

CURRENT GA

FOR NABARD 2024 BATCH

RBI LAUNCHES PRAVAAH PORTAL

RETAIL DIRECT APP
& FINTECH REPOSITORY
TO STREAMLINE
FINANCIAL PROCESSES



**DD Kisan channel to launch
two AI anchor Krish and
Bhoomi on 26 May 2024**

MAY 15th- 31st

CAUTION

1. Do not forget to solve Power Play tests based on application of it in the portal
2. Until you practice what you have studied and cannot apply in question it is of no use
3. Strictly advised to solve power play test
4. Prepare hand written notes for the PDF in 2-3 pages for quick revision during exam

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1 National News

1.1 Bharat Pavilion Unveiled at the 77th Cannes Film Festival

- Inauguration of the **Bharat Pavilion**, formerly known as the **India Pavilion**, marked a significant moment at the **77th Cannes Film Festival**.
- The renaming reflects India's commitment to traditional storytelling while seeking global collaborations.

1.2 Special Commemorative Coin Released on MDL Shipyard 250th Anniversary

- Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane unveiled a **commemorative Rs 250 coin** during the celebration of the **250th anniversary of Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL)** in New Delhi on May 14, 2024.

1.3 IndiaSkills 2024: Unveiling India's Premier Skill Competition

- The grand commencement of **IndiaSkills 2024** took place at **Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi** on 15 May 2024.
- Over the span of four days, this esteemed competition will assess the proficiency of students across 61 diverse categories, providing a platform for showcasing talent at both national and international levels.

1.4 Shinku La tunnel Work to Begin By Mid-September

- The ongoing construction of the **Shinku La tunnel** and other key projects signifies India's commitment to enhancing connectivity and security along its borders, especially in the face of the prolonged military standoff with China.
- **Shinku-La Tunnel**, also known as **Shinkula Tunnel** or **Shingo-La Tunnel**, is a planned motorable tunnel **linking Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul Valley and Ladakh's Zaskar Valley in Northern India**.

1.5 Constitution Bench Verdict Binding On Lesser Benches: SC

- The Supreme Court of India made a big decision that said decisions made by the Constitution bench are more important than decisions made by smaller benches.

1.6 FSSAI Warns Against Using Calcium Carbide For Fruit Ripening

- A notice from the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** to traders and Food Business Operators (FBOs) directly targets the **illegal use of calcium carbide to make fruit ripen**.
- **Acetylene gas** is **made by calcium carbide**, which was once commonly used to make fruits like mangoes ripen.
- This gas has harmful elements of arsenic and phosphorus, which are commonly called "**masala**" and are bad for people's health. Exposure can cause signs like

dizziness and irritation, as well as more serious problems like vomiting and sores on the skin.

- The **Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011**, make it clear that **calcium carbide can't be used to ripen food**.

1.7 Gopi Thotakura Makes History as First Indian Space Tourist

- In a groundbreaking moment for space tourism, Indian expatriate **Gopi Thotakura** joined the ranks of space explorers as the **first Indian to embark on a journey beyond Earth's atmosphere**.
- The **NS-25 mission, part of Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin program**, saw Thotakura and five other crew members lift off aboard the New Shepard spacecraft from a private ranch in West Texas.

1.8 Student Enrollment Under SC Category Grows By 44%

- The **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)** has reported significant increases in **student enrollment** under various categories from **2014-15 to 2021-22**. According to data released on Saturday, **enrollment of Scheduled Caste (SC) students rose by 44%, from 4.61 million to 6.62 million**.

1.9 Artara'24 Celebrates Indian Cultural Diversity in Dubai

- The **Artara'24 Fine Arts Exhibition and Competition** has made its mark in **Dubai** as a prestigious platform for discovering and nurturing emerging artistic talents from India. The event aimed to uncover hidden artistic gems, with a particular focus on the Indian talent residing in Dubai.

1.10 DAHD & UNDP MoU on Digitalisation of Animal Vaccine Cold Chain Management

- The **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD)** under the Union **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** India to **digitalize vaccine cold chain management, enhance communication planning, and build capacity**.

1.11 Cabinet Approves Over Rs 10,300 Crore for IndiaAI Mission

- The **Cabinet** has greenlit an ambitious financial allocation of over **Rs 10,300 crore** for the **IndiaAI Mission**, aimed at fortifying India's AI innovation ecosystem.
- Spearheaded by a **public-private partnership model**, this significant investment over the **next five years** is poised to catalyze various strategic initiatives, including compute infrastructure expansion, startup empowerment, and ethical AI deployment.

1.12 India to Facilitate First-Ever Focused Working Group Discussions on Antarctic Tourism

- **India** is set to play a pivotal role in facilitating the **first-ever focused discussions on regulating tourism in Antarctica** at the **46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM)** and the 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP).
- The **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa**, under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**, and the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat will organise these meetings in Kochi, Kerala, from May 20 to May 30, 2024.

1.13 Doordarshan's DD Kisan Embraces AI Revolution with 'Krish and Bhoomi'

- As the **Doordarshan channel DD Kisan** marks its **9th anniversary** on 26 May 2024, it is set to embark on a remarkable journey by **introducing Krish and Bhoomi**, the **first AI anchors in India's government broadcasting history**.

1.14 Mission ISHAN: Streamlining India's Airspace for Enhanced Efficiency

- **India** is embarking on **Mission ISHAN**, aimed at **consolidating its fragmented airspace management into a single, unified system headquartered in Nagpur**. This move promises to revolutionize air traffic management, benefitting both airlines and passengers.

1.15 Jyoti Ratre Becomes India's Oldest Woman to Conquer Mount Everest

- **Jyoti Ratre**, an entrepreneur and fitness enthusiast **from Madhya Pradesh**, has etched her name in history by **becoming the oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest**.

1.16 Dissolution of Food and Nutrition Board: Rationalizing Government Bodies

- The **Food and Nutrition Board (FNB)**, a technical branch of the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD)** responsible for providing logistical support to community nutrition programs, has been **officially dissolved** as part of the government's plan to rationalize various bodies.

1.17 India Assumes Chair Of Colombo Process For 2024-26

- **India** has taken on the **chairmanship of the Colombo Process** for the **first time since the forum's establishment in 2003**.
- The **Colombo Process is a regional consultative forum** consisting of **12 member states from South and Southeast Asia** focused on the management of overseas employment and the **protection of migrant workers**.

1.18 Mangroves in South India, Sri Lanka Labeled 'Critically Endangered'

- Coastal mangroves in Tamil Nadu, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives were recently rated as “critically endangered” by the International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN).

1.19 Adani Ports Becomes First Adani Group Company to Join Sensex

- The Adani Group's Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) will be added to the Sensex on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) on June 24.
- With this important step forward, APSEZ is the first company under the Adani Group's control to join the Sensex, replacing the technology firm Wipro.

1.20 La Nina Expected Later This Year, Impacting Global Weather

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) recently said that the upcoming monsoon season in India would have above-normal rainfall. They said this was because “favourable” La Nina conditions were expected by August and September.
- The IMD also said that El Niño conditions have been getting weaker since the beginning of the year.

1.21 Supreme Court Exempts Lawyers From Consumer Act Liability

- On 14 May 2024, the Supreme Court has delivered a landmark judgment exempting lawyers from liability under the Consumer Protection Act of 1986.

2 International News

2.1 Indonesia Evacuates Hundreds Near Erupting Volcano

- Hundreds of residents near Mount Ibu, an active volcano on Halmahera island in eastern Indonesia, have been evacuated following a significant increase in volcanic activity.

2.2 India Risks US Sanctions Over Chabahar Port Deal with Iran

- India has signed a 10-year agreement to develop and operate Iran's strategic Chabahar Port to strengthen trade ties with Central Asia and Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan.

