities stocks for FY25. The allocation of incremental changes in the g-sec limit (in absolute terms) over the two sub-categories – ‘General’ and ‘Long-term’ – shall be retained at 50:50 for 2024-25. Further, the aggregate limit of the notional amount of Credit Default Swaps sold by FPIs shall be 5 percent of the outstanding stock of corporate bonds. Accordingly, an additional limit of Rs 2,54,500 crore has been set out for FY25.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directed Gurugram-based company TalkCharge to refund the prepaid funds held in the wallets of its customers.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directed Gurugram-based company TalkCharge to refund the prepaid funds held in the wallets of its customers. This directive comes as TalkCharge has been issuing Prepaid Payment Instruments (Wallets) without proper authorisation from the central bank. TalkCharge offers services such as cashbacks, coupons, and wallets to customers. The central bank had issued directions on April 2, 2024, to the entity to stop the issuance and operation of its Prepaid Payment Instruments or Wallets and refund the balances held in the wallets within 15 days. Later, it was extended by 45 days (May 17, 2024) at the entity's request.

The State Bank of India partnered with HCLSoftware, the software business unit of HCLTech, for the bank's digital transformation.

The State Bank of India partnered with HCLSoftware, the software business unit of HCLTech, for the bank's digital transformation. As part of the five-year agreement, HCLSoftware will deploy the HCL Unica platform to enable SBI to digitally transform its customer interaction framework and provide hyper-personalized communication across the bank's diverse digital marketing channels. It will help facilitate complex, multi-channel digital marketing campaigns, enhancing customer engagement precision and relevance.

The Former Australian Cricketer Shane Watson launched his book, “The Winner’s Mindset”.

The Former Australian Cricketer Shane Watson launched his book, “The Winner’s Mindset”. The book is published by HarperCollins Publishers. In his book, “The Winner’s Mindset,” Watson shares the insights and strategies that enabled him to conquer his fears and reach new heights in his cricketing career. With its motivational narrative and practical advice, this book promises to be a valuable addition to the self-help genre, empowering readers to develop the mindset necessary for success in their respective endeavors.

Shankaracharya of Dakshinamnaya Sri Sharada Peetham, Sringeri, Jagadguru Sri Sri Vidhushekhara Bharati Swami released “Heavenly Islands of Goa”, a book authored by Governor of Goa P.S Sreedharan Pillai, in Goa.

Shankaracharya of Dakshinamnaya Sri Sharada Peetham, Sringeri, Jagadguru Sri Sri Vidhushekhara Bharati Swami released "Heavenly Islands of Goa", a book authored by Governor of Goa P.S Sreedharan Pillai, in Goa. The book, which is Mr. Pillai's 221st, was released at a programme held at New Durbar Hall in the Raj Bhavan in Dona Paula. In the book, Pillai, the author, talks about the island in great detail, beginning with the etymology of its name to its heritage, caves and forts, temples and churches, biodiversity, tourist attractions, accessibility.

Indian Navy conducted Exercise 'Poorvi Lehar' on East Coast under the Operational Control of The Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command.

Indian Navy conducted Exercise 'Poorvi Lehar' (XPOL) on East Coast under the Operational Control of The Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command. The exercise aimed at validation of procedures towards assessment of Indian Navy's preparedness to meet Maritime Security challenges in the region. The exercise witnessed participation of Ships, Submarines, Aircrafts and Special Forces. XPOL was conducted in multiple phases including combat training in a realistic scenario during the Tactical Phase and successful conduct of various firings during the Weapon Phase towards reaffirming Indian Navy's capability to deliver ordnance on target. In addition to the participation of assets from Eastern Naval Command, the exercise also witnessed participation of assets from IAF, Andaman & Nicobar Command and Coast Guard indicating a very high degree of interoperability amongst the Services.

Indian Navy's indigenous, INS Sahyadri participated in Maritime Partnership Exercise with Royal Navy's RFA Argus and RFA Lyme Bay.

Indian Navy's indigenous, INS Sahyadri participated in Maritime Partnership Exercise with Royal Navy's RFA Argus and RFA Lyme Bay, part of the UK Littoral Response Group South at Sea. The exercise provided an opportunity for both navies to exchange best practices. This exercise demonstrates the Indian Navy's commitment in strengthening maritime partnerships and promotes regional stability. The joint exercise, conducted with precision and proficiency, showcased the seamless coordination and interoperability between the naval forces of India and the United Kingdom. Exercise Highlights include Tactical manoeuvres, Boarding operations, Surface engagement against simulated asymmetric threats, Cross-deck visits, and Cross-deck helicopter operations.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved subscription to Compulsory Convertible Debentures (CCDs) of Napino Auto and Electronics Limited (Napino) by International Finance Corporation (IFC).

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved subscription to Compulsory Convertible Debentures (CCDs) of Napino Auto and Electronics Limited

(Napino) by International Finance Corporation (IFC). IFC is an international organisation, established in 1956 to further economic growth in its developing member countries by promoting private sector development. It is a member of the World Bank Group. IFC helps developing countries achieve sustainable growth by financing private sector investment, mobilizing capital in international financial markets, and providing advisory services to businesses and governments. Napino is engaged in the business of automotive electronics and components in India. It manufactures electrical and electronic products primarily for 2-wheeler and a small segment of 3-wheeler and 4-wheeler vehicles.

REC Limited has secured green loan totaling JPY 60.536 billion from SACE to finance green projects across India.

REC Limited has secured green loan totaling JPY 60.536 billion from SACE to finance green projects across India. SACE, Italy, an innovative export credit agency, offers an 80 percent guarantee to the green facility as part of their push strategy programme. The partnership between SACE and an Indian government agency is innovative and the first of its type to be successful. This financing facility establishes a benchmark for green funding in the Indian public sector, showcasing an increasing focus on sustainable financing. It's also SACE's first loan transaction in Japanese Yen and its first green loan arrangement in India.

