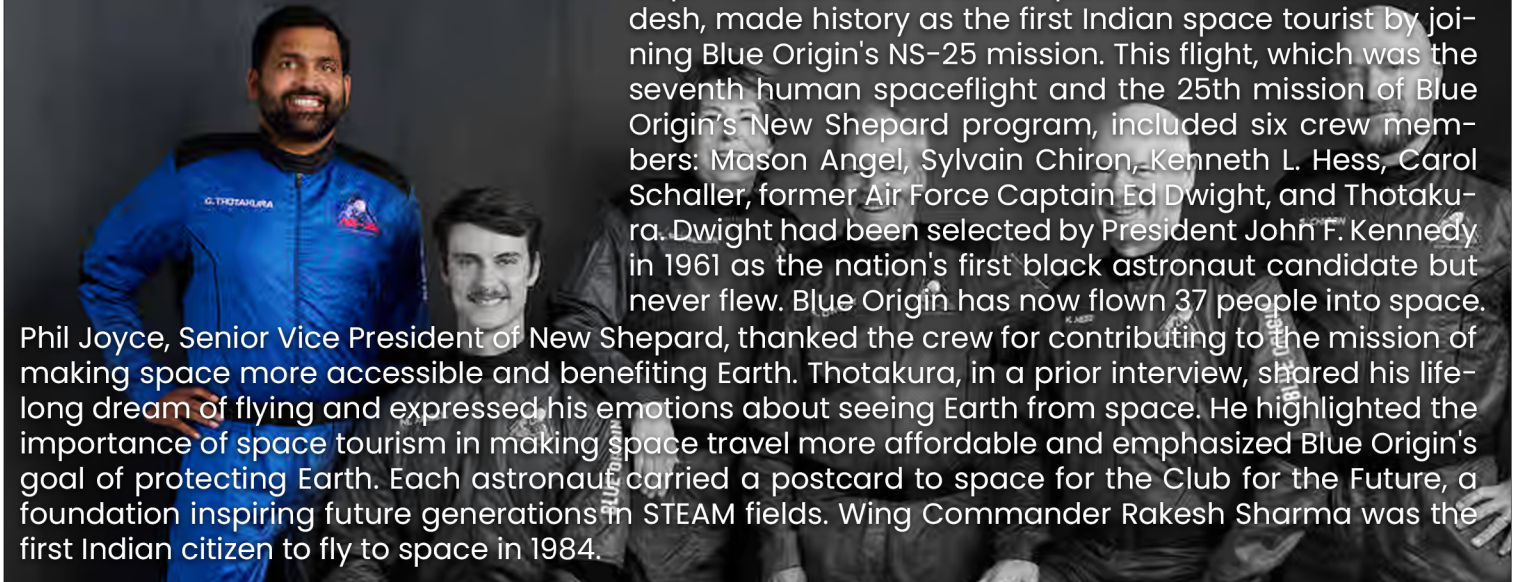


## Gopi Thotakura Becomes First Indian Space Tourist on Blue Origin's Historic NS-25 Mission



Gopi Thotakura, an Indian expatriate born in Andhra Pradesh, made history as the first Indian space tourist by joining Blue Origin's NS-25 mission. This flight, which was the seventh human spaceflight and the 25th mission of Blue Origin's New Shepard program, included six crew members: Mason Angel, Sylvain Chiron, Kenneth L. Hess, Carol Schaller, former Air Force Captain Ed Dwight, and Thotakura. Dwight had been selected by President John F. Kennedy in 1961 as the nation's first black astronaut candidate but never flew. Blue Origin has now flown 37 people into space.

Phil Joyce, Senior Vice President of New Shepard, thanked the crew for contributing to the mission of making space more accessible and benefiting Earth. Thotakura, in a prior interview, shared his life-long dream of flying and expressed his emotions about seeing Earth from space. He highlighted the importance of space tourism in making space travel more affordable and emphasized Blue Origin's goal of protecting Earth. Each astronaut carried a postcard to space for the Club for the Future, a foundation inspiring future generations in STEAM fields. Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma was the first Indian citizen to fly to space in 1984.