2.3 India and Britain Reaffirm Commitment to FTA at Annual Strategic Dialogue

- India and the UK have reaffirmed their commitment to concluding a mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement (FTA) during the annual UK-India Strategic Dialogue in London.

2.4 Pakistan Successfully Tests Precision-Guided 'Fatah-II' Rocket

2.5 Africa Launches Lab Network, Cholera Taskforce To Contain Disease

- In April 2024, health officials from **14 Eastern African countries met in Kenya** to start two big public health projects with help from the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).
- Two of these projects are **RISLNET (the Eastern Africa Regional Integrated Surveillance and Laboratory Network)** and the **Eastern Africa Regional Cholera Taskforce**.

2.6 Armenia, Azerbaijan Agree On Disputed Border Sections In Nagorno-Karabakh

- Recently, **Armenia and Azerbaijan** came to a deal on several border areas in the **Nagorno-Karabakh region** that were being disputed. This agreement is a big step toward ending problems that have been going on for decades.
- **Nagorno-Karabakh** is a **landlocked area in the South Caucasus** that has been the center of a long-running **dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan** ever since the Soviet Union broke up.
- The area is **mostly made up of native Armenians**, but it is **officially part of Azerbaijan**.

2.7 Cryptosporidium Parasite Found In UK Drinking Water, Causes Diarrhoea Outbreak

- The **Cryptosporidium parasite** that is found in the local drinking water is linked to the spread. Other cases of diarrhea and vomiting in the area are still being looked into, and more proven cases are likely to come up.

2.8 Iran President's Death: A Spark in Tinderbox – Geopolitical Impact Explained

- **Iran** mourns its **President Ebrahim Raisi**, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, and other officials who were **killed in a helicopter crash** in northwest Iran.

2.9 Lai Ching-te Sworn in as New Taiwan President, Urges China to Halt Military Intimidation

- **Lai Ching-te** was sworn in as **Taiwan's new President** in a ceremony on Monday after winning the election earlier this year.

2.10 Spain Becomes 99th Member of International Solar Alliance

- **Spain** has officially become the **99th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)**.

2.11 EU Approves World's First Major AI Law

- The **European Union** has given the final **green light to the AI Act**, marking a historic step in regulating artificial intelligence.
- This groundbreaking legislation establishes comprehensive rules to ensure trust, transparency, and accountability in AI technologies while fostering innovation within Europe.

2.12 World's Highest Observatory Inaugurated in Chile by University of Tokyo

- The **University of Tokyo** has **inaugurated the Atacama Observatory (TAO)**, which has been awarded a Guinness World Record for **being the highest observatory in the world**.
- Situated at a staggering **5,640 meters above sea level** on the summit of Cerro Chajnantor in the Antofagasta Region of Chile, TAO stands as a testament to human ingenuity and determination.

2.13 World Bank Report: 'Water For Shared Prosperity'

- The **World Bank's report, 'Water For Shared Prosperity,'** unveiled at the **10th World Water Forum**, delineates the critical role of water in fostering equitable societies amidst global water access disparities exacerbated by population growth, urbanization, and climate change.
- It highlights the urgency of comprehensive strategies to ensure inclusive water security worldwide.

2.14 Ghana Partners With Reliance Jio Arm And Others For Telecom Infrastructure

- **Ghana's Next-Gen Infrastructure Company (NGIC) collaborates with Reliance Jio's subsidiary, Tech Mahindra, and Nokia** to bolster its 4G and 5G capabilities.
- With a focus on emulating India's telecom success, Ghana aims to enhance connectivity and digital services across various sectors.



2.15 China Proposes 'One Person, One File' Surveillance Escalation

- **"One Person, One File" (OPOF)** is a program suggested by the government of Shanghai that would **make digital surveillance and censorship much stricter in China**.
- According to experts, the plan includes **installing more facial recognition cameras** and making detailed personal profiles for every resident.

2.16 NATO Border Nations Plan 'Drone Wall' Against Russia

- **Six NATO countries—Finland, Norway, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—**are planning to **build a coordinated drone defence system** because of increased security worries and tensions along their borders with Russia.
- The **goal of this project**, which is often called the **"drone wall,"** is to **make the border safer from possible threats** like military provocations and drug trafficking.

2.17 G7 Commits to Net Zero Emissions by 2050

- The leaders of the **G7** have recently kept their word to reach **net-zero emissions by 2050**.

2.18 Maldives To Launch India's RuPay Service Amid Bilateral Tensions

- The **Maldives** wants to make its own currency, the Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR), stronger, so it has announced **plans to accept India's RuPay payment service**.
- This is a step forward in working together financially, even though there have been political problems between India and the Maldives lately because President Mohamed Muizzu supported China.

2.19 1st Human Case Of 'Bird Flu' Reported In Australia

- A child who came back to Victoria from India in March was the **first person in Australia to get the H5N1 bird flu**.
- **Avian influenza**, also called **"bird flu,"** is a **very contagious virus** that **affects many types of birds**, both wild and tame. It mostly spreads through direct touch or places that are contaminated with germs.
- **People can get infected with the H5N1 type** and get very sick from it, but this doesn't happen very often. Other strains, like H7N7, which is more common in Australia, have mostly harmed poultry.

2.20 Norway, Ireland and Spain to Recognize Palestinian State

- Recent news reports say that **Spain, Ireland, and Norway** plan to formally **declare Palestine as a state** on May 28.

2.21 NASA Captures Yin-Yang Crater On Turkey's Mount Nemrut

- **NASA's** International Space Station recently took a unique picture of a **strange hole on Mount Nemrut in Turkey**, which is a **dormant stratovolcano**.

- As seen in the picture, the crater was split in half, making it look like the Chinese yin-yang sign.

2.22 Venezuela Becomes First Country To Lose All Glaciers

- **Venezuela is the first modern country to lose all of its glaciers**, which is a huge change in the environment.
- New research shows that the **Humboldt glacier in the Andes**, which used to be very big, has shrunk to less than 2 hectares, which means it is no longer a glacier but an ice field.

2.23 UAE Launches 10-Year Blue Residency Visa for Environmentalists

- Introducing the **Blue Residency card** in 2023 was a big step for the **United Arab Emirates** to show its **dedication to protecting the environment**.
- Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, the Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, announced this new visa program that gives people who have made outstanding efforts to protect the environment the chance to live there for 10 years.

3 State News

3.1 Manipur Takes Steps To Save Endangered Meitei Ponies

- In an important joint effort, the **Government of Manipur**, along with several equestrian groups and state offices, has taken steps to keep the **Manipuri Pony**, also called the **Meitei Sagol**, from going extinct.

3.2 What is the Sixth Schedule Demand of Ladakh?

- **Ladakh** should be added to the **Sixth Schedule** of the Indian Constitution. This demand has gained a lot of support in recent years.
- The **Sixth Schedule** lists parts of the Indian Constitution that allow tribal places in **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram** to be managed in a way that protects their rights. One of these rules is the **development of Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)**, which can make laws about things like land, forests, and agriculture.

3.3 Assam's DRIMS: Revolutionizing Disaster Management

- **Assam** has taken a significant step towards enhancing its **disaster management capabilities** with the launch of the **Disaster Reporting and Information Management System (DRIMS)**.
- This state-of-the-art digital platform, an initiative of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), aims to streamline the reporting and assessment of damages caused by various disasters, enabling prompt disbursement of aid to those affected.

3.4 Karnataka Mandates 33% Reservation for Women in Govt Contract Jobs

- The **Karnataka government** has mandated a **33% reservation for women** in **outsourced government jobs**.