National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) projects the Indian economy growth rate of 7.1-7.4 percent in the current financial year (FY25).

National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) projects the Indian economy growth rate of 7.1-7.4 percent in the current financial year (FY25). This is above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) forecast of 7 percent. In 2023-24, states' capex growth is robust due to significant capex transfers from the Centre. While the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Fitch Ratings have estimated India's growth at 7 percent, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), S&P Global Ratings and Morgan Stanley projected a 6.8 percent growth rate for FY25.

ATC Telecom Infrastructure Pvt Ltd sold its entire 2.87 percent stake in telecom operator Vodafone Idea for Rs1,840 crore through an open market transaction.

ATC Telecom Infrastructure Pvt Ltd sold its entire 2.87 percent stake in telecom operator Vodafone Idea for Rs1,840 crore through an open market transaction. According to the bulk deal data available on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), ATC Telecom Infrastructure Pvt Ltd sold a total of 144 crore shares, representing a 2.87 percent stake in Vodafone Idea (VIL). The shares were disposed of at an average price of Rs12.78 apiece, taking the deal size to Rs1,840.32 crore. However, Citigroup Global Markets Mauritius offloaded 98.74 lakh shares of VIL at an average price of Rs13.47 per piece. This took the deal size to Rs13.30 crore.

ReNew Energy Global has signed an initial agreement with JERA Co Inc, to jointly evaluate development of a green ammonia production project in India.

ReNew Energy Global has signed an initial agreement with JERA Co Inc, Japan's largest power generation company, to jointly evaluate development of a green ammonia production project in India. Under the agreement, ReNew, through its subsidiary, ReNew E-Fuels Private Limited, and JERA will jointly evaluate development of a green ammonia production project in Paradip, Odisha. The project will utilise approximately 500 MW of high-capacity utilisation factor renewable energy to produce green hydrogen, a key feedstock for green ammonia. The project is likely to have a production capacity of approximately 100,000 tonnes of green ammonia annually by 2030. JERA will have the right to offtake this green ammonia for Japan. There will be a joint study to evaluate the commercial viability of the project.

The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA) has established an new office in GIFT City, Gandhinagar.

The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA) has established an new office in GIFT City, Gandhinagar. This new initiative by IREDA is expected to play a key role in the implementation of the National Green Hydrogen Mission of India, which has set a target of producing more than 5 million metric tons of hydrogen per annum (MTPA) by 2030. The country's energy storage capacity is estimated to be around 400 gigawatt-hours (GWh) by 2030-32, with an estimated investment of Rs3.5 lakh crores. To promote investments in energy storage projects, it is essential to provide competitive and tailored financial solutions.

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) has signed a Transfer of Technology (ToT) agreement with National Aerospace Laboratories for the manufacture of the Bismaleimide Engine Bay Door for the series production of Light Combat Aircraft Tejas Mk1A.

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) has signed a Transfer of Technology (ToT) agreement with National Aerospace Laboratories for the manufacture of the Bismaleimide Engine Bay Door for the series production of Light Combat Aircraft Tejas Mk1A. Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk1A is an indigenous 4.5 generation, all-weather and multi-role fighter aircraft for the Indian Air Force. With the signing of the technology transfer for Bismaleimide (BMI) Engine Bay Door (EBD), HAL can directly produce these high temperature resistant composite parts for the series production of LCA Mk1A aircraft meeting the initial requirement of IAF squadrons.

A MoU was signed between NTPC Limited and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) for the supply of 9 lakh metric tonnes of limestone (lime chips, a by-product of the RINL).

A MoU was signed between NTPC Limited and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) for the supply of 9 lakh metric tonnes of limestone (lime chips, a by-product of the RINL, for the NTPC units across the country for five years. Limestone is a raw material for the flue-gas desulphurisation system which is being installed at the coal-based thermal plants of the NTPC for reduction of sulphur dioxide emission. This MoU will cater to the needs of various plants of the NTPC. The MoU was signed by Surinder Pal Singh Virk, Chief General Manager (corporate centre-fuel management) of NTPC and Rajat Aich, General Manager (marketing) of RINL.

CSIR-IICT and BHEL corporate R&D have signed a MoU to develop a technology for capturing and CO₂ into Dimethyl Ether (DME) through direct catalytic conversion.

CSIR-IICT (Indian Institute of Chemical Technology) and BHEL corporate R&D have signed a MoU to develop a technology for capturing and converting carbon dioxide (CO₂) into Dimethyl Ether (DME) through direct catalytic conversion. This clean fuel can be blended with Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). The MoU between CSIR-IICT and BHEL was signed in Hyderabad. This initiative by the Ministry of science and technology is for the country's net-zero emissions goals in partnership with industry for deploying carbon capture and utilisation (CCU) technologies in sectors such as coal gasification.

A rare butterfly species named 'Neptis philyra' (Nymphalidae family), discovered in Arunachal Pradesh.

A rare butterfly species named 'Neptis philyra' (Nymphalidae family), also known as the long-streak sailor, has been discovered for the first time in India at the Tale Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (TWS), Arunachal Pradesh by a team of butterfly enthusiasts. Previously known to be found across various regions of East Asia, including eastern Siberia, Korea, Japan, and central and southwest China. It has serrated wings with rich brownish-black on the upper side and yellow-brown on the underside. It has a white cell streak on the forewing that forms a "hockey stick" pattern.

World Veterinary Day 2024 was celebrated on Saturday, 27 April 2024.