## How the BJP Has Politicized Every Aspect of Life: Food, Clothing, Prayers, and Population



In the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the BJP has deeply communalized various aspects of life, including food, clothing, and voting. Unlike the 2014 and 2019 campaigns, which masked communal undertones with themes of development and security, the 2024 campaign features explicit communal rhetoric and attacks on Muslims and the Opposition. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking a third term, has intensified efforts to rally Hindu voters by fostering insecurity and depicting political rivals, mostly Hindu, as anti-Hindu. This tactic is particularly crucial in Uttar Pradesh, a key state with 80 seats that significantly impacts the election results. BJP leaders have actively participated in this communal strategy to strengthen Hindu support against the Opposition.

## Israeli Defense Minister Challenges Netanyahu's Gaza Strategy Amid Intensifying Conflict



As the conflict in Gaza intensifies, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant has publicly challenged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's approach. Gallant advocates for a strategy that balances military action with long-term political solutions and humanitarian considerations, whereas Netanyahu prioritizes a hardline military strategy aimed at immediate security. This internal rift highlights differing views on how to handle the conflict and may significantly impact both Israeli politics and the future of Gaza.

## Former Envoys Criticize India's Key Omissions in Response to Army Veteran's Killing in Gaza

Former envoys have criticized the Indian government's response to the killing of an army veteran in Gaza, highlighting significant omissions in the official statements. They argue that India's reaction lacked crucial elements that are typically expected in such diplomatic communications, raising concerns about the country's stance and approach to international incidents involving its citizens.



## Norway's Wealth Fund Drops Adani Ports Due to Human Rights Concerns in Conflict Areas

Norway's Sovereign Wealth Fund has decided to exclude Adani Ports from its investments due to concerns over the company's involvement in areas with significant human rights risks, particularly in war zones. This move highlights the fund's commitment to ethical investment practices and its stance against companies that may be linked to human rights violations.

## 127 Bangladeshi Refugees Seek Shelter in Mizoram Amid Military Crackdown on Insurgents



This week, Mizoram received at least 127 Bangladeshi nationals of Kuki-Chin origin fleeing the Chittagong Hills Tracts (CHT) due to a military offensive against the Kuki-Chin National Army (KNA), an insurgent group demanding a separate state since its establishment in 2017. These refugees, mostly from the Bawm tribe, have entered Mizoram's Chamdur 'P' village, bringing the total number of refugees from CHT in the state to 1,368. Additionally, around 95 people from Myanmar's Chin state have sought refuge in Mizoram's Lawngtlai and Khawzawl districts, escaping forced conscription by the Arakan Army. The Mizoram government has provided immediate relief and humanitarian assistance to these refugees.

## Five Concerns Shrouding the Transparency and Operations of the Election Commission



Election commissioner Arun Goel's resignation, weeks before the Lok Sabha elections are due with no clear reasons communicated, has once again cast a cloud on the transparency and functioning of the Election Commission of India.

1. Goel's resignation raises transparency concerns in Election Commission.
2. Vacancies in Election Commission exacerbate operational challenges before elections.
3. Supreme Court criticizes Goel's swift appointment process in 2022.
4. New law for appointing Election Commissioners raises concerns over autonomy.
5. Lavasa's resignation after dissent highlights internal governance issues.

## A Showdown in the BJP and Congress Election Manifestos



Issue	BJP Manifesto	Congress Manifesto
Healthcare	Strengthen infrastructure, expand access, health insurance	Enhance public healthcare, increase expenditure, universal coverage
Economy	Focus on growth, job creation, "Make in India", infrastructure	Inclusive growth, job creation, social welfare, poverty alleviation
Agriculture	Support farmers, agricultural reforms, MSP enhancement	Repeal contentious laws, strengthen MSP, farmer-friendly policies
National Security	Strong stance on security, border protection, counterterrorism	Comprehensive strategy, diplomatic efforts, defense modernization
Environment	Sustainable development, conservation, renewable energy	Environmental protection, climate change mitigation, sustainability

The ongoing national election in India holds significant socio-economic and political implications for the country's democracy and constitution. Both the Indian National Congress (INC) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have distinct ideological approaches in their manifestos. While the BJP focuses on 'inclusive growth and development', the INC stresses the importance of social justice and equity, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact.