3.5 Goa Statehood Day 2024, Celebrating the Birth of a State

- **Goa Statehood Day** is celebrated annually on **May 30** to commemorate the day when **Goa attained statehood in 1987**.
- This occasion marks the recognition of Goa as a separate state within the Indian union, distinct from the Union Territory it was previously part of.

3.6 Jaisalmer's Desert Park Sanctuary for the Majestic Great Indian Bustard

- In a heartening development, the annual waterhole census conducted in the **National Desert Park, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**, has revealed a significant presence of the **critically endangered Great Indian Bustard**.

3.7 Kerala Plans Year-Round Calendar to Combat Nipah Virus

- The **government of Kerala** has said that they **will be making** a special **action calendar to stop Nipah virus breakouts**, which have happened many times in the state.

3.8 New Algal Species Discovered in Kerala's Western Ghats by Phycologists

- The researchers Merin Grace Jiji, Binoy T. Thomas, and Thomas V.P. found this **new species of algae in the forests of the Kumbhavurutti region in the Kollam district**. They have **called it Oedocladium sahyadricum**.
- The Western Ghats have unique weather and soil conditions that make it possible for a wide range of land microalgae to grow.

4 Defence News

4.1 Indian Army Set to Receive Russian Igla-S Air Defence Systems

- The **Indian Army** is poised to elevate its air defense capabilities with the impending delivery of the **Russian Igla-S Very Short Range Air Defense (VSHORAD) systems**.

4.2 Indian Army Sets Up Highest Tank Repair Facilities in Ladakh

- The **Indian Army** built two of the **world's tallest tank repair centres** so that these armoured units can keep working.
- These sites are located in **Nyoma** and the **DBO Sector** and work at heights above 14,500 feet.

4.3 CDS Gen Anil Chauhan Attends Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024

- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) **Gen Anil Chauhan** attended the '**Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024**' on May 22, 2024, emphasizing the critical importance of enhancing India's cyber defence capabilities. .
- **Conducted by the Defence Cyber Agency** from May 20 to May 24, 2024, this comprehensive cyber defence exercise aims to bolster collaboration and integration among military and national agencies, advancing the nation's cyber defence readiness.

4.4 India Successfully Tests Anti-Radiation Missile 'Rudram-II'

- **India** has achieved a significant milestone with the **successful flight test of the indigenously developed anti-radiation missile Rudram-II**.
- Fired from a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft off the coast of Odisha, this missile is poised to become a vital asset for the Indian Armed Forces, serving as a force multiplier in **suppression of enemy air defenses (SEAD) missions**.

4.5 Agnikul Cosmos' Agnibaan – World's First 3D Printed Space Rocket Engine

- **Chennai-based startup Agnikul Cosmos** has achieved a remarkable feat by **successfully launching the world's first space rocket with a single-piece three-dimensional (3D) printed engine**.
- After four failed attempts, Agnikul triumphed on its fifth try, launching its own rocket, named **Agnibaan – SOrTeD**.
- This launch marks **India's first semi-cryogenic engine-powered rocket**, which was **completely designed and manufactured indigenously**.

4.6 IAF Contingent Joins 'Red Flag 24' Exercise in Alaska

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has joined a 16-day **multi-nation mega military exercise in Alaska, United States**, designed to provide realistic training to participating forces in a simulated combat environment.
- The exercise, known as '**Red Flag 24**', commenced on May 30 and will continue until June 14.

4.7 Project Udbhav to Revive Ancient patterns in Military Culture

- Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and other top military officials were there on a special day to mark the start of "**Project UDBHAV**."
- The event **took place at the Indian Military Heritage Festival**.
- This project is an **innovative partnership between the Indian Army and the United Services Institution of India (USI)**.
- Its **goal is to combine India's extensive historical military knowledge with modern strategy methods**.

4.8 Indian Navy Ships Arrive in Manila for Exercise

- The **INS Delhi, INS Shakti, and INS Kiltan** ships of the Indian Navy recently **arrived in Manila**.
- They are on a major visit to strengthen marine ties between India and the Philippines.
- The **Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with the Philippine Navy** is the most important part of the trip.

5 Economy News & Banking News

5.1 India's Urban Unemployment Rate Declines to 6.7% in March Quarter

- The **22nd Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** conducted by the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** revealed that the **unemployment rate** among individuals **aged 15 years and above in urban areas of India decreased to 6.7%** in the January-March 2024 period.

5.2 RBI Bond Repurchase: Banks Refuse Losses, Repurchased Amount Significantly Below Notified

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** **repurchased government bonds** worth only **Rs 2,069 crore out of the notified Rs 60,000 crore**.
- Banks resisted selling at lower prices, resulting in limited acceptance. The bonds, purchased during the pandemic at higher rates, posed a challenge for the RBI, prompting smaller buyback amounts.

5.3 UN Revises India's 2024 Economic Growth Projection Upwards to Nearly 7%

- The **United Nations** has revised **India's economic growth forecast for 2024**, projecting a robust expansion driven by strong public investment and resilient private consumption.
- **India's economy** is now expected to **grow by 6.9% in 2024, up from the 6.2%** forecast in January, with a **6.6% growth rate projected for 2025**.
- This **optimistic outlook** highlights India's role in bolstering South Asia's overall economic performance.

5.4 India's Internet Economy Likely to Reach \$1 Trillion by 2030: Experts

- **India's internet economy** is poised for significant growth, with industry experts predicting it will **reach \$1 trillion by 2030**.

5.5 GST Portal Implements Machine Registration for Pan Masala and Tobacco Manufacturers to Curb Evasion

- In an effort to combat tax evasion in the pan masala and tobacco sectors, the **GST portal** has introduced new forms and procedures for manufacturers to register their machinery and report monthly inputs and outputs.

5.6 DP World's Inauguration of Chennai's Free Trade Warehouse Zone

- **DP World**, a global logistics powerhouse, has **launched its largest free trade warehouse zone in Chennai, India**, solidifying Tamil Nadu's status as one of the nation's premier hubs for economic development.

5.7 India's Foreign Exchange Reserves Jump \$2.56 Billion to \$644.15 Billion

- **India's foreign exchange reserves** saw an increase of \$2.56 billion, reaching a total of **\$644.15 billion** for the week ended May 10, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

5.8 SBI General Unveils 'Surety Bond Bima' for Infrastructure Projects

- **SBI General Insurance**, the **non-life insurance arm of State Bank of India (SBI)**, has launched '**Surety Bond Bima**' to **support infrastructure development** by providing a security arrangement for infrastructure projects.

5.9 RXIL's TReDS Platform Surpasses INR 1 Trillion in MSME Invoice Financing

- **India's MSME sector**, contributing over **30% to the GDP** and **employing approximately 12 crore people**, faces a significant credit gap of around Rs. 28.2 lakh crores.
- **RXIL's Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platform** has achieved a milestone by facilitating financing of over 50 lakh invoices worth ₹1,00,000 crore since its inception.

5.10 Fusion Micro Finance Secures \$25 Million Loan from US International DFC

- **Fusion Micro Finance** has obtained a **\$25 million loan from the United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)** to fuel its expansion plans, primarily focusing on empowering rural women entrepreneurs.

5.11 RBI Scrutinizes Gold Loan Norms To Tighten Grip

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** made it **harder for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** to do business by telling them in March that they had to follow the rules for gold loans carefully.
- As a result of breaking these rules, **IIFL Finance was not allowed to give out any more gold loans.**
- The RBI made its choice after discovering that some **NBFCs** had broken the rules by overvaluing collateral and **not following loan-to-value ratios**. These violations

show that NBFCs are putting too much emphasis on growth over caution, which could lead to widespread problems as the sector grows. The **RBI says**: –

- The **loan amount can't be more than 75% of the gold's value**. This ensures that lenders have extra money in case the borrower doesn't repay the loan.
- **No more than ₹20,000 can be given out in cash**; any more money must be sent through a bank transfer.
- Gold that has been repossessed must be auctioned off clearly so that borrowers can see the lots.