World Veterinary Day (WVD) is celebrated every year on the last Saturday of April. This day is dedicated to recognise the efforts of veterinarians all over the world. World Veterinary Day 2024 was celebrated on Saturday, 27 April 2024. The theme of World Veterinary Day 2024 is 'Veterinarians are Essential Health Workers'. World Veterinary Day is celebrated on the last Saturday of April. The day is dedicated to the veterinary profession and its contributions to society. The World Veterinary Association (WVA) established World Veterinary Day in 2000. It was first celebrated on 29 April 2000, and has been celebrated every year since.

Manipur observed 133rd Khongjom Day on 23 April 2024.

23 April 2024 marks the 133rd observance of Khongjom Day in Manipur. The 23rd April is remembered as Khongjom Day every year to pay tribute to the war heroes of the Anglo-Manipuri War, 1891. Khongjom day is observed to pay tribute and homage to those warriors who laid down their lives for the freedom of the state. In connection with the observance of 133rd Khongjom Day, Sharma Arts and Crafts House (SACH) organised a one-day Khongjom Day Memorial Lecture at its premises located at Khongman Zone-III, Imphal East.

International Delegate's Day is annually observed on 25 April to raise awareness of the role of the representatives and delegates of Member States to the United Nations.

International Delegate's Day is annually observed on 25 April to raise awareness of the role of the representatives and delegates of Member States to the United Nations. International Delegate's Day marks the anniversary of the first day of the San Francisco Conference, also known as the United Nations Conference on International Organization. On 25 April 1945, delegates from 50 countries came together for the first time in San Francisco. 25 April 2024 marks the observance of the 5th International Delegate's Day.

International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day is annually observed on 26 April.

International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day is annually observed on 26 April. On April 26, 1986, the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl took place. During a 20-second routine shutdown of the nuclear power plant, the disaster happened which resulted in the spread of a radioactive cloud over the Soviet territory comprising of Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia. In 2016, the United Nations announced that every year, on April 26, International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day will be celebrated. It is a day to reflect on the lessons of the disaster and identify measures to mitigate the risks of future emergencies.

World Penguin Day is celebrated on 25 April each year.

World Penguin Day is celebrated on 25 April each year. World Penguin Day was established in large part thanks to McMurdo Station, an American research centre on Ross Island. Around this time each year, scientists there observed the Adélie penguins beginning their migration. National Penguin Day began in 1972 when Gerry Wallace wrote the event on his wife's (Aleta's) calendar in Alamogordo, California. They later brought the celebration to the Naval Weapons Center in Ridgecrest, California where the Penguin Patrol made the news. April 25th is also the date that the Adélie penguins begin their migration northward toward Antarctica. This migration takes place so that the penguins can have access to food during the winter months.

Every year, World Intellectual Property Day is observed on 26 April.

Every year, World Intellectual Property Day is observed on 26 April. In 1883, the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property was signed which further established protection for intellectual properties. This was aimed to protect inventions, trademarks, and industrial designs. In 1970, the Convention establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization came to be known as WIPO. In 1974, WIPO became a specialised agency of the United Nations. The theme for World Intellectual Property Day 2024 is "IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity".

Every year, World Day for Safety and Health at Work is observed on 28 April.

Every year, World Day for Safety and Health at Work is observed on 28 April. On April 29, 1971, the International Labour Organisation adopted the Occupational Safety and Health Convention. In 2003, the International Labour Organisation announced that April 28 will be observed as World Day for Safety and Health at Work. Since then, the important day has been observed on that day. The Safety Day was first celebrated by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in 2003. The theme for World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2024 is to focus on 'ensuring safety and health at work in a changing climate'. The International Labour Organization (ILO) observes this day to stress the prevention of accidents and diseases at work, capitalising on its traditional strengths of tri-partyism and social dialogue.

International Dance Day is celebrated every year on 29 April.

International Dance Day is celebrated every year on 29 April. It was established by the Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), UNESCO's main partner for the performing arts. International Dance Day was created to celebrate dance as an art form and to promote its importance worldwide. The date was chosen to commemorate the birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre, a French dancer and ballet master often credited as the creator of modern ballet. The first International Day of Dance was celebrated in 1982. International Dance Day is a global celebration of the universal language of movement and expression. Established by the International Theatre Institute, it honours the artistry, cultural diversity and transformative power of dance, uniting communities worldwide in appreciation of this ancient form of human communication.

World English Day, also known as United Nations (UN) English Language Day, is celebrated annually on 23rd April.

World English Day, also known as United Nations (UN) English Language Day, is celebrated annually on 23rd April. The day aims to recognise and celebrate the impact of the English language globally as a tool for communication, diplomacy, and cultural exchange. English Language Day was established by the UN Department of Global Communications in 2010 to celebrate the diversity of languages and promote the use of all official languages equally within the UN. April 23 was chosen as UN

English Language Day because it is associated with the life of Shakespeare and represents the ongoing impact of his contributions to the language.

UN Spanish Language Day is observed annually on 23 April.

UN Spanish Language Day is observed annually on 23 April. The event was established by the UN's Department of Public Information in 2010. The day was first observed on 12 October to celebrate the Día de la Hispanidad in some Spanish-speaking countries for the discovery of American continent. Later, the day was changed to 23 April, to pay tribute to Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, who died on 22 April 1616. By celebrating this day, the United Nations aims to spotlight languages' significant role in fostering cultural understanding among communities.

Every year, April 23 is celebrated as the World Book and Copyright Day.

Every year, April 23 is celebrated as the World Book and Copyright Day. The idea to observe World Book Day was first conceived by Valencian writer Vicente Clavel Andres as a means to honour the renowned author, Miguel de Cervantes, October 7, followed by his death anniversary, April 23. UNESCO then decided that World Book and Copyright Day would be celebrated on April 23 annually, since this date is also the death anniversary of prominent authors such as William Shakespeare and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega. World Book and Copyright Day is celebrated worldwide to recognise the scope of books as a link between the past and the future, along with being a cultural and generational bridge.

