

CURRENT GA

FOR NABARD 2024 BATCH



MAY 1st -15th 2024

CAUTION

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2. Until you practice what you have studied and cannot apply in question it is of no use
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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 The Hindu Triumphs at 6th International Newspaper Design Competition

- In a remarkable feat, **The Hindu** secured **three prestigious awards at the 6th International Newspaper Design Competition** organized by **newspaperdesign.in**.
- The accolades were garnered for their exceptional **explainer page titled "The science behind Neeraj's skills,"** shedding light on Neeraj Chopra's remarkable journey and success in athletics.

1.2 India's Growing Dependence On Chinese Imports: A Cause For Concern

- A report by the **Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI)** highlights **India's escalating dependence on Chinese imports**, with the **import bill** surging to over **\$101 billion in 2023-24** from **around \$70 billion in 2018-19**.
- Over the past fifteen years, China's share of India's industrial goods imports has risen significantly, reaching 30%, while imports from China have outpaced India's total imports by 2.3 times.

1.3 India Renews Agreement to Train 1500 Bangladeshi Officers

- The **Government of India** has signed an **agreement with the Government of Bangladesh to renew the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for training 1500 Bangladeshi officers from 2025 to 2030**.
- The agreement was signed between the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India, and the Bangladeshi Ministry of Public Administration.

1.4 India to Host 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in Kochi

- **India** reaffirms its commitment to safeguarding Antarctica's delicate ecosystem and advancing scientific exploration in the region.
- **The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, Government of India, **in collaboration with the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)**, is set to **host the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46) and the 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP 26)** from May 20 to 30, 2024, in **Kochi, Kerala**.

1.5 MCA Approves Hitesh Sethia as Jio Financial Services' MD and CEO for 3 Years

- The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** has granted its approval for the appointment of **Hitesh Kumar Sethia** as the **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Jio Financial Services** for a **three-year period**, effective from November 15, 2023.

1.6 India, Kenya to Discuss Cheetah Sourcing for Wildlife Sanctuary

- **India** has **expressed interest** in **sourcing cheetahs from Kenya** for the next stage of **Project Cheetah**.
- The **Gandhi Sagar wildlife sanctuary** in **Madhya Pradesh** has been **selected as a location** for this phase of the project.
- The plan under **Project Cheetah** is to **introduce 8 to 14 cheetahs annually over five years**, depending on availability.

1.7 India's \$61.5M Grant for Development of KKS Port, Sri Lanka

- The **Sri Lankan Cabinet** has approved the **renovation of the Kankesanthurai Port (KKS Port)** in the Northern Province, with **India agreeing to grant** the entire estimated cost of the project, amounting to **USD 61.5 million**.
- The decision highlights India's commitment to enhancing regional cooperation and supporting Sri Lanka's infrastructure development.

1.8 What is Covishield Controversy?

- Recently, the **British pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca** has acknowledged in court documents submitted to the High Court in London **that its COVID-19 vaccine**, developed in collaboration with the University of Oxford, **can cause Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS) in very rare cases**.
- **TTS** is a rare condition characterized by the **formation of blood clots** (thrombosis) **accompanied by low platelet count** (thrombocytopenia).

1.9 India's Toy Exports Slip to \$152.34 Million in 2023-24: GTRI Report

- **India's toy exports** experienced a **slight decline to USD 152.34 million** in the fiscal year **2023-24**, with limited benefits from quality control measures.
- Despite efforts to bolster the domestic industry and ensure product safety, exports did not see significant improvement.



1.10 India Contributes \$500,000 to UN Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund

- **India** has reaffirmed its dedication to the global fight against terrorism by **contributing \$500,000 to the UN Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund (CTTF)**.
- **Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj**, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, delivered the contribution to Under Secretary General Vladimir Voronkov on May 7.

1.11 Enhancing Surveillance Capabilities: Indian Army's New Drone Inductions

- In a strategic move to bolster its surveillance capabilities along the Pakistan border, the **Indian Army is set to induct advanced drones**, including the **Drishti-10 (Hermes-900)**.