5.12 Remittances To India Cross \$100 Billion Mark In Fiscal Year 2022-23

- **India** recently passed the important **milestone of \$100 billion in payments**. In the fiscal year **2022–23**, it **reached a record \$112 billion**.

5.13 YES Bank Launches YES Grandeur: Elevating Banking for Elite Customers

- In a strategic move to cater to the evolving needs of affluent and elite customers, **YES Bank** has introduced '**YES Grandeur**,' a **premium banking service** designed to provide tailored financial and lifestyle solutions.

5.14 Record Rs 2.11 Lakh Crore RBI Dividend to Central Government for 2023-24

- The Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has approved the **transfer of Rs 2.11 lakh crore** as a **dividend to the Government of India** for the financial year **2023-24**.
- This is the **highest-ever dividend** despite the Contingent Buffer Risk being increased to 6.5% for 2023-24.

5.15 RBI Data Shows Significant Decline in Net FDI to \$10.5 Billion in FY24

- **Net foreign direct investment (FDI)** into India experienced a notable **decrease of 62.17%** in the **fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24)**, plummeting to **\$10.58 billion** from the previous year's **\$27.98 billion**.

5.16 RBI Conducts Massive Liquidity Infusion Through Variable Rate Repo Auctions

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has taken proactive measures to address the prevailing liquidity deficit in the banking system.
- In its latest move, the central bank conducted a **variable rate repo (VRR) auction of Rs 1.25 trillion**, bringing the total liquidity infused through 9 VRR auctions in May 2024 to a staggering **Rs 7.75 trillion**.

5.17 TCS Secures Core Banking Transformation Deal With Kuwait's Burgan Bank

- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has signed a deal to **modernize the core banking technology of Burgan Bank**, a leading commercial **bank in Kuwait**.

- **Burgan Bank will deploy TCS BaNCS** to consolidate multiple legacy applications into a contemporary universal banking solution, enhancing innovation and customer relationships.

5.18 RBI Launches PRAVAAH, Retail Direct Mobile App, and FinTech Repository

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** Governor Shaktikanta Das has unveiled **three major initiatives**: the **Pravaah portal**, the **Retail Direct Mobile App**, and a **FinTech Repository**.
- About **Pravaah Portal**
 - The **Pravaah portal** was created to **make the regulatory process easier and faster**. It lets people and businesses **apply for different types of regulatory licenses online**.
 - The Reserve Bank of India hopes that this project will make the approval processes work better.
 - Its goal is to make things easier to use and more efficient by streamlining processes within the application system.
- About **Retail Direct Mobile App**
 - Additionally, the **Retail Direct Mobile app** was released to **make investing in government bonds easier for regular people**. With this app, investors should be able to easily buy and handle their government securities (G-Secs). Investing in government bonds is usually a difficult process, but this app makes it easier.
- About **FinTech Repository**
 - The final initiative, the **FinTech Repository**, is meant to be a **complete database of information about Indian FinTech companies**.
 - Its goal is to help people understand and regulate a field that is changing quickly. By providing important data that can be used for regulatory reasons, the repository will help policymakers make smart, useful decisions.
 - The RBI wants these projects to **support more transparency, make it easier for people to get financial services**, and improve regulatory frameworks so they can keep up with changes in technology.
-

5.19 Poonawalla Fincorp And IndusInd Bank Launch Co-Branded RuPay Credit Card

- **Poonawalla Fincorp Limited**, in partnership with **IndusInd Bank**, has introduced the **co-branded 'IndusInd Bank Poonawalla Fincorp eLITE RuPay Platinum Credit Card'**.
- This new card, designed to enhance customer experience with rewards and benefits, is available without any joining or annual fees.

5.20 Indian Economy Grew 7.4% in Q4 FY24; 8% in FY24: SBI Research Report

- The Indian economy showcased robust growth, with a **GDP increase of 7.4% in Q4 FY24** and an **overall 8% growth for the fiscal year FY24**, according to an **SBI Research report**.
- This announcement comes ahead of the official GDP figures release by the Centre on May 31 for Q4 FY24 and the provisional estimates for FY24. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) estimated Q4 FY24 real GDP growth at 7.3%, with expectations for Q1 FY25 at 7.5%, and full-year FY25 growth projected at 7.0%.

5.21 Income Tax Department Sets Cost Inflation Index For FY 2024-25

- In its latest notification, the **Income Tax department** has established the **Cost Inflation Index (CII) for the financial year 2024-25 at 363**.
- This index is crucial for taxpayers as it aids in computing long-term capital gains arising from the sale of various capital assets, including immovable property, securities, and jewellery.
- The CII serves as a tool to adjust for inflation, allowing taxpayers to determine gains accurately by considering the real appreciation of assets rather than gains attributed solely to inflation.

5.22 European Banks Seek RBI Approval For Third-Party Transaction Model

- **European Union banks**, including **Credit Agricole, Societe Generale, Deutsche Bank, and BNP Paribas**, are facing hurdles in trading Indian government bonds and derivatives due to a deadlock between their home authorities and Indian policymakers regarding audit oversight rights.
- The European Securities and Markets Authority (**ESMA**) **de-recognized the Clearing Corp of India (CCIL)** in October 2022, prompting the need for alternative clearing mechanisms.

5.23 RBI Imposes Penalty On ICICI Bank And YES Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has **penalized ICICI Bank and YES Bank** for violations of regulatory norms pertaining to their financial positions as of March 31, 2022.

5.24 RBI Imposes Penalty On HSBC For FEMA Violations

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has levied a **penalty of Rs 36.38 lakh** on **HSBC Limited** for **breaching regulations outlined in the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)**.
- Specifically, HSBC failed to adhere to reporting requirements under the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme of FEMA, 1999**.

5.25 RBI Imposes Business Restrictions On Edelweiss Group

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has taken stringent action against **Edelweiss Group's** lending and asset reconstruction arms due to concerns regarding the manipulation of loans and structured transactions.
- This move comes amidst the central bank's ongoing efforts **to curb evergreening of loans** and ensure regulatory compliance in the financial sector.

5.26 Asian Development Bank's \$2.6 Billion Sovereign Lending To India In 2023

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** committed **\$2.6 billion** in **sovereign lending to India in 2023**, aiming to bolster various sectors including urban development, power, industry, horticulture, connectivity, and climate resilience.

5.27 Bank of Maharashtra Leads in FY24 Business Growth

- The **Bank of Maharashtra** grew much faster than other public sector banks in India in the fiscal year 2024.

6 Business News

6.1 DPIIT Reports Over 7 Million Transactions on ONDC Platform in April

- The **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**, a digital infrastructure initiative **launched in 2021**, has witnessed remarkable growth, with **transactions crossing 70 lakh in April** this year.
- **Led by** the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**), ONDC aims to democratize digital commerce and create a level playing field for businesses of all sizes.

6.2 India's April Trade Performance: Exports Inch Up, Trade Deficit Widens

- In **April**, **India's merchandise exports** saw a modest **1% increase**, reaching **\$34.99 billion**, driven by robust growth in sectors like electronics, chemicals, petroleum products, and pharmaceuticals, despite global economic uncertainties.
- However, the **trade deficit widened to a five-month high of \$19.1 billion**, with **imports rising by 10.25% to \$54.09 billion**. Notably, imports of gold and crude oil surged, contributing to the deficit.