24 April 2024 marks the observance of the 15th National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD).

Every year, National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated on 24 April. In 1993, by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, the Panchayat system came to be implemented in the rural areas to allow for development to happen at grassroot level. The first National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated in 2010. Since then, the National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated on 24th April every year in India. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment added Part IX titled "The Panchayats" to the Constitution. 24 April 2024 marks the observance of the 15th National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD).

Administrative Professionals Day 2024 was observed on 24th April 2024.

Administrative Professionals Day 2024 was observed on 24th April 2024. Administrative Professionals Day is annually observed across the globe on the Wednesday of the last full week in April to celebrate and recognise the important role of secretaries, assistants, receptionists, and other administrative support professionals. Administrative Professionals Week (APW) was established by the International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP) in 1952. In 1965, the

observance date of National Secretaries Week was moved to the last full week of April. The event name was changed to Professionals Secretaries Week in 1981 and changed to Administrative Professionals Week (APW) in 2000 to keep pace with changing job titles and expanding responsibilities of the administrative workforce.

World Day for Laboratory Animals is observed every year on 24 April.

World Day for Laboratory Animals is observed every year on 24 April. This day was established by the National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS) over 40 decades ago. This day aims to call attention to the suffering and killings of animals undertaken in laboratories across the world. In 1979, NAVS established World Day for Laboratory Animals (also referred to as Lab Animal Day) on April 24 – Lord Hugh Dowding's birthday. In 1980, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), led by PETA Founder, Ingrid Newkirk, organized the first World Day for Laboratory Animals protest in the US. NAVS and other groups opposed to animal research have claimed that World Day For Animals In Laboratories is recognised by the United Nations.

International Girls in ICT Day 2024 was observed on 25 April.

International Girls in ICT Day is a special day celebrated every fourth Thursday in April. Its purpose is to show how important girls are in the world of technology, known as Information and Communications Technology (ICT). This celebration encourages more girls and young women to explore education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). International Girls in ICT Day 2024 was observed on 25 April. The history of International Girls in ICT Day dates back to 2014, when the International Telecommunication Union's Plenipotentiary Resolution 70 was passed. International Girls in ICT Day was declared by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on April 8, 2011. The theme for International Girls in ICT Day 2024 is "Leadership".

World Malaria Day is annually observed on 25 April to raise awareness about the preventive measures against Malaria.

World Malaria Day is annually observed on 25 April to raise awareness about the preventive measures against Malaria. African governments have been celebrating Africa's Malaria Day since 2001 which was changed to World Malaria Day at the World Health Assembly's 60th session sponsored by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The World Malaria Day 2024 theme is "Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world". Malaria is a disease that is caused by mosquito bites. shaking chill and high fever are the main symptoms of Malaria. In tropical and subtropical countries, malaria is extremely common.

The International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace is annually observed on 24 April.

The International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace is annually observed on 24 April. It was established on 12 December 2018 through resolution A/RES/73/127 and was first observed on 24 April 2019. This day marks the commitment to the principles of peaceful conflict resolution and the importance of multilateral decision-making and diplomacy. The first time this day was celebrated was on April 24, 2019. The establishment of this day was a significant step by the international community to encourage and strengthen the bonds between countries.

Every year, National Civil Service Day is observed on 21 April.

Every year, National Civil Service Day is observed on 21 April. In 1947, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel announced that National Civil Service Day will be observed every year to honour the contributions of the civil servants for the country. In Vigyan Bhavan, on April 21, 2006. The first National Civil Services Day was observed. Since then, the day is observed every year on the same day. 21 April 2024 marked the observance of the 17th National Civil Services Day.

World Creativity and Innovation Day, observed annually on 21 April.

World Creativity and Innovation Day, observed annually on 21 April. World Creativity and Innovation Day is a part of the World Creativity and Innovation Week that begins on April 15, celebrated as World Art Day in honor of Leonardo da Vinci's birthday and ends on April 21. Marci Segal, a creativity specialist and futurist from Canada, founded this day in 2002. In recognition of the importance of creativity and innovation, the UN declared April 21 as World Creativity and Innovation Day in 2017 during its 79th plenary meeting at the seventy-first session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The first World Creativity and Innovation Day was celebrated in 2018.

'International Mother Earth Day' is celebrated every year on 22 April.

'International Mother Earth Day' is celebrated every year on 22 April. This year 2024 its theme is 'Planet vs Plastic'. The idea of celebrating World Earth Day was first proposed by peace activist John McConnell at a UNESCO conference in 1969. Initially, the purpose of celebrating this day was to honour the Earth. Earth Day was first held in California, United States on April 22, 1970. 20 years later, in the 1990s, Earth Day went global. That is, in 1990, Dennis Hayes proposed to celebrate this day at the global level. About 141 countries participated in it. On 22 April 2009, the United Nations General Assembly by a resolution officially designated 22 April each year as 'International Mother Earth Day'. This proposal was initiated by the 'Plurinational State of Bolivia' in the United Nations General Assembly.

UN Chinese Language Day is observed annually on 20 April.

