

Finance, Banking & Economy

KBA becomes first Indian academy to get Hyperledger membership

- The **Kerala Blockchain Academy (KBA)** of the Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management-Kerala (IIITM-K) has **become the first Indian institution to be granted membership by Hyperledger project hosted by Linux Foundation.**

India's first blockchain implementation goes live

- **Three trade receivable discounting systems (TReDS)—digital invoice discounting platforms—approved so far by the RBI have jointly implemented a blockchain solution**, which is expected to help reduce frauds in bills discounting or receivable financing.
- The platforms—RXIL, A.TReDS and M1xchange—had been set up to bring together buyers, sellers and financiers for discounting the MSME invoices and provide them with timely funding.

Ola, Acko partner to create India's first in-trip insurance program

- **Indian ride aggregator Ola in April launched a first comprehensive in-trip insurance program for its customers across India**, thereby extending the benefits of the 'Chalo befikar' insurance program to its customers across all categories, namely cabs, auto, and e-rickshaw.
- In this regard, Ola partnered with Acko General Insurance Ltd to launch this program designed to benefit its customers across 110 cities. A user booking an Ola ride can opt for an in-trip insurance cover while booking the ride at a premium of Re. 1 for all intra-city travel; Rs.10 for Ola Rentals; and Rs. 15 for Ola Outstation.

ICICI Bank is the first Indian bank to go live on SWIFT global payments innovation

- Global financial messaging cooperative **Swift** in April said **ICICI Bank has become its first Indian client to go live with an improved cross-border payments service.**
- The announcement of the service, which Swift claimed as being more transparent, comes weeks after the discovery of one of the largest banking frauds to be detected in Indian history, the Rs 12,900-crore Nirav Modi scam at the Punjab National Bank (PNB).

Yes Bank launches first GST backed over draft facility for MSMEs

- **Yes Bank has announced the launch of 'Yes GST', an OD (over draft) facility for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).**
- Through this an MSME can avail OD up to Rs 1 crore, based on their annual turnover, backed by GST returns. Any additional assessment of balance sheet or bank statements will not be required.
- This OD facility can be availed by an MSME against mortgage of residential or commercial property. The sanctioned amount can be utilised by the MSME either fully or in tranches.

NHAI signs agreement for its First International Project

- The National Highways Authority of India on April 12, 2018 signed an agreement for upgradation of **Yagyi – Kalewa section of highway in Myanmar to two lanes with earthen shoulder.**
 - The project will be funded by the Union Ministry of External Affairs and will be executed on EPC mode at a cost of Rs 1177 crores.
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PhonePe partners with MMTC-PAMP to create India's first Gold Savings marketplace

- PhonePe, India's fastest growing digital payments company in April announced a partnership with MMTC-PAMP to provide 24K Gold of 99.99% purity on the PhonePe app.
 - With this partnership, **PhonePe is now the first digital payments app to offer a sophisticated gold marketplace to its users.** PhonePe customers can buy 24K Gold from the provider of their choice at transparent and competitive live prices.
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ICICI Bank launches India's first digital form for opening current accounts

- Private sector lender **ICICI Bank in April said it has introduced India's first 'digital form' which will help open current accounts in a few hours.**
 - Bank officials can now capture information about the customer and the business digitally and verify KYC documents in real-time, at the premise of the customer, it said in a statement.
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TCS becomes first Indian company to achieve USD 100 billion Market Capitalisation

- India's largest IT outsourcing company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on April 23, 2018 **created history by becoming the first Indian company to reach the USD 100 billion Market Capitalisation (m-cap) mark.**
 - TCS' shares were being traded 4 percent above the previous closing mark at Rs 3545 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) at 10.30 am on April 23, hitting an all-time high. The market value of the company at that time stood at Rs 6,79,332.81 crore (USD 102.6 billion).
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India's First Ecommerce Think Tank Meet To Be Convened By Suresh Prabhu

- **Suresh Prabhu, the commerce and industry minister, hosted the first ecommerce think tank meeting in April.** The minister chaired the meeting which will aim at framing a national policy on ecommerce.
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Paytm introduces 'Tap Card' offline payments solution

- One97 Communications Limited, the owner of digital payment major, **Paytm, announced the launch of its offline payments solution - the Paytm Tap Card,** in line with the company's vision to provide seamless payments solutions for non-internet customers.
- For Paytm Tap Card, the Vijay Shekhar Sharma-led company has collaborated with Chennai-based NFC technology company YELDI Softcom.

- This card uses Near Field Communication (NFC) technology to enable safe and convenient digital payments, completely offline at Paytm-issued, NFC PoS terminals, in under a second. To make payments, users can add money from their Paytm account by scanning the QR code on the Tap Card and by authenticating it at any of the add value machines (AVM).