6.3 SBI Bolsters Presence in GIFT City with Acquisition of Stake in CCIL IFSC

- In a strategic move to expand its foothold within the Gujarat International Finance Tec City (GIFT City), the **State Bank of India (SBI)** has finalized the **acquisition of a 6.125% stake in CCIL IFSC Limited**.
- The transaction, valued at **₹6.125 crore**, marks SBI's commitment to enhancing its role in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at GIFT City.

6.4 Swiggy Fortifies Fraud Prevention with SHIELD Partnership

- Online food delivery platform **Swiggy** has **partnered with SHIELD**, a device-first risk AI platform, to bolster its **fraud prevention and detection capabilities**.

6.5 IOCL Exports Premium Fuel XP100 to Sri Lanka

- **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL)** has marked a significant milestone by **exporting its first-ever consignment of 100 octane premium fuel, XP100, to Sri Lanka**.

6.6 India's Market Capitalization Reaches \$5 Trillion Milestone

- In a significant stride, **India's market capitalization** has **surged to \$5 trillion**, marking a historic achievement.

6.7 SIDBI Partners with Airbus Helicopters to Finance Helicopter Purchases in India

- **SIDBI**, in **collaboration with Airbus Helicopters**, has entered the realm of **helicopter financing in India** through a recent Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

6.8 L&T Technology Services Launches Simulation Centre of Excellence for Airbus in Bengaluru

- **L&T Technology Services Ltd (LTTs)** announced the **inauguration of a Simulation Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Airbus at its Bengaluru campus**.

6.9 RBI Imposes Rs 3.1 Lakh Penalty on Hero FinCorp for Fair Practices Code Violation

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **penalty of Rs 3.1 lakh on Hero FinCorp Limited** due to non-compliance with certain provisions of the fair practices code.

6.10 Smartphones Become India's Fourth Largest Export Item with 42% Growth

- **Smartphones** have become a major export success story for India, now **ranking as the fourth-largest export item with a 42% growth**, reaching **\$15.6 billion in FY24**.

6.11 Microsoft Unveils AI-Enhanced 'Copilot+' PCs with Unique 'Recall' Functionality

- **Microsoft** has introduced a new category of personal computers, **'Copilot+ PCs,'** featuring **advanced AI capabilities** to compete with Alphabet and Apple.

6.12 GAIL (India) Ltd. Commences India's First Green Hydrogen Plant

- **GAIL (India) Ltd.**, the nation's leading natural gas transmission and distribution company, has achieved a significant milestone with the **commissioning of its first green hydrogen plant**.

- Located in **Vijaipur, Madhya Pradesh**, this plant marks GAIL's foray into the realm of new and alternative energy sources.

6.13 Reliance Industries to Begin Construction on India's First Multimodal Logistics Park Near Chennai

- **Reliance Industries** is set to begin construction on **India's first Multimodal Logistics Park at Mappedu near Chennai** in June, a project conceptualized 12 years ago.

6.14 Reliance Industries Partners with Norway's Nel to Boost New Energy Investments

- **Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)** has forged a significant technology partnership with **Norway's Nel ASA** to expedite its **foray into new energy investments**.
- This alliance is poised to play a pivotal role in facilitating RIL's transition towards green energy, particularly through the production of green hydrogen.

6.15 IRDAI Mandates Shorter Audit Tenures to Boost Governance in Insurance Sector

- In a move aimed at strengthening corporate governance in the insurance industry, the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has issued new **guidelines that reduce the engagement period of statutory auditors with insurance companies from 10 years to 4 years**.

6.16 SEBI Shortens Commodity Derivatives Delivery Period to Boost Liquidity

- In a strategic move to improve liquidity in the commodity derivatives market, the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has **reduced the deliverable period for commodity derivatives from the previous 5 days to 3 days**.
- This regulatory change is set to **take effect from July 1, 2024**, and will apply to contracts with staggered delivery scheduled after this date.

6.17 Reliance and Tata Groups Recognized among TIME's World's Most Influential Companies

- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** and **Tata Group**, two of India's prominent business conglomerates, have been **named among the World's 100 'Most Influential Companies'** by the renowned **TIME** magazine.

7 Important Days

7.1 International Day of Living Together in Peace 2024

- The **International Day of Living Together in Peace** is an annual observance held on **16 May** every year.

7.2 World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2024 Observed on May 17th

- **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day**, observed annually on **May 17**.

7.3 World's AIDS Vaccine Day 2024

- **World AIDS Vaccine Day**, also known as **HIV Vaccine Awareness Day**, is observed annually on **May 18th**.

7.4 World Bee Day 2024

- **World Bee Day**, observed on **May 20**, marks the birth anniversary of Anton Janša, a pioneer in beekeeping.

7.5 International Tea Day 2024

- On Tuesday, **May 21**, 2024, tea enthusiasts and advocates worldwide will come together to commemorate **International Tea Day**.

7.6 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development 2024: Celebrating Unity in Diversity

- On **May 21st**, the world celebrates the **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development**.

7.7 International Day for Biological Diversity 2024: Be Part of the Plan

- The **International Day for Biological Diversity** is celebrated every year on **May 22**.
- The **theme for 2024** is “**Be Part of the Plan**.”
- This theme encourages governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, non-governmental organizations, lawmakers, businesses, and individuals to showcase their efforts in supporting the implementation of the Biodiversity Plan.

7.8 India observed Anti-Terrorism Day 2024 on 21 May

- **India** observes **Anti-Terrorism Day on 21 May** to commemorate the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by a suicide bomber from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a terrorist organization based in Sri Lanka.

7.9 Vesak 2024: Celebrating the Birth, Enlightenment, and Passing of the Buddha

- **Vesak**, also known as **Buddha Purnima or Buddha Day**, is the most sacred day for millions of Buddhists around the world.
- It is a day that **commemorates three significant events** in the life of Gautama Buddha: **his birth, his enlightenment, and his passing away (Parinirvana)**.

7.10 UNGA Proclaimed May 24 as the International Day of the Markhor

- The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed **May 24** as the **International Day of the Markhor**.
- This resolution, sponsored by Pakistan and eight other countries, aims to raise awareness and promote the conservation of this iconic and ecologically significant species **found across the mountainous regions of Central and South Asia**.

7.11 World Turtle Day 2024 Celebrated on 23rd May

- **World Turtle Day**, celebrated annually on **May 23**, aims to raise awareness about the unique lifestyle and habitats of turtles and tortoises.
- While often mistaken for one another, these reptiles have distinct differences. **Turtles are aquatic creatures that live in water**, while **tortoises are land-dwelling animals**. Additionally, **tortoises** can live up to an impressive **300 years**, significantly longer than the average **40-year lifespan of turtles**.

7.12 World Football Day 2024

- In 2024, the world marks the 100th anniversary of the first international football tournament involving teams from all regions, held on May 25, 1924, during the Summer Olympic Games in Paris.
- To honour this milestone, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution A/RES/78/281 on May 7, 2024, proclaiming **May 25 as World Football Day**.

7.13 International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories 25-31 May

- The U.N. commemorates **International Week of Solidarity with Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories** annually from **May 25 to May 31**.

7.14 International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2024 Celebrated Annually on May 29th

- On the **International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers**, celebrated annually on **May 29th**, we honour the extraordinary contributions of peacekeepers towards international peace and security.
- This year, the United Nations commemorates the International Day of Peacekeepers under the **theme, "Fit for the Future: Building Better Together."**

7.15 World Hunger Day 2024, A Call to End Global Hunger

- On **May 28th**, the world unites for **World Hunger Day**, a day dedicated to raising awareness about the urgent issue of global hunger.
- The **theme for 2024** is **"Mobilising in Critical Times of Threats and Opportunities,"** which emphasizes empowering women to make decisions independently, free from coercion and discrimination.