UN Chinese Language Day is observed annually on 20 April. The event was established by the UN Department of Public Information[2] in 2010, seeking "to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six of its official working languages throughout the organization". The first Chinese Language Day was celebrated in 2010 on the 12th of November, but since 2011 the date has been the 20th of April, roughly corresponding to Guyu in the Chinese calendar. On 20 April 2024, the UN celebrated the 15th annual Chinese Language Day.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has signed an agreement with SAI Bulgaria, the Bulgarian National Audit Office, in Sofia, in a bid to foster international cooperation.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has signed an agreement with SAI Bulgaria, the Bulgarian National Audit Office, in Sofia, in a bid to foster international cooperation. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), inked by the two Supreme audit institutions, aims to enhance collaboration and the exchange of expertise in the field of auditing between the two nations. Through the MoU, a platform will be established for the exchange of knowledge and experience amongst auditing professionals and technical teams through collaboration in training programs, and mutual assistance in conducting audits.

According to new data on global military spending published by the SIPRI, the total global military expenditure increased for the 9th consecutive year to an all-time high of USD 2443 billion in 2023.

According to new data on global military spending published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the total global military expenditure increased for the 9th consecutive year to an all-time high of USD 2443 billion in 2023, an increase of 6.8% in real terms from 2022. This was the steepest year-on-year increase since 2009. The 10 largest spenders in 2023—led by the United States, China and Russia—all increased their military spending. Russia's military spending increased by 24 percent to an estimated \$109 billion in 2023, marking a 57 percent rise since 2014. India was the fourth largest military spender globally in 2023. At \$83.6 billion, its military expenditure was 4.2 percent higher than in 2022.

On the sidelines of the India-Kuwait Investment conference 2.0, India and Kuwait inked a MoU aimed at sharing information on technologies and innovations within the financial and regulatory sectors.

On the sidelines of the India-Kuwait Investment conference 2.0, India and Kuwait inked a MoU aimed at sharing information on technologies and innovations within the financial and regulatory sectors. The event, supported by the Indian Business and Professional Council (IBPC), Union of Investment Companies (UIC), and Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), brought together key stakeholders from

both nations. The India-Kuwait Investment Conference 2.0, organized by the Embassy with the backing of IBPC, UIC, and KCCI, witnessed the Managing Director of Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) as the Chief Guest. High-profile representatives from Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), and Invest India presented insights and perspectives at the conference. Additionally, representatives from the Indian Business and Professional Council (IBPC) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) contributed to the discussions.

As per World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)' 4th edition of "State of the Climate in Asia 2023" report, Asia was the world's most disaster-hit region from weather, climate and water-related hazards in 2023.

As per World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)' 4th edition of "State of the Climate in Asia 2023" report, Asia was the world's most disaster-hit region from weather, climate and water-related hazards in 2023. The Asian continent was the world's most disaster-prone region in 2023. Floods and storms caused the highest number of reported casualties and economic losses in Asia, while the impact of heatwaves became more severe. The rise of temperature in eastern and northern India had been highest in India. The annual mean near-surface temperature over Asia in 2023 was the second-highest on record, 0.91°C above the 1991-2020 average and 1.87 °C above the 1961-1990 average.

UNHCR launched the UNHCR Climate Resilience Fund, seeking to boost the protection of refugees and displaced communities.

UNHCR launched the UNHCR Climate Resilience Fund, seeking to boost the protection of refugees and displaced communities who are most threatened by climate change. As part of its work to protect and assist more than 114 million people who have been forced to flee, UNHCR already seeks to build people's resilience and reduce their vulnerability to risks, including the impact of climate change. UNHCR aims to raise US\$100 million for the Fund by the end of 2025 to support refugees, host communities and countries of origin hardest hit by the climate emergency, and to promote refugees' inclusion in climate-related measures that are taken nationally and locally.

According to a UNCTAD report, India's services exports increased 11.4 percent to USD 345 billion in 2023 despite global economic uncertainties.

According to a UNCTAD report, India's services exports increased 11.4 percent to USD 345 billion in 2023 despite global economic uncertainties, while China's shipments from the sector contracted by 10.1 percent to USD 381 billion. Sectors that contribute to India's services export growth include travel, transport, medical and hospitality. With an 8.9 percent annual rise in current dollar value terms, the world services exports surpassed USD 7.9 trillion in 2023. The leading exporters among

developing economies include India, China, Singapore, Turkiye, Thailand, Mexico, and Saudi Arabia. India's services imports, however, dipped marginally by 0.4 percent to USD 248 billion last year.

The 26th edition of World Energy Congress, was held in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, from 22 April to 25 April 2024, to commemorates the centenary of the World Energy Council.

The 26th edition of World Energy Congress, was held in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, from 22 April to 25 April 2024, to commemorates the centenary of the World Energy Council. This prestigious event is bringing together over 7,000 participants, including energy experts, policymakers, industry leaders, and stakeholders from across the globe. Recognized as the foremost gathering in the energy sector, the Congress is dedicated to facilitating high-level discussions and collaborations that advance global energy transitions. The agenda for the 26th World Energy Congress focuses on five key themes essential for advancing a clean and inclusive energy transition. The assembly of more than 200 C-suite executives and over 70 Ministers at the event highlights its significance as a platform for merging insights from both government and business sectors.

Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) signed a MoU with Ministry of Civil Service, Cambodia on cooperation in the field of Human Resource Development in Civil Service.

Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) signed a MoU with Ministry of Civil Service, Cambodia on cooperation in the field of Human Resource Development in Civil Service. The MoU advances the cordial and friendly ties between India and Cambodia in the field of Human Resource Development in Civil Service over the next 5 years. MoU will focus on strengthening and promoting bilateral exchange and cooperation between the two countries in the field of Human Resource Development in Civil Service as also facilitate a dialogue between India's Personnel Administration agencies and the agencies of the Ministry of Civil Service of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) signed a MoU with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI) to foster a long-term collaboration in the field of geophysical investigations.

Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) signed a MoU with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI) to foster a long-term collaboration in the field of geophysical investigations. This collaboration will focus on Geophysical, Geochemical and Geological surveys, data analysis, interpretation and modelling, scientific knowledge sharing, technical support and advisory services. This collaboration will pave the way for driving innovation and actionable insights towards the ongoing KABIL projects.