### A Public Manifesto for India's Children's Education

As political parties gear up for elections, civil society groups advocate for children's education with a public manifesto. This initiative highlights legal entitlements and pressing issues in education, including teacher shortages, contractual employment, and inadequate funding. Despite some acknowledgment in party manifestos, effective implementation is crucial for tangible change.

### Study Reveals Increased Spending with UPI Adoption in India

A study by IIT Delhi surveyed 276 people about their spending habits using the UPI system. It revealed that 74% reported increased spending after adopting UPI. The convenience and accessibility of UPI, unlike cash and credit cards, significantly impact consumer behavior. The study found 91.5% satisfaction and 95.2% convenience rates among users, who use UPI for essentials and leisure activities. This highlights UPI's role in reshaping spending habits in India's digital economy.



**SUNIL SHARMA**  
Senior advisor & Consultant (Goboundary)



### Investors Are Flocking to Tier 2 Cities in India :

Investors are increasingly drawn to tier 2 cities in India for real estate investment due to their potential for high returns and growth. These cities offer affordable properties compared to tier 1 cities, along with improving infrastructure and economic development. With lower competition, investors see opportunities to capitalize on the rising demand for residential and commercial properties. This trend is driven by factors such as rapid urbanization, government initiatives, and the expansion of industries into these emerging urban centers.

**Neeraj Chopra Wins Gold in Javelin at Federation Cup 2024 in Bhubaneswar**

Indian athlete Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal in the men's javelin throw with a modest 82.27m effort at the Federation Cup 2024 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. This was his first competition in India since becoming an Olympic champion three years ago. DP Manu secured silver with a throw of 82.06m, and Uttam Balasaheb Patil took bronze with 78.39m. Kishore Jena finished fifth with 75.49m. Chopra, who recently competed at the Doha Diamond League, opted to skip his final two throws due to insufficient recovery time.



**Indian Athlete Parvej Khan Shines at NCAA SEC Outdoor Championship**

Parvej Khan, a 19-year-old Indian athlete, captured headlines by winning gold in the 1500m race at the NCAA SEC Outdoor Track and Field Championship in the United States with a timing of 3:42.73. This victory marks his second medal of the tournament, having also secured a bronze in the 800m race. The NCAA SEC Championships, an annual collegiate athletics competition, features top athletes from southeastern U.S. universities. Parvej, a freshman on a scholarship at the University of Florida, represents the Florida Gators in athletics.



**Tamil Nadu's Shyaamnikhil Attains Title of India's 85th Chess Grandmaster**

In a significant milestone, P Shyamnikhil, hailing from Tamil Nadu, has become India's 85th Grandmaster (GM) in chess. Achieving his final GM norm at the 2024 Dubai Police Masters Chess Tournament, the 31-year-old fulfilled a journey that began at the age of eight. Despite facing a decade-long quest for the third norm, Shyamnikhil's persistence and skill prevailed, solidifying his place among India's chess elite. Born in Nagercoil in 1992, his early talent led to earning the International Master (IM) title in 2011.