7.16 International Everest Day 2024 Observed on May 29

- On **May 29**, the world will observe **International Everest Day** in memory of Nepalese Tenzing Norgay and New Zealand's Edmund Hillary, the first individuals to conquer the formidable Mt. Everest in 1953.

7.17 International Potato Day 2024: Harvesting Diversity, Feeding Hope

- This year, the world will celebrate the **first-ever International Potato Day** on **May 30th**.

7.18 World No-Tobacco Day 2024

- Every year, **World No Tobacco Day** is observed on **31st May** to create awareness about the potential health risks associated with tobacco consumption and advocate for effective policies to reduce its use.

7.19 Hindi Journalism Day 2024, Celebrating the Voice of Vernacular Media

- **Hindi Journalism Day** is celebrated annually on **May 30**.

8 Ranks & Reports

8.1 Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani Secure Positions Among the World's Top 15 Super Rich

- **Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani** have made it to the **top 15 world's super-rich** list of the **Bloomberg Billionaires Index**.

8.2 Ronaldo Tops Forbes' List of Highest-Paid Athletes Again

- **Cristiano Ronaldo**, despite nearing the twilight of his career, has **secured the top spot** on **Forbes' list** of the **world's highest-paid athletes**.

8.3 India Rises to 39th Position in WEF Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024

- **India** has ascended to the **39th spot** in the **World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024**, marking a significant improvement from its **54th position** in 2021.
- According to the **current WEF report**, **India is now the best lower-middle-income economy in South Asia**.

8.4 Over 4000 Gangetic Dolphins in India: Indian Wildlife Institute

- According to a recent report by the **Wildlife Institute of India**, there are more than **4000 Gangetic dolphins** in the **Gangetic River basin**.
- Over 2000 of these dolphins are found in **Uttar Pradesh**, primarily in the **Chambal River**.

8.5 Oxford Economics' Global Cities Index: Delhi Leads Indian Rankings

- In the latest **Oxford Economics' Global Cities Index**, **Delhi** emerges as the **highest-ranked Indian city**, securing the **350th position among the world's 1000 largest cities**.
- However, **no Indian city managed to break into the top 300**.
- The index, encompassing cities from 163 countries, **evaluates cities across five key categories**: Economics, Human Capital, Quality of Life, Environment, and Governance.
- **New York clinches the top spot**, with London, San Jose, Tokyo, and Paris following suit.

8.6 World Unemployment to Fall Slightly in 2024: UN

- The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** recently said that the **rate of unemployment** around the world will settle at **4.9% in 2024**, a **small drop from the previous year**.
- This increase is a big change from **earlier predictions**, which called for a rise to **5.2%**.
- About the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**
 - **Founded in 1919** under the **League of Nations**.
 - Became a **specialized agency of the United Nations in 1946**.
 - Emerged from post-World War I peace negotiations.
 - Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
 - **Recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969** for working to promote peace and fairness between social groups.

9 Awards News

9.1 Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Receives First Stamp Commemorating 200 Years of Indian Origin Tamils in Sri Lanka

- Indian spiritual guru **Sri Sri Ravi Shankar** received the **first stamp** released to **commemorate the completion of 200 years of Indian Origin Tamils (IOT) in Sri Lanka**.

9.2 NTPC Shines at ATD BEST Awards 2024

- The **public sector company NTPC** has secured the **third rank in the world** for the **Talent Development category** at the prestigious **ATD BEST Awards 2024**.

9.3 Scientist Srinivas R. Kulkarni Honoured with Prestigious Shaw Prize in Astronomy

- **Srinivas R. Kulkarni**, an **Indian-origin U.S. scientist** and brother of renowned author Sudha Murty, has been awarded the **prestigious Shaw Prize in Astronomy** for 2024.

9.4 Jenny Erpenbeck's 'Kairos' Wins International Booker Prize

- **German author Jenny Erpenbeck** and translator **Michael Hofmann** have won the prestigious **International Booker Prize** for their novel **"Kairos."**

9.5 Cannes: Payal Kapadia Wins Grand Prix Award for 'All We Imagine as Light'

- The **77th Cannes Film Festival** witnessed a remarkable achievement for Indian cinema as **Payal Kapadia's** film **'All We Imagine as Light'** won the prestigious **Grand Prix award**, the **second-highest honour at the festival**.
- This triumph marks a historic moment, as **Kapadia becomes the first Indian filmmaker to receive this prestigious accolade**.
- The **first Cannes Film Festival took place in 1946** in Cannes, France.

9.6 Anasuya Sengupta Wins Best Actress at Cannes

- The **77th Cannes Film Festival** gave **Best Actress** to **Anasuya Sengupta** for her part in **"The Shameless."**

9.7 Indian Peacekeeper Receives UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award

- **Major Radhika Sen**, an Indian military **peacekeeper** serving **with the United Nations Organization** Stabilization Mission in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)**, has been **awarded** the **prestigious 2023 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award**.
- This award recognizes her dedication and efforts in promoting the principles of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security.

9.8 Top PSUs Honored at Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024

- The **city of Goa** recently **hosted the first-ever Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024 for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)** on May 27th.

10 Science & Technology News

10.1 Mangalyaan-2 Unveiled: India Set to Become the Third Nation to Land on Mars

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is gearing up for a landmark mission that **aims to land a rover and helicopter on Mars**.
- This historic endeavor, named **Mangalyaan-2**, seeks to place India alongside the US and China as a significant player in interplanetary exploration.

10.2 IPE Develops Eco-Friendly Water Treatment Solution

- The **Indian Institute of Petroleum & Energy (IPE)**, **Visakhapatnam**, and other national research institutions have come up with a new, environmentally friendly way to treat water. They call it the “**Surface Modification Technique of Membrane.**”
- This innovative method helps improve the cleaning of muddy river water, which is a common problem in many places.

10.3 IIITB Develops IoT-Enabled Wheelchair for Stroke Rehabilitation

- The **IIIT Bangalore** recently unveiled “**XoRehab,**” a **new IoT-enabled wheelchair device** that was made possible by the Centre for the Internet of Ethical Things and with help from several government and foreign groups.
- Specifically made to help stroke patients recover after surgery, this tool aims to solve the practical problems that patients often have getting regular exercise.

10.4 IIT Bombay, TCS Develop India's First Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager

- **IIT Bombay** and **TCS**, India's biggest IT services company, are **working together to make** the **country's first quantum diamond computer imager.**
- This technology was just announced and it looks like it will completely change how semiconductor chips are inspected.
- A **quantum diamond computer imager** works in a way that is **similar to how MRIs work in hospitals.** It makes image magnetic fields possible so that semiconductor chips can be mapped without damaging or removing them.

10.5 Noise Acquires Women's Wellness Platform SocialBoat to Bolster Smart Ring Innovation

- Leading smartwatch and connected lifestyle brand, **Noise**, has announced the **acquisition of** the AI-powered **women's wellness platform SocialBoat.**

10.6 NASA Launches Satellite PREFIRE to Monitor and Mitigate Climate Change

- **NASA's PREFIRE (Polar Radiant Energy in the Far Infrared Experiment)** mission began on May 25.
- PREFIRE **will deploy two CubeSats into orbit to study Earth's energy budget** in the far-infrared spectrum.
- This was a **big step toward better climate prediction and knowledge.**

10.7 India's AstroSat has Made a New Discovery on the Black Hole Binary System

- A group of **Indian astronomers** using **India's AstroSat satellite** found an interesting event happening around the **black hole X-ray binary system called “Swift J1727.8-1613”** in August 2023.