The Alliance of Digital India Foundation (ADIF) and the IIT Guwahati Technology Incubation Centre (IIT Guwahati TIC) signed a MoU to foster entrepreneurship and offer assistance to technology firms.

The Alliance of Digital India Foundation (ADIF) and the IIT Guwahati Technology Incubation Centre (IIT Guwahati TIC) signed a MoU to foster entrepreneurship and offer assistance to technology firms. The two-year MOU seeks to boost the startup ecosystem by promoting engagement between ADIF's network of startups and entrepreneurs and IIT Guwahati's pool of innovators, academics, and incubation facilities. As per the agreement, ADIF will provide alliance membership to the startup firms in IITG TIC's portfolio, enabling them to use subsidized services, resources, and mentoring opportunities from ADIF's startup toolkit.

Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL) has signed a MoU with Turkish Engineering Consulting and Contracting-TUMAS India Pvt Ltd.

Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL) has signed a MoU with Turkish Engineering Consulting and Contracting-TUMAS India Pvt Ltd. The contract is for partnership and collaboration in public transportation projects and infrastructure projects in India. This collaboration will strengthen the capabilities of both entities to accelerate and improve infrastructure development, operational efficiency and connectivity within India's rail network.

The Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) signed a MoU for collaborative research and training with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur.

The Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) signed a MoU for collaborative research and training with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur. The MoU was signed by Director General Armed Forces Medical Services Lt Gen Daljit Singh & Officiating Director, IIT Kanpur Prof S Ganesh. Under this MoU, AFMS and IIT Kanpur will team up to undertake research and develop new technologies to address health problems faced by soldiers in difficult terrains. IIT Kanpur will also provide technical expertise for developing AI diagnostic models, at Armed Forces Centre for Computational Medicine established in Armed Forces Medical College, which is first of its kind amongst medical colleges in India.

NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL) has signed an initial pact with Indus Towers Ltd (ITL) to address the need for pacing green energy objectives and the Govt's efforts towards carbon neutral economy.

NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL) has signed an initial pact with Indus Towers Ltd (ITL) to address the need for pacing green energy objectives and the Govt's efforts towards carbon neutral economy. The MoU shall explore joint development of grid-connected renewable energy-based power projects including solar, wind, energy storage etc and/or solutions thereof. ITL aims to expand its renewable energy

portfolio in a phased manner to Giga Watt (GW) scale capacity, for its business operations spread across the country, as a part of its net zero commitments. The MoU was signed by Soumya Kanti Chowdhuri, Chief General Manager, NGEL and Vikas Poddar, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), ITL in the presence of other senior officials from NTPC and ITL.

The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Ministry of Finance, has given the status of Navratna company to urea manufacturer National Fertilizers Limited (NFL).

The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Ministry of Finance, has given the status of Navratna company to urea manufacturer National Fertilizers Limited (NFL). After getting Navratna status, the company will be able to work with more freedom operationally. This company was established in August 1974. The fertilizer products of this company are sold in the market under the brand 'Kisan'. Apart from this, the company is required to score 60 marks out of 100 in parameters like Net Worth, Net Profit, Total Production Cost, Manpower Cost, Service Cost, Capital Employed etc.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvana Mahotsav at Bharat Mandapam in the national capital, on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvana Mahotsav at Bharat Mandapam in the national capital, on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti. He also released a commemorative stamp and coin at the event. Mahavir Jayanti marks the birth anniversary of the founder of Jainism or Mahavir Janma Kalyanak. The Jain community celebrates the festival to observe peace and harmony, and spread the teachings of Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism. The festival falls on the 13th day of the Chaitra month in the Jain calendar - this year it is being observed on 21 April 2024. Mahavir Jayanti is celebrated by taking a procession with Mahavir's idol on a chariot and people reciting religious songs on the way.

Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Chairman and Managing Director Geeta Kapur inaugurated India's first multi-purpose green hydrogen pilot project at the 1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS) in Jhakri, Himachal Pradesh.

Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Chairman and Managing Director Geeta Kapur inaugurated India's first multi-purpose green hydrogen pilot project at the 1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS) in Jhakri, Himachal Pradesh. The project is a first-of-its-kind green hydrogen generation plant that can produce clean energy and meet the combustion fuel needs of the NJHPS. It will utilise renewable energy from SJVN's 1.31 MW solar power plant to produce green hydrogen by splitting water. The pilot project is designed to produce 14 kilograms of green hydrogen daily and will be used for turbine maintenance and electricity generation.

Government has expanded the composition of the committee formed to look into pricing reforms for drugs and medical devices by admitting various industry bodies.

According to a circular issued by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Government has expanded the composition of the committee formed to look into pricing reforms for drugs and medical devices by admitting various industry bodies. The committee will now have representation from industry bodies such as the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), and the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), among others. The terms of reference of the committee include discussing institutional reforms within the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and ways to balance price and availability of essential medicines, while providing incentives to the industry to sustain growth and exports. In line with this mission, the department has also invited medical device associations such as Medical Technology Association of India (MTAI) and Association of Medical Device Industry (AIMED) to be part of the committee and present the views of the medtech industry.

CelerityX, the enterprise networking solutions division of OneOTT Intertainment Ltd (OIL) and a subsidiary of Hinduja Global Solutions Limited, has introduced its latest innovation – OneX.