1.12 Indian Literary Masterpieces Inscribed on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register

- In a proud moment for India, **three of its literary treasures** – the **Ramcharitmanas**, **Panchatantra**, and **Sahṛdayāloka-Locana** – have been **inscribed on UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register**.
- This prestigious recognition celebrates India's rich literary heritage and cultural legacy, affirming the timeless wisdom and artistic expressions that have shaped the nation's identity.

1.13 India Inks 10-year Deal to Operate Iran's Chabahar Port

- **India and Iran** have inked a significant **10-year bilateral contract** aimed at enhancing the **operations of the Chabahar Port**.
- This move underscores India's strategic interests in bolstering trade links with Central Asia and parts of Europe, leveraging the **port's strategic location on Iran's southwestern coast**.

1.14 India to Spend ₹2 Crore Per Km on China Border Roads

- The **Vibrant Village Program (VVP)**, which was approved by the government on February 15, **2023**, wants to **improve infrastructure and settlement stability along the border between India and China**.
- The goal of this project is to improve the lives of people in 2,967 villages spread out over 46 border blocks in 19 districts in **Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Ladakh**.

1.15 India's Spice Board Issues New EtO Contamination Guidelines

- The **Spices Board of India** has recently issued detailed guidelines to tackle the problem of **ethylene oxide (EtO) contamination in spices exported from India**.
- This action was prompted by the **bans imposed by Hong Kong and Singapore** on the sale of popular Indian spice brands like **MDH and Everest**, after these products were found to contain the **carcinogenic chemical ethylene oxide**.

1.16 BSNL to Launch Indigenous 4G Nationwide in August 24

- State-owned **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** is set to **deploy 4G services** nationally starting August 2024, utilizing entirely home-grown technology.

1.17 India's Pronouncements at the 19th Session of the UNFF

- India said important things at the **19th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)** in **New York** in May 2023.
- **About UNFF**
 - The **United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)** was established in October **2000** by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.
 - UNFF's **main objective is to promote the management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests.**
 - It has its **headquarters** at the **United Nations in New York.**
 - The Forum includes all member states of the United Nations and operates under the jurisdiction of the Economic and Social Council.

2 International News

2.1 Zimbabwe Introduces New Currency Amid Skepticism

- **Zimbabwe** has launched a **new currency called the ZiG (short for Zimbabwe Gold)** in an attempt to address the country's **long-running currency crisis.**
- The ZiG, backed by Zimbabwe's gold reserves, was introduced electronically in early April and has now been released in banknote and coin form.

2.2 Argentine Scientists Unveil Discovery Of Speedy 90-Million-Year-Old Herbivore Dinosaur

- Paleontologists from Argentina have revealed the unearthing of a novel medium-sized **herbivorous dinosaur, Chakisaurus nekul,** which **thrived** approximately **90 million years ago** during the **Late Cretaceous period** in **present-day Patagonia.**

2.3 Kathmandu Tops The List of Cities With 'unhealthy air' in the World

- **According to IQAir,** an organization that measures real-time pollution in 101 cities worldwide, **Kathmandu has been ranked as the most polluted city globally.**

2.4 China to Launch Chang'e-6 Lunar Probe Carrying Pakistan's ICUBE-Q Mission

- In a groundbreaking endeavor, **China** has launched the **Chang'e-6 probe** on an ambitious mission to **collect samples from the far side of the Moon.**
- If successful, **China will etch its name in history as the first country to retrieve lunar samples from the enigmatic far side,** a feat yet unaccomplished by any other nation.

2.5 Solomon Islands Elects Pro-China Leader Jeremiah Manele as New Prime Minister

- In a significant political development, the **Solomon Islands** has elected former Foreign Minister **Jeremiah Manele** as its new prime minister.

2.6 American Express Announces Inauguration of 1 Million Sq Ft Campus in Gurugram

- **American Express** is set to inaugurate its expansive **new campus in Gurugram**.

