

# 13 and 14 april National News

# Gopi Thotakura: First Indian Pilot to Embark on Space Tourism with Blue Origin



Gopi Thotakura is making history as the first Indian pilot to venture into space as a tourist, joining Blue Origin's NS-25 mission. His selection highlights a significant milestone in India's space exploration journey, marking a new era for space tourism.

International News

Russia's Successful Angara-A5 Rocket Test Launch



Russia successfully tested its Angara-A5 space rocket for the first time on April 11, 2024. The test launch was conducted from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in the Far East of Russia. In fact, rocket test launches on April 9 and 10 were cancelled due to a malfunction in the pressurization system and a problem with the engine launch-control system.

# MUFG to Acquire 20% Stake in HDB Financial Services, Valuing at \$9-10 Billion Pre-IPO



In a significant move, Japan's MUFG is set to purchase a 20% stake in HDB Financial Services, a subsidiary of India's HDFC Bank. The deal is poised at a valuation of \$9-10 billion before the initial public offering (IPO), making it one of the largest transactions in India's shadow banking sector. HDB Financial, a non-deposit-taking lender, is expected

to command a valuation ranging from \$9 billion to \$12 billion during its IPO, contingent on prevailing market conditions.

#### **Banking News**

### Neobank Revolut India Receives In-Principle Approval for PPI License from RBI



In a significant development, Revolut India, backed by Tiger Global and Softbank, has secured in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to issue Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI). This approval marks a crucial step for Revolut in expanding its presence in the Indian market, enabling the provision of multi-currency forex cards and cross-border remittance services. With this license, Revolut aims to offer Indian consumers a comprehensive range of international and domestic payment solutions on a single digital platform.

#### **Business News**

Adani Green Energy Builds World's Largest Renewable Energy Park in Khavda, Gujarat



Adani Green Energy Limited, an Adani Group company, is building the world's largest renewable energy park in Khavda, Kutch district of Gujarat. The park is spread over 538 square kilometers, which is about five times larger than the total size of the French capital, Paris.

#### Ashneer Grover Ventures into Fintech with ZeroPe Medical Loan App



Ashneer Grover is the co-founder and former managing director of the fintech company BharatPe. After his high-profile exit from BharatPe in 2022, Grover has now ventured into the fintech space again with a new app called ZeroPe.

**Economy News** 

### Moody's Analytics Forecasts India's Economy to Grow by 6.1% in 2024



Moody's Analytics projects a modest uptick in India's economic growth for 2024, estimating a 6.1% expansion, slightly higher than the 6% projected earlier in March. Despite the growth, it remains lower than the 7.7% recorded in 2023. The report highlights concerns regarding inflation, citing India's recent consumer price inflation hovering around 5% with no clear evidence of abating pressure.

#### Appointments News

Sachidananda Mohanty Appointed as Member, University Grants
Commission (UGC)



Sachidananda Mohanty has been appointed as a Member of the University Grants Commission (UGC) for a period of three years with immediate effect. The appointment was made by the Ministry of Higher Education, Government of India, as per a gazette notification.