CelerityX, the enterprise networking solutions division of OneOTT Intertainment Ltd (OIL) and a subsidiary of Hinduja Global Solutions Limited, has introduced its latest innovation – OneX. As a start, it also announced deployment of OneX to tackle the connectivity challenges faced by cooperative credit societies in Maharashtra. Through a strategic partnership with Maharashtra State Cooperative Credit Societies Federation (MAFCOCS), it aims to enable secure and high uptime banking connectivity for over 40,000 branches in the state, with the potential to serve over 100,000 branches nationwide.

The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) launched the 'Integrated Pensioners' Portal of the Bank of India' to digitalise pension services and enhance the welfare of pensioners.

The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) launched the 'Integrated Pensioners' Portal of the Bank of India' to digitalise pension services and enhance the welfare of pensioners. The move consolidates the pension processing and payment services of five banks into a single window for their services. Digital empowerment of pensioners is being implemented through various means such as Digital Life Certificates and Bhavishya Portal to enhance the welfare of pensioners. With the integration of pension portals from banks like SBI, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, and Canara Bank into the Bhavishya portal, pensioners now have access to a range of services from a single window. This integration enables

pensioners to access services such as pension slips, life certificate submission status, due and drawn statements, and Form-16 seamlessly.

India's gem and jewellery sector has received an Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) status from the finance ministry.

India's gem and jewellery sector has received an Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) status from the finance ministry. It will facilitate exports and imports of gem and jewellery with shorter cargo release time, reduction in bank guarantee by 50 percent compared to non-AEO entities and expedite resolution of customs, central excise and service tax cases. This status, previously denied, now facilitates smoother export-import processes, reduces cargo release times, aiming to enhance ease of doing business. The Ministry of Finance now extends eligibility for AEO participation to units within the sector, enabling them to capitalize on associated benefits.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) was conferred the prestigious 'Navratna' status by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE).

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) was conferred the prestigious 'Navratna' status by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE). This recognition comes alongside IREDA's strong financial performance in the January-March quarter, marked by improved margins, better asset quality, and a 32% year-on-year increase in net profit to Rs337 crore. IREDA's assets under management (AUM) have also witnessed significant growth, rising by 26.8% year-on-year and 18% quarter-on-quarter to Rs59,698 crore.

More than 27% of the identified glacial lakes in the Himalayas have notably expanded since 1984 and 130 of those are in India: ISRO

In a statement of ISRO, said long-term satellite imagery covering the catchments of Indian Himalayan river basins from 1984 to 2023 indicates significant changes in glacial lakes. More than 27 percent of the identified glacial lakes in the Himalayas have notably expanded since 1984 and 130 of those are in India. Of the 2,431 lakes larger than 10 hectares identified during 2016-17, 676 glacial lakes have notably expanded since 1984. 601 of the 676 lakes have expanded more than twice while 10 lakes have grown between 1.5 to two times and 65 lakes 1.5 times. 130 of the 676 lakes are situated within India, with 65, seven, and 58 located in the Indus, Ganga and the Brahmaputra river basins, respectively. An elevation-based analysis revealed that 314 lakes are located in the 4,000-5,000-metre range and 296 above 5,000 metres.

BJP MP from Karnataka's Chamarajanagar and former Union minister V Sreenivasa Prasad passed away at the age of 76 in Bengaluru.

BJP MP from Karnataka's Chamarajanagar and former Union minister V Sreenivasa Prasad passed away at the age of 76 in Bengaluru. On March 18 this year, Prasad announced his retirement from electoral politics. He started his political career with the erstwhile Janata Party in 1976 and joined the Congress in 1979. He also had a stint with the JD(S), JD(U), and the Samata Party before joining the BJP. Prasad served as the Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government from 1999 to 2004. He joined the Congress later, got elected as an MLA in 2013 and became the revenue and religious endowment minister in the Siddaramaiah government.

Director Durai of Pasi fame passed away due to age-related complications in Chennai.

Director Durai of Pasi fame passed away due to age-related complications in Chennai. Durai was one of the important voices back in the late 70s and 80s as he dealt with some bleak subjects of human existence. Poverty was one of the common themes in his works that struck a chord with the audience of the era. Durai made his debut as a director in 1974 with the film Avalum Pentane. Durai's 1979 film Pasi turned out to be his calling card, and it also became a prefix to his name. Durai was awarded with Kalaimamani Award by the Tamil Nadu State government in 1982 for his contribution to art. Oru Veedu Oru Ulagam, Aasia 60 Naal, and Paavathin Sambalam are other films of Durai.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully developed the lightest bulletproof jacket in India for protection against the highest threat level 6.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully developed the lightest bulletproof jacket in India for protection against the highest threat level 6. This jacket is based on a new design approach where novel material along with new processes has been used. DRDO's Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Kanpur has successfully developed the lightest bulletproof jacket in the country for protection against 7.62 x 54 R API (level 6 of BIS 17051) ammunition. Recently, this bulletproof jacket was successfully tested at TBRL, Chandigarh as per BIS 17051-2018. The front hard armour panel (HAP) of this jacket "defeats multiple hits (six shots) of 7.62x54 R API (sniper rounds) in both ICW (in-conjunction with) and standalone design. The areal density of ICW hard armour panel (HAP) and standalone HAP is less than 40 kg/m² and 43 kg/m² respectively.

C-DOT has signed an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur for "Automated Service Management in 5G and Beyond Networks Using AI".

C-DOT has signed an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur to develop AI frameworks for automated network management, fault detection, and diagnostic techniques by utilizing continuous information generated within the network like 5G. The agreement named "Automated Service Management in 5G and Beyond Networks Using AI". Agreement was signed under the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) of the DoT which supports domestic companies and institutions in technology design, development, and commercialization of telecommunication products and solutions for affordable broadband and mobile services in rural and remote areas. The initiative will establish a real-time 5G and Beyond testbed (in compliance with O-RAN) to demonstrate automated network management and slicing techniques alongside specific application use-cases such as smart metering, remotely operated vehicles, etc.