2.7 EU allocates \$1 billion aid to Lebanon

- The **European Union**, led by **EU chief Ursula von der Leyen**, has pledged **\$1 billion in aid to Lebanon**.

2.8 Ukraine Unveils AI-Powered Digital Spokesperson for Foreign Ministry

- In a groundbreaking move that combines cutting-edge technology with diplomacy, **Ukraine has unveiled** an **AI-generated spokesperson**, named **Victoria Shi**, to **deliver official statements from its foreign ministry**.

2.9 José Raúl Mulino Wins Panama's Presidential Election

- In a significant political development, **José Raúl Mulino** has emerged victorious in **Panama's presidential election**.

2.10 Sri Lanka Inks 20-Year Power Purchase Deal with Adani Green Energy

- The **Sri Lankan government** has approved an **agreement with Adani Green Energy**, led by Gautam Adani, for the **development of wind power stations in Mannar and Poonerín**.
- The agreement was given the green light by the Sri Lankan cabinet on May 7. Under the power purchase agreement, which has a **duration of 20 years**, Adani Green Energy will be paid 8.26 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for the electricity generated from the wind power stations.

2.11 Japan and Nagaland Inaugurate Kohima Peace Memorial and Eco Park

- The **Kohima Peace Memorial and Eco Park in Nagaland** hold profound significance, celebrating the **collaborative effort between** the Government of **Japan, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, and the Government of Nagaland**.
- The inauguration of these projects represents not only historical importance but also serves as a symbol of peace, reconciliation, and educational value.

2.12 Putin Reappoints Mikhail Mishustin as Russian Prime Minister

- In a widely anticipated move, **Russian President Vladimir Putin** has **reappointed Mikhail Mishustin** as the Prime Minister of Russia.

2.13 India-Oman Collaboration on Shark and Ray Research in Arabian Sea

- In a significant move to bolster research and **conservation efforts concerning sharks and rays in the Arabian Sea**, India and Oman are set to embark on a joint initiative.

2.14 Russia's Controversial Oil and Gas Discovery in British Antarctic Territory

- In a development that has raised eyebrows globally, **Russia has claimed** to have discovered **massive oil and gas reserves in the British Antarctic Territory**, a region currently protected under the **1959 Antarctic Treaty**.

2.15 Dubai Introduces Long-Term Dubai Gaming Visa

- In a strategic move aimed at positioning Dubai as a global gaming hub and bolstering its digital economy, His Highness **Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**, the **Crown Prince of Dubai**, has **unveiled the 'Dubai Gaming Visa'** as part of the **Dubai Program for Gaming 2033**.

2.16 China Overtakes US as India's Largest Trading Partner in FY24

- According to data from the **Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI)**, an economic think tank, **China has emerged as India's largest trading partner in the fiscal year 2023-24, surpassing the United States**.
- The two-way commerce between **India and China** stood at a staggering **\$118.4 billion**, slightly edging out the **\$118.3 billion** traded with the US.

2.17 Chad's Military Dictator Idriss Deby Wins Presidential Election

2.18 Georgia Adopts Controversial 'Foreign Agents' Bill Amid Protests

- **Georgia's** parliament passed a controversial **"foreign agents" bill** on May 14, despite strong opposition from within the country and from around the world.
- The bill says that news outlets, NGOs, and other groups that get more than **20% of their money from outside the United States** must register as **"foreign agents."**

2.19 India Completes Military Withdrawal From Maldives

- **India has completed the withdrawal of its military personnel from the Maldives**, an action that fulfils one of President Mohamed Muizzu's major campaign promises.

2.20 Russia's Batagaika Crater Expands Rapidly Due to Thaw

- The **Batagaika Crater**, also spelled as **Batagay**, often referred to as the **"gateway to the underworld,"** is in the **permafrost regions of Siberia, Russia** and is known for its significant size and rapid expansion.
- Recent studies have shown that the **crater is growing at an alarming rate** of 35 million cubic feet every year due to the thawing of the permafrost.