India

Chittaranjan Locomotive Works became the Largest Electric Loco Producer in the World

- **Chittaranjan Locomotive Works became the largest electric loco producer in the world under single roof.**
- Chittaranjan Locomotive Works graduated from being one of the premier loco production units of Indian railways to becoming the largest electric loco producer in the world under single roof.

In a first, Mumbai Police to have 8 women officers as police station in-charge

- **Police announced on Twitter that they are first in the country to have eight women officers as police station in-charge.**
- In April, as thousands of women marched on to Mumbai's Azad Maidan, women police force was more than visible. From all the women DCPs and lower rung staff present on ground zero it was a job well done. More so because there were reports that men could be part of the event wearing veil.

Surat becomes first district in history to have 100 per cent solar powered health centres

- **Surat becomes the first district in the country to have 100 per cent solar powered Primary Health Centers (PHC).** All 52 PHCs in the district are now powered by a solar system.
- With this, Surat becomes the first to set an example for the nation by developing villages that use sustainable forms of energy. This initiative will not only bring down the electricity bill by 40 per cent but also help fight global warming.

Delhi becomes first city to roll-out BS-VI fuel

- In order to combat the rising levels of air pollution, **the Delhi-NCR region on April 1, 2018 began supplying ultra-clean Bharat Stage VI grade fuel, both petrol and diesel.**
- With this, **Delhi became the first city in the country to switch from BS-IV grade fuels to BS-VI.** BS-VI fuel is equivalent to fuel meeting Euro-VI emission norms.

Delhi to become the first state to issue licences with the mother's name

- Delhi has taken on the responsibility of changing this age-old practice. **In a progressive step towards gender equality, Delhi's transport department will soon allow its citizens to provide your mother's name instead of your father's in the driving licence application as per the TOI report.**
- The Delhi RTO has been increasingly updating its provisions. Last year, they developed an automated driving test to bring down corruptive practices in acquiring a permanent driving licence.

IHHC sets up first ICU simulation lab to train nursing staff

- **IHHC, India's premier home healthcare service provider became the first home health care company to set up a dedicated ICU simulation lab** at their Bengaluru facility to train nursing staff.
 - This state of the art simulation lab will offer hands-on training modules and help nursing staff improve the quality of medical and healthcare services to homes.
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PM Modi launches India's first all-electric superfast train engine in Bihar

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 10, 2018 launched India's first 12,000 horsepower electric locomotive from Madhepura locomotive factory of Bihar.**
 - This superfast railway engine was launched during Modi's visit to Bihar to attend the centenary celebrations of the Champaran Satyagraha as a part of "Chalo Champaran Campaign".
 - The theme of the centenary celebrations of the Champaran Satyagraha is "Satyagraha se Swachhagrah".
 - **This all-electric high-speed locomotive was made with the help of French company Alstom under 'Make In India' Project at Madhepura Rail Loco factory of Bihar.**
 - Each double section locomotive has a transport capacity of 6000 tonnes. The heavy haulage locomotives will be used to transport coal and iron ore.
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Diu becomes India's first solar-powered island

- **Diu has become one of the first states in India to run entirely on solar energy.** The island is the tenth least populated district of India with 50 acre of barren land which can be easily used to convert natural resources into energy.
 - Earlier, the district was paying Rs 80 lakh a month to get power from Gujarat. Moreover, there was major electricity loss, since it had to be transported through 25-30 km of transmission lines, supply voltage was affected.
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Dandi March theme for India's first bullet train terminal

- **Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi March will be the theme of Sabarmati Station in Ahmedabad which will be the terminating station of the proposed high-speed rail corridor between Mumbai-Ahmedabad,** a senior official said in April.
 - Passengers boarding the bullet train from Sabarmati Station will have to pay Rs 3,000 to reach Mumbai, he told reporters.
 - It would be the first bullet train station whose design has been finalised by the National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd.
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PM Modi launches India's first wellness centre under Ayushman Bharat Yojana

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April inaugurated the first Health and Wellness Centre in Chhattisgarh's restive Bijapur district** to mark the launch of first phase of national Ayushman Bharat Yojana.
- Under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, the government aims to set up 150000 wellness centres by 2022 that will leverage on comprehensive primary health care for preventive, promotive and curative care. The centre has

been set up in Naxal-infested Jangla village, which is one among the 115 aspiration villages identified by NITI Aayog that lacks specific development parameters.