China launches 3-member Shenzhou-18 crew to its Tiangong space station in low earth orbit.

China launches 3-member Shenzhou-18 crew to its Tiangong space station in low earth orbit. This marks the most recent mission in Beijing's space programme, which is working towards sending astronauts to the Moon by 2030. The Shenzhou-18 spacecraft, also known as the "Divine vessel," along with its three passengers, launched atop a Long March-2F rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China. The spacecraft carries mission commander Ye Guangfu (43), who previously served on the 2021 Shenzhou-13 mission, along with crewmates Li Cong (34) and Li Guangsu (36).

DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has handed over the first batch of the indigenous Leading Edge Actuators and Airbrake Control Module to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has handed over the first batch of the indigenous Leading Edge Actuators and Airbrake Control Module to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The HAL, Lucknow has already made preparations for the production of these units for the current 83 LCA Tejas Mk1A order. The Secondary Flight Control of LCA-Tejas, comprising Leading Edge Slats and Airbrakes, now boasts state-of-the-art Servo-Valve based electro-hydraulic servo actuators and control modules.

India delivered the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines.

India delivered the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines, in reflection of the growing military ties between the two countries amid China's military muscle-flexing in the South China Sea. The supplies came over two years India signed a \$375 million deal with the Southeast Asian nation to supply the weapon systems. A C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF)

transported the missile and the launchers to the Philippines for the country's marine forces. Under the January 2022 deal, India will supply three batteries of the missiles, their launchers and related equipment. It was the first export of the BrahMos missile by India.

NASA has confirmed its Dragonfly rotorcraft mission to Saturn's organic-rich moon Titan.

NASA has confirmed its Dragonfly rotorcraft mission to Saturn's organic-rich moon Titan. The decision allows the mission to progress to completion of final design, followed by the construction and testing of the entire spacecraft and science instruments. In early 2023, the mission successfully passed all the success criteria of its Preliminary Design Review. With the release of the president's fiscal year 2025 budget request, Dragonfly is confirmed with a total lifecycle cost of \$3.35 billion and a launch date of July 2028. To compensate for the delayed arrival at Titan, NASA also provided additional funding for a heavy-lift launch vehicle to shorten the mission's cruise phase. Dragonfly marks the first time NASA will fly a vehicle for science on another planetary body. The rotorcraft has eight rotors and flies like a large drone.

Spain's former world number 1 and Wimbledon and French Open champion Garbine Muguruza announced her retirement from professional tennis at age 30.

Spain's former world number 1 and Wimbledon and French Open champion Garbine Muguruza announced her retirement from professional tennis at age 30. Venezuelan-born Muguruza won the French Open in 2016 and Wimbledon in 2017, and she reached the final of the Australian Open in 2020. Muguruza, was ranked number one in 2017 and was ranked as high as third by the end of 2021 when she won three WTA titles.

GM Gukesh Dommaraju has won the 2024 FIDE Candidates Tournament.

GM Gukesh Dommaraju has won the 2024 FIDE Candidates Tournament and is the youngest player in history to win a Candidates Tournament. He will play GM Ding Liren for the world championship title later this year. In the women's section, Tan Zhongyi of China won the 2024 FIDE Candidate Tournament. D Gukesh will face the current FIDE World Champion, Ding Liren of China, later this year, and Tan Zhongyi will face the current female World Chess Champion, Ju Wenjun, to decide the 2024 FIDE World Chess Champion. D Gukesh became the second Indian after Vishwanathan Anand to win the FIDE Candidate Tournament. Vishwanathan Anand won the Candidate tournament in 2014 but lost the 2014 FIDE World Chess Championship match against Magnus Carlsen. D. Gukesh is the third youngest player to play in the Candidate tournament after Bobby Fischer of the US and Magnus Carlsen of Norway.

World Champion formula one (F1) driver Max Verstappen has won the Chinese

Grand Prix race 2024.

World Champion formula one (F1) driver Max Verstappen has won the Chinese Grand Prix race 2024. The Chinese Grand Prix was held at the Shanghai International Circuit, Jiading, Shanghai on 21 April 2024. In the Chinese Grand Prix, Max Verstappen, despite back-to-back mid-race Safety Car interruptions, won the race by 13 seconds. His nearest rival, Lando Norris of McLaren's, came second. Sergio Perez of Red Bull came third, while the Ferrari duo Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

India topped the medal tally with 8 medals - 5 gold, 2 silvers and 1 bronze at the 2024 Archery World Cup Stage-1 held in Shanghai, China from 23 April to 28 April 2024.

India topped the medal tally with 8 medals - 5 gold, 2 silvers and 1 bronze at the 2024 Archery World Cup Stage-1 held in Shanghai, China from 23 April to 28 April 2024. The Indian men's recurve team won a historic gold medal at the Archery World Cup Stage-1 by defeating the world-champion South Korean team for the first time ever. India sent a 16-member archery team for the Shanghai event. It consisted of 8 men and 8 women players. The Indian men's recurve team of Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai and Pravin Jadhav defeated the World no.1 ranked South Korean team in the final. The Indian team defeated South Korea's team consisting of World and Asian Games champions Lee Wooseok and Olympic champions Kim Je Deok and Kim Woojin 5-1 (57-57, 57-55, 55-53) to win a gold medal after 14 years. Jyothi defeated Andrea Becerra of Mexico to win the women's individual compound gold medal. In the mixed compound event, Jyothi Vennam and Abhishek Verma won the gold medal, In the women's compound team event, Jyothi, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur won the gold medal. Jyothi Vennam has won a total of 19 medals at the Archery World Cup -8 gold medals, 4 silver medals and 7 bronze medals.