2.21 EU Adopts First Law Against Violence Towards Women

- On May 7, the **European Union** formally **adopted groundbreaking legislation designed to combat violence against women** across its 27 member states.
- This legislation includes measures against forced marriages, female genital mutilation, and cyber violence, marking a significant step in enhancing women's rights and safety within the EU.

2.22 Thailand Extends Visa-Free Entry for Indian, Taiwanese Tourists

- **Thailand** has recently **extended a visa exemption initiative for tourists from India and Taiwan**, now effective until November 11, 2024.

2.23 Putin Inaugurated for Fifth Term Amid Western Boycott

- On May 7, 2024, **Vladimir Putin** has been inaugurated as the **President of Russia for a historic fifth term**. This followed a March election victory categorised by significant control over electoral proceedings.

3 State News

3.1 Gurugram Administration Ropes in Yuzvendra Chahal to Boost Voter Turnout

3.2 Uttarakhand Launches 'Pirul Lao-Paise Pao' Campaign to Combat Forest Fires

- The **Uttarakhand government** has launched the '**Pirul Lao-Paise Pao**' campaign to **contain the raging forest fires in the state**.
- He urged the people to actively participate in the campaign and stated that cooperatives, **Yuva Mangal Dal**, and **Van Panchayat** would also take part.

3.3 Meghalaya Gets first woman police chief

- **Meghalaya** has made history by appointing **Idashisha Nongrang** as the state's first **woman Director General of Police (DGP)**.

3.4 Tamil Nadu's Shyaamnikhil Becomes India's 85th Chess Grandmaster

- In a remarkable achievement, **P Shyaamnikhil from Tamil Nadu** has etched his name in the annals of Indian chess history by **becoming the country's 85th Grandmaster (GM)**.

3.5 Kerala Temples Ban Oleander After Woman's Death

- Following the tragic death of a 24-year-old woman, **Surya Surendran**, who accidentally consumed oleander leaves, two major **religious temple boards in Kerala** have imposed a ban on the use of oleander flowers (locally known as **Arali** in Kerala) **in temple offerings**.

- **Nerium oleander**, commonly known as oleander, is a **highly toxic plant** despite its widespread cultivation for ornamental purposes.

3.6 West Nile Virus Triggers High Alert in Kerala

- The **mosquito-borne disease known as West Nile Virus (WNV)** has recently made headlines in **Kerala**. Twelve confirmed cases and four suspected cases have been reported in the southern state in the past several weeks.
- **West Nile virus (WNV)** is **transmitted by the Culex mosquito** and its offspring, which are vectors of the virus.
- The virus is passed from one individual to another through the feeding of mosquitoes on sick birds, which are regularly moving from one location to another. The virus can infect humans after an incubation period if a mosquito bites a human. Additional routes of transmission **include transfusions of blood, gestational transmission from mother to kid**, and laboratory settings. On the other hand, **coming into touch with sick people or animals won't cause it to spread**.

4 Defence News

4.1 Indian Army and Punit Balan Group Collaborate to Develop India's First Constitution Park

- The **Indian Army** and the **Punit Balan Group** joined hands to **inaugurate the nation's first Constitution Park in Pune**.

4.2 Indian Navy's Modernization Plan with Steam to Diesel Conversion

- The **Indian Navy** has initiated a **modernisation programme** to enhance the life, maintenance support, and capability of its warships by **converting their propulsion systems from steam to diesel**.
- The **Ministry of Defence** had signed a **contract worth Rs. 313.42 crore** with **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** on 16 October 2023 to commence the **mid-life upgrade and re-powering of INS Beas**, the first of the Brahmaputra-class frigates to undergo this transformation.

4.3 Bengaluru's Flying Wedge Defence Unveils India's First Indigenous Bomber UAV

- **Flying Wedge Defence**, a **Bengaluru-based** defense and aerospace technology firm, recently revealed the **FWD-200B, India's inaugural indigenous bomber unmanned aircraft**.