- **AstroSat**, India's first dedicated multi-wavelength space observatory, made observations from September 2 to September 14, 2023, that led to a finding in the field of astrophysics that had never been seen before.
- A group of astronomers saw a **very unusual “aperiodic (irregular) modulation” of the black hole’s high-energy X-rays.**

10.8 Google and OpenAI Unveil Next-Gen AI Assistants at I/O 2024

- **Google and OpenAI**, known for ChatGPT, have released **new AI assistants called Project Astra and GPT-4o**. These new assistants claim to be more flexible and useful.
- The **goal of Google’s Project Astra** is to **change the way people connect with AI** by adding multimodal language support to smart glasses and smartphones.
- With this change, **users can now interact with their AI through talk, text, and images (photos and videos).**
- Using the real-time data capture features of device cameras, the AI will be able to access information on the internet and learn from its surroundings, basically functioning as a personal assistant.

11 Appointments News

11.1 RBI Approves Appointment of Pradeep Natarajan as IDFC FIRST Bank’s Whole Time Director

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has given its nod for the appointment of **Pradeep Natarajan** as **Whole Time Director on the Board of IDFC FIRST Bank**, marking a significant development for the private sector lender.

11.2 Sanjiv Puri Elected CII President for 2024-25

- In a significant leadership transition, **Sanjiv Puri**, the Chairman and Managing Director of ITC Ltd., has been elected as the **President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** for the term 2024-25.

11.3 Jetha Ahir Elected as NAFED Chairman

- Shehra BJP MLA **Jetha Ahir**, who has previously served as the deputy speaker of the Gujarat Assembly, has been **elected uncontested as the chairman of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED).**

11.4 P Santhosh Takes the Helm as MD & CEO of NARCL

- The **National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)**, India's state-owned **bad bank**, has appointed **P Santhosh** as its new **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.**

11.5 Shah Rukh Khan Appointed as New Brand Ambassador of Muthoot Pappachan Group

- The **Muthoot Pappachan Group (MPG)**, popularly known as **Muthoot Blue**, has announced the **appointment of Shah Rukh Khan as its new brand ambassador**.

11.6 IRDAI Approves Sandeep Batra as ICICI Prudential Board Chairman

11.7 Appointment Of Rakesh Ranjan As Chairman, Staff Selection Commission (SSC)

- **Rakesh Ranjan**, a 1992 batch IAS officer from Manipur Cadre, has been appointed as the **Chairman of the Staff Selection Commission (SSC)**.

11.8 Emmanuelle Soubeyran Elected As New Director General Of WOA

- France applauds the election of **Dr. Emmanuelle Soubeyran as Director General of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH)** for the **2024-2029 term**.

11.9 Rushabh Gandhi Appointed as MD and CEO of IndiaFirst Life Insurance

11.10 Kapil Sibal Elected as the President of Supreme Court Bar Association

11.11 Senior IPS Officers A.Y.V. Krishna & N. Venu Gopal Appointed as Additional Directors in CBI

11.12 Sony Appoints Disney Veteran Gaurav Banerjee as New India CEO

12 Agreements News

12.1 PhonePe Launches UPI in Sri Lanka in Partnership with LankaPay

- In a significant move, **PhonePe has joined forces with LankaPay to introduce UPI payments in Sri Lanka**.
- This collaboration allows PhonePe users to seamlessly utilize UPI for transactions across LankaPay QR merchants, providing them with familiarity and security while traveling.

12.2 Indian Army and IOCL Join Forces for Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus Technology Trials

- **Indian Army** has **joined hands with the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** for demonstration trials of Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus technology.
- This collaboration underscores the Army's commitment to innovation and environmental stewardship.

12.3 TCS & IIT-Bombay Partner To Develop India's 1st Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager

- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has entered a **strategic partnership** with the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (**IIT-Bombay**), to **develop India's first Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager**.
- This advanced sensing tool **aims to revolutionize the examination of semiconductor chips**, reducing failures and enhancing the energy efficiency of electronic devices.

12.4 CET and IIT Madras Secure Patent for Novel Voltage Device

- The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** and the **College of Engineering Thiruvananthapuram (CET)** have made big steps forward in **electrical measurement technology** by getting a patent for a **new device that measures voltage without touching it**.

12.5 IIT Guwahati, Columbia University Developed an Optical Nanopatterning Process

- Nanopatterning has come a long way thanks to scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT Guwahati) and Columbia University in the United States.
- Nanopatterning is a **complex method for making designs on materials that are very small, measured in nanometers**. One nanometer is equal to one billionth of a meter. Nanoscale gadgets like advanced light detectors, solar cells, and LEDs can't be made without this process.

13 Schemes in News

13.1 Crackdown on Fraudulent SMS Under Sanchar Saathi Initiative

- In a concerted effort to combat the rising threat of fraudulent SMS, the **Department of Telecommunication (DoT)**, in **collaboration** with the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs**, has **launched the Sanchar Saathi Initiative**.
- This initiative **aims to tackle the proliferation of deceptive messages targeting unsuspecting mobile users**. Notably, the government has identified and blocked eight SMS headers frequently exploited by cybercriminals.

13.2 An overview of the AMRUT scheme

- India is rapidly urbanizing, which is causing a big change in the country's population. **By 2047**, it is expected that **over half of the people will live in cities**.
- Introduction to the **AMRUT Scheme**

- The NDA-1 government started the **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)** in **June 2015** to deal with **important building problems in cities**.
- The main goal is to **improve city life by providing better water and sewer connections**, making public areas greener, and encouraging environmentally friendly ways to get around.
- **AMRUT includes cities and towns with more than 100,000 people**. The **first part of the mission cost ₹50,000 crore** and **lasted for five years, ending in 2020**.
- Expansion under **AMRUT 2.0**
 - Building on AMRUT 1.0, which came out in October 2021, **AMRUT 2.0 is more focused on making towns “water secure.”**
 - The new spending plan calls for **₹2,99,000 crore over the next five years**. A lot of this money will go toward managing all sewage and making sure that all urban areas have working tap connections.
 - Up to **May 2024, ₹83,357 crore had been spent** on the updated goal to improve urban services and infrastructure in a big way.

14 Sports News

14.1 Sunil Chhetri Announces Retirement from International Football

- **Sunil Chhetri**, India's most decorated footballer, has announced his **retirement from international football**.
- The FIFA World Cup Qualifier **game against Kuwait in Kolkata** on June 6 will be his **last appearance** for the national team.

14.2 Brazil to Host 2027 Women's World Cup Soccer

- The **2027 FIFA Women's World Cup** will be held in Brazil.

14.3 Indian Para Athlete Deepthi Jeevanji Wins Gold and Sets New World Record

- **Indian para-athlete Deepthi Jeevanji** etched her name in history by winning the **gold medal in the women's T20 400m** event at the **World Para Athletics Championships 2024**.
- Her stunning performance on Monday not only secured **India's first gold medal at the prestigious event** but also set a **new world record time of 55.07 seconds**.

14.4 Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty Triumph at Thailand Open 2024

- The world's third-ranked Indian badminton pair of **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** and **Chirag Shetty** etched their names in glory by **winning** the coveted **Thailand Open 2024 men's doubles title**.

14.5 Neeraj Chopra Shines at Federation Cup 2024 Athletics Meet

- Indian athletic sensation **Neeraj Chopra** continued his dominance in the men's javelin throw event, clinching the **gold medal** with a modest effort of 82.27m at the prestigious **Federation Cup 2024 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

14.6 'Let's Move India' Campaign Celebrates Olympians Bound for Paris

- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** has launched the “**Let's Move India**” campaign in **collaboration with the Reliance Foundation and the Abhinav Bindra Foundation**.
- The initiative aims to celebrate the Olympians heading to the upcoming Paris Olympics and encourage everyone to participate in physical activity.