**Delhi Court Directs Formal Charges Against Brij Bhushan Singh**



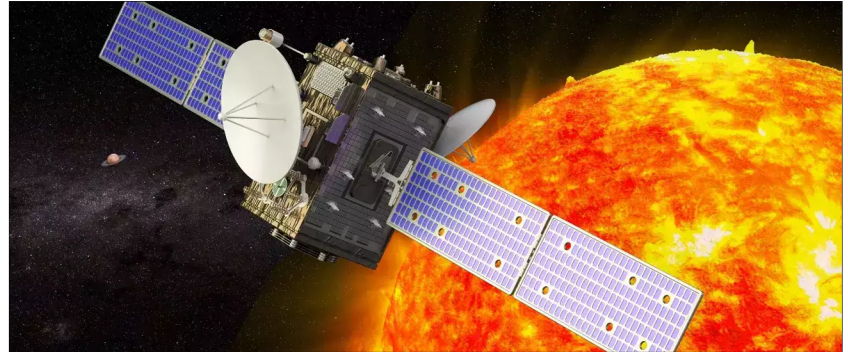
A Delhi court has formally charged BJP MP Brij Bhushan Singh with sexual harassment and outrageous modesty, based on allegations from five women wrestlers. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Priyanka Rajpoot of Rouse Avenue Court found sufficient evidence under Sections 354 and 354A of the Indian Penal Code. The charges stem from incidents involving the named victims. Singh will now face trial for these offenses, pending further proceedings and a detailed order from the court.



## Man Controls Devices with Neuralink Brain Implant

Elon Musk's neurotechnology company, Neuralink Corp, announced a groundbreaking achievement on May 8, 2024. They successfully implanted a Neuralink chip into Noland Arbaugh, a 29-year-old quadriplegic. This chip allows him to control his laptop and other devices with his mind. Since the surgery, Arbaugh can play computer games, browse the internet, and perform various activities on his Macbook. He has even played Mario Kart on a Nintendo Switch, a feat impossible since his spinal injury. This development marks a significant leap in merging human thoughts with technology.

## Indian Satellites Resilient During Powerful Solar Storms



During recent powerful solar storms that disrupted signals globally and caused auroras in unusual locations, Indian satellites, including Aditya L-1 and Chandrayaan, remained operational, reported ISRO. Originating from the sun's highly active region AR13664, the storms unleashed intense solar flares, including multiple 'X' and 'M' class flares. ISRO's observatories documented the disturbances caused by Coronal Mass Ejections and solar flares, marking the most potent solar activity since 2003.

## Top IT Companies in India



## India's IT Firms Grapple with AI Revolution and Shrinking Outsourcing Demand

India's IT firms, once outsourcing hubs for US companies, now face a crisis as investors favor AI-focused ventures. Lagging in AI development, they risk obsolescence. Deven Choksey warns of outdated models. Despite corrections, Indian tech stocks remain overvalued amid revenue slow-downs, contrasting with global tech giants' innovation investments.



## Microsoft's DNA Data Storage Experiment

Microsoft is pioneering a groundbreaking approach to data storage by using synthetic DNA. This method involves converting digital information into DNA sequences composed of the four nucleotide bases: adenine (A), thymine (T), cytosine (C), and guanine (G). The process includes encoding binary data into DNA, synthesizing the DNA strands, and storing them. To retrieve the data, the DNA is sequenced and decoded back into its original digital format. In collaboration with the University of Washington, Microsoft successfully stored and retrieved over 200 megabytes of data using this technology. DNA storage offers immense data density and durability, with the potential to last for thousands of years. Despite challenges such as high costs and slower read/write speeds, this innovative approach holds promise for the future of data archiving.

## Gauahar Khan Criticizes Voting Process



Actress Gauahar Khan expressed frustration over the disorganized and confusing voting process during the fifth phase of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. She criticized the Election Commission for not accepting Aadhaar cards as valid ID for voting, which led to backlash from netizens who pointed out that Aadhaar isn't proof of citizenship. Despite the initial issues, Khan later managed to vote at a different polling booth by finding her name listed at an old address.

## 'Actor Ki Jaat Insecure Hai,' Sharmin



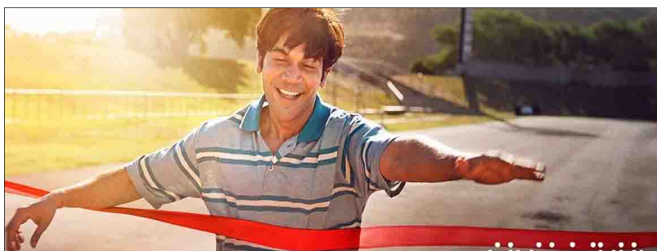
Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Heeramandi on Netflix faced mixed reviews, with criticism over historical inaccuracies and casting. Bhansali and his niece, Sharmin Segal, who plays Alamzeb, were heavily criticized. A viral video showed Sharmin and Aditi disagreeing, with Sharmin calling actors inherently insecure, while Aditi emphasized their humanity. In the clip, Sharmin remarked, "Actor ki jaat insecure hoti hai".