4.4 Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor Assumes Command as AOC-in-C, Training Command

- **Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor** has taken **charge as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of the Training Command (TC)** in the Indian Air Force.

4.5 Indian Navy Launches LSAM 20 Barge

- The **Indian Navy** has **launched the sixth barge of the LSAM 16 (Yard 130) series**, named '**Ammunition Cum Torpedo Cum Missile Barge, LSAM 20 (Yard 130)**,' built by a private firm, **Suryadipta Projects Pvt Ltd**, in Thane, Maharashtra.
- **LSAM** stands for "**Landing Ship Ammunition**," indicating the barge's role in transporting ammunition for the Indian Navy.
- The barge will help the Indian Navy facilitate the transportation of articles and ammunition to ships, both alongside jetties and at outer harbors.

4.6 Border Road Organisation Celebrates 65th Raising Day

- The **Border Road Organisation (BRO)**, a crucial defence infrastructure organization, celebrated its **65th Raising Day on May 7, 2024**.
- BRO is responsible for developing and maintaining road networks in India's border areas. **Established on May 7, 1960**, it operates **under the Ministry of Defence**.
- BRO plays a crucial role in the strategic infrastructure of India, contributing to national security and economic development in remote regions.

4.7 Indian Army and IAF Conduct Joint Exercise in Punjab

- The **Indian Army's Kharga Corps**, under the aegis of the **Army's Western Command**, successfully conducted a three-day joint exercise **with the Indian Air Force (IAF)** at multiple locations **in Punjab**.
- The exercise, **titled "Gagan Strike-II"**, incorporated various force multipliers, including **Apache and ALH-WSI helicopters**, Unarmed Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), and special forces of the Indian Army.

4.8 IAF Conducts Bambi Bucket Operations to Combat Forest Fires in Uttarakhand

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has been actively assisting the state in **combating the forest fires**.
- In response to the raging fires in the Pauri Garhwal sector, the IAF provided much-needed relief by undertaking Bambi Bucket operations using its **Mi17 V5** helicopters.

4.9 Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla Takes Helm as Chief of Personnel of Indian Navy

- **Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla**, AVSM, NM, a seasoned naval officer with over 35 years of distinguished service, has **assumed the pivotal role of Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy** on 10 May 2024.

4.10 India, France Set for 7th Joint Military Exercise Shakti

- **India and France** are set to conduct the **7th edition of the Joint Military Exercise 'Shakti'** between May 13-26, 2024, in the **Umroi region of Meghalaya**.

4.11 Indian Air Force Tests BHISHM Portable Hospital Cubes

- **BHISHM portable cubes** were dropped from an airplane by the Indian Air Force in Agra as part of an important test. These **mobile hospitals** are meant to provide emergency medical care anywhere, and this event was their first test run.
- **Project BHISHM**
 - Project **BHISHM**, which stands for "**Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita, and Maitri**," involves **putting up mobile hospital units** that can treat up to **200 people at once**. The goal of this effort is to respond quickly and provide complete care in emergencies.
 - **BHISHM cubes are made up of 72 light, strong, and waterproof parts** that are meant to be deployed quickly and in a variety of ways.
 - These parts can be moved by hand, bike, or drone, which gives you options for how to handle different kinds of emergencies.
 - **The cube can also be fully set up in just 12 minutes**, which is very important during events with a lot of casualties.

5 Economy News & Banking News

5.1 Cred's New Offline QR Code 'Scan & Pay' Service Revolutionizes Payment Landscape

- In a strategic move, **Cred** has **launched** an innovative **UPI-based 'Scan and Pay' service**, marking its **entry into the offline payments sphere**, challenging incumbents like PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm.
- This service allows users to make payments directly from their bank accounts using any QR code, extending convenience to large format stores such as supermarkets, fast-food joints, beauty salons, and fashion boutiques.

5.2 RBI Cancels Acemoney (India) NBFC License For