14.7 IPL 2024 Award Winners, Check the Complete list

- Kolkata Knight Riders (**KKR**) won the **IPL 2024 title, defeating** Sunrisers Hyderabad (**SRH**) in the final.
- KKR's **Sunil Narine** was named the **Most Valuable Player and Ultimate Fantasy Player of the Season**.
- SRH's **Nitish Kumar Reddy** was the **Emerging Player of the Season**.
- Virat Kohli** (RCB) won the **Orange Cap** for most runs, while **Harshal Patel** (PBKS) took the **Purple Cap** for most wickets.

14.8 Shahid Afridi Appointed as ICC Men's T20 World Cup Brand Ambassador

- The International Cricket Council (**ICC**), the global governing body of cricket, has appointed the legendary Pakistani cricketer **Shahid Afridi** as the **brand ambassador for the upcoming 9th ICC Men's T20 World Cup**.
- This highly anticipated tournament will be **co-hosted by the West Indies and the United States of America** from 1st to 29th June 2024.

14.9 Dipa Karmakar Etches History by Clinching Gold at Asian Gymnastics Championships

- The **Indian gymnast, Dipa Karmakar**, has scripted history by becoming the **first-ever Indian to secure a gold medal in any Asian Championships**.

15 Summits and Conferences News

15.1 10th World Water Forum Opens in Bali, Indonesia

- The **10th World Water Forum**, themed “**Water for Shared Prosperity**,” officially commenced on May 21 in **Bali, Indonesia**.
- The forum focused on **four critical topics: water conservation, clean water and sanitation, food and energy security, and mitigation of natural disasters**.

16 Obituaries News

16.1 Banking Icon N Vaghul Passes Away at 88

- The **Indian banking industry mourns** the loss of a legendary figure, **N Vaghul**, who passed away on Saturday in Chennai at the age of 88.
- Vaghul, a **former chairman of ICICI Bank**, left an indelible mark on the financial sector with his visionary leadership and commitment to excellence.

17 Miscellaneous News

17.1 Hepatitis A Outbreak Affects 8,000 in Kerala's Malappuram

- **Hepatitis A** is a liver infection **caused by** a highly contagious **virus**. Infected individuals can show **symptoms such as jaundice, fever, and stomach pain**.
- Symptoms typically appear between two to six weeks after contracting the virus. In 99% of cases, the infection goes away on its own and does not damage the liver permanently.
- The main way the Hepatitis A virus gets **from feces to mouth** is through **contaminated food or water**.
- It can be found in the poop of an infected person before they even show any signs, and it can still be found after symptoms have gone away.

17.2 Ed Dwight, First Black Astronaut Candidate, Finally Reaches Space

- **Ed Dwight**, who was **America's first Black astronaut candidate**, made a historic trip into **space** on May 19 with Jeff Bezos's company, **Blue Origin**.

17.3 Cyclone Remal: IMD Predictions and Impact

- A low-pressure system over the **Bay of Bengal** is set to intensify into **Cyclone Remal**, reaching Bangladesh and adjoining West Bengal coasts as a severe cyclonic storm.

17.4 Thiruvananthapuram International Airport Leads Nation with Zero Waste to Landfill Accolade

- **Thiruvananthapuram International Airport** has made history as the **first airport in India to achieve the prestigious recognition of zero waste to landfill (ZWL)**.
- This commendation comes from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII-ITC) Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, confirming the airport's commitment to environmentally responsible practices.

17.5 Indian Mountaineer Satyadeep Gupta Achieves Historic Double Dual Ascent

- In a remarkable feat, Indian mountaineer **Satyadeep Gupta** has etched his name in history by becoming the **first person to scale Mt. Everest and Mt. Lhotse twice in a single season**.
- Additionally, he is the **first Indian to traverse the two peaks in an astonishing 11 hours and 15 minutes**.

17.6 FIDE Unveils BecknGPT, an AI Agent Combining ChatGPT and Beckn Protocol

- An important part of e-commerce innovation is the **Foundation for Interoperability in the Digital Economy (FIDE)**. They just released a **new AI agent called Beckn Generative Pre-trained Transformer (BecknGPT)**.
- This AI agent is made to handle business deals on its own, using Open AI's ChatGPT model to work within the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) framework.

17.7 Science Alert: 'Doomsday Glacier' Melting at a Terrifying Rate

- Scientists have been studying the **Thwaites Glacier in Antarctica**, which is often called the **"Doomsday Glacier"** because it **melts so quickly** and has very bad effects on sea levels around the world.
- Recent studies show that the **rate of ice loss has sped up**, much faster than was thought before. This is mostly because warming ocean currents are attacking the glacier from below.

17.8 Three Indian Literary Works Added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register

- **UNESCO's Memory of the World (MOW) program** has recently added **three Indian literary works – Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahṛdayaloka-Locana**, to its Asia-Pacific Regional Register.
- This **marks the first successful nomination by India** since the inception of MOWCAP in 2004.

17.9 What is Blockout 2024?

- **Blockout 2024** is a **new online movement that wants people to stop following celebs** and other influential people on social media sites like Instagram and TikTok.

17.10 UNESCO Recognizes Feminist Utopian Novel Sultana's Dream as part of "Memory of the World"

- **"Sultana's Dream" by Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain** was recently added to UNESCO's **"Memory of the World"** list.

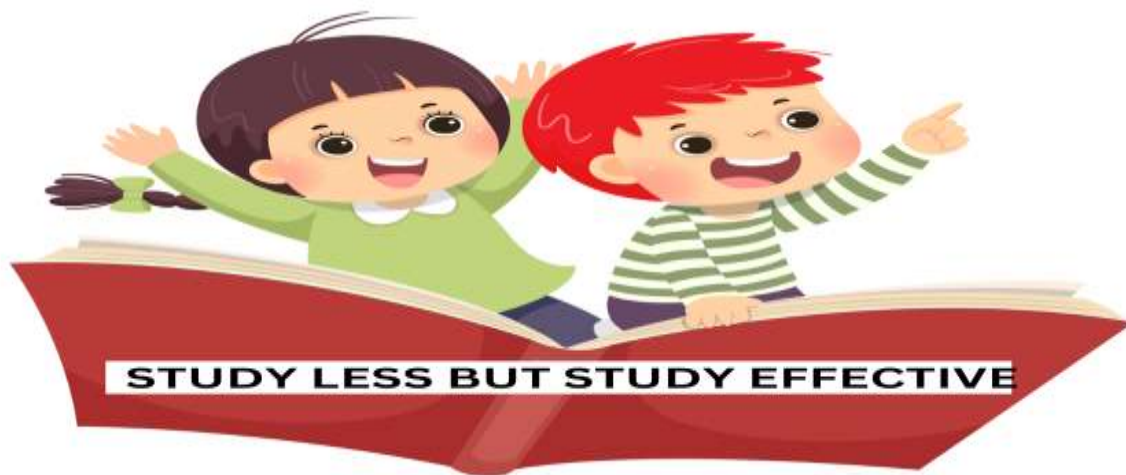
17.11 Scientists Discover 1.5 Billion-Year-Old "Giant" Viruses In Yellowstone

- Scientists recently made a huge find in **Yellowstone National Park**, they found **"giant" viruses that are about 1.5 billion years old.**
- The name "giant" comes from the fact that these viruses' genes are much bigger than those of most viruses.

18 SELF HAND WRITTEN NOTES (Max 2-3 pages)







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