## Scarlett Johansson's Concerns with ChatGPT Voice

OpenAI announced plans to stop using one of its ChatGPT voices, "Sky," after Scarlett Johansson noted its similarity to her own voice. Johansson, who voiced an AI in the film "Her," declined an offer from OpenAI to use her voice. She expressed shock and disbelief when she heard the Sky demo, prompting her to hire lawyers. OpenAI clarified that Sky's voice was from a different actress and was not meant to mimic Johansson. Following Johansson's concerns, OpenAI agreed to pause the use of Sky's voice.



## Akshay Kumar Praises Rajkummar Rao's Performance in Srikanth



Rajkummar Rao's latest film Srikanth has received widespread acclaim. Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar praised Rao's exceptional performance, calling the film "a must-watch" and describing Rao as "simply brilliant" on social media. In Srikanth, Rao plays visually impaired industrialist Srikanth Bolla, impressing both audiences and critics.

## Unexpected Eid Discount Delights Navratri Meal Orderer in Bengaluru



In India, festivals drive a surge in shopping, with online platforms offering special deals. Recently, a business owner in Bengaluru experienced a heartwarming surprise when ordering a special Navratri meal from Swiggy and receiving an unexpected Eid discount. This gesture of inclusivity delighted Udit Pal, who shared the moment on social media. The incident highlights how cross-festival promotions can bring joy and unity, showcasing the diverse and inclusive spirit of Indian celebrations.



## Investing in the Future of Automotive Sector

SBI Mutual Fund has unveiled the SBI Automotive Opportunities Fund, an open-ended equity scheme designed to capitalize on opportunities within the automotive and related sectors. The fund, which opened for subscription on May 17 and will close on May 31, targets companies such as original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), auto component manufacturers, and those involved in electric mobility and auto exports. The fund's investment universe aligns with the basic industry classification by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), featuring 134 companies across various automotive segments.

## Deepak Shenoy Disputes High Tax Claims in Real Estate

Deepak Shenoy, CEO of Capitalmind.in, countered concerns about high taxes in real estate following a broker's queries to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Shenoy argued that taxes in real estate aren't as high as perceived, citing benefits such as offsetting long-term capital gains by buying a house. He highlighted factors like stamp duty, GST, and interest deductions on housing loans that mitigate the tax burden. Shenoy compared property taxes in India favorably to those in other countries, emphasizing the privileged tax treatment for real estate businesses. He concluded by contrasting tax implications for salaried individuals versus consultants.



## RBI's Gold Acquisition Strategy

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is adopting a strategy akin to Indian households safeguarding their wealth by actively acquiring gold reserves. This move reflects prudence as it aims to shield against economic turmoil and enhance financial stability. With gold reserves now at 817 tonnes, driven by escalating global tensions and inflation, central banks worldwide are diversifying reserves. India's stock market fell continuously for six days, causing a loss of Rs 7 lakh crore, prompting households to turn to real estate for savings.

## Director's Desk

### SUMIT BHRIYA

Founder & CEO  
(Goboundary)

## Advancements in Urban Development and Infrastructure in India :

Over the last decade, urban development and infrastructure in India have seen transformative growth. Major initiatives like the Smart Cities Mission and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) have driven modernization in urban centers. Enhanced public transport systems, improved road networks, and the expansion of metro rail projects have eased mobility. Significant investments in affordable housing have addressed urban housing shortages. Furthermore, sustainable development practices, including green building and renewable energy integration, have been prioritized. These advancements have not only boosted economic growth but also improved the quality of life for millions of urban residents across the country.