Integral Coach Factory manufactures India's first paintless Antyodaya coaches

- Taking a giant leap in coach production, the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) has **manufactured the first rake of paintless (exterior) Antyodaya coaches**. The rake comprising 24 coaches, which was handed over to the Southern Railway recently, is operated as a special train between Tambaram and Tirunelveli.
 - The new type of paintless LHB stainless steel general class coaches will be operated as part of an unreserved train for superfast service on dense routes at the 120-kmph speed.
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Delhi CM approves India's first power consumer compensation policy

- **In the first of its kind pro-power consumer policy in the country, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in April approved the power department's policy for compensating consumers for unscheduled power cuts** by the private power distribution companies in Delhi.
 - The Delhi government has sent this policy for final approval to the Delhi Lieutenant Governor, which is set to make the Discoms accountable to the consumers.
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India's first industrial solar microgrid commissioned in Gujarat

- **Swedish-Swiss multinational giant ABB in April announced it has commissioned India's first industrial solar microgrid at its Vadodara manufacturing facility in Gujarat.**
 - Microgrids with integrated battery energy storage allow cutting down of planned and unplanned power outages. When often connected to renewable energy are sources and provide more control to companies on how and when to deploy the stored power. A key benefit is the reduction in overall operational costs and reduced electricity bills.
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AIIMS sets up India's first Virtual Bronchoscopy Navigation system

- **In a first in the country, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in April set up Virtual Bronchoscopy Navigation (VBN),** an advanced facility for diagnosis and treatment of patients with small tumour-like spots in lungs.
 - The VBN system was installed in the Department of Pulmonary Medicine and Sleep Disorders at AIIMS, Karan Madan, additional spokesperson of AIIMS, said.
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In a first, India and Pakistan will jointly take part in SCO war games

- **In a first, India and Pakistan will jointly take part in 'Peace Mission-2018', a multi-nation counter-terror war game,** under the aegis of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Russia in August 2018.
 - Peace Mission-2018 will also see the participation of China, Russia and other SCO countries. The exercise will be held in the Chelyabinsk region of Russia from August 22 to August 29, 2018.
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Appointments

Indu Malhotra, first senior woman advocate to become SC Judge

- In a first, senior advocate Indu Malhotra is set to become the first woman lawyer to be appointed as Supreme Court Judge.
- The Union Law Ministry has reportedly cleared her name for the position. With the decision, Malhotra will be the first woman lawyer to be directly appointed from the Bar as a Judge in the Apex Court. She is expected to be sworn into the new position on April 27, 2018.

Debjani Ghosh appointed as President of NASSCOM

- Debjani Ghosh, former Managing Director of Intel South Asia, was on April 2, 2018 appointed as the President of NASSCOM.
- Ghosh was the first woman to lead Intel India and MAIT (Manufacturers' Association for Information Technology).

World

Turkey launches construction of first-ever nuclear plant

- The President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan along with Russian President Vladimir Putin on April 3, 2018 launched the construction of **Turkey's first-ever nuclear power plant in Mersin region, a large port city on the Mediterranean coast of southern Turkey.**
- The launch of the project was conducted by the two Presidents through video conferencing. The total estimated cost of the power plant would be around 20 billion dollars.

First International conference on Water, Environment held in Kathmandu

- **The first international conference on 'Water, Environment and Climate Change: Knowledge Sharing and Partnership' was inaugurated in Kathmandu, Nepal** on April 10, 2018.
- The conference was inaugurated by Nepal's Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun. Speaking on the occasion, Nanda Bahadur Pun stressed upon the need of water security and said that it should be given the top priority.

World's first microfactory to help tackle e-waste hazard

- Veena Sahajwalla, an Indian-origin scientist in Australia, **launched the world's first microfactory that can transform electronic waste items such as smartphones and laptops into valuable materials for re-use.**
- The e-waste microfactory can help in reducing the rapidly growing problem of vast amounts of electronic waste causing environmental harm.

USFDA approves world's first contact lens that automatically darkens when exposed to light

- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) **approved use of 'Acuvue Oasys Contact Lenses' with Transitions Light Intelligent Technology, world's first contact lens that automatically darkens when exposed to bright light.**
 - It is first of its kind contact lens that incorporates same technology that is used in eyeglasses that automatically darken in the sun.
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Canada, European Union to host world's first female foreign ministers meeting in September 2018

- Canada and the European Union will together host **the world's first female foreign ministers' meeting on September 21, 2018 in Canada.** The meeting will be held for 2 days.
 - The announcement was made by the Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland on April 22, 2018 in Toronto.
 - The female foreign ministers from about 30 countries will be invited to the gathering, which is aimed at deepening global discussion on women's empowerment.
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Sports

Leander Paes becomes most successful doubles player in Davis Cup

- Indian tennis' ageless wonder **Leander Paes in April became the most successful doubles player in the history of Davis Cup** as he combined with Rohan Bopanna to not only grab a record 43rd win but also bring the country back in the tie against China here.
 - Forced to play together by AITA, 44-year-old Paes and Bopanna downed a fighting Chinese pair of Mo Xin Gong and Ze Zhang 5-7 7-6(5) 7-6(3) in the do-or-die doubles rubber of the Asia/Oceania Group I tie.
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Days

April 21 – On April 21, 2018, the first official **World Creativity and Innovation Day (#WCID)** was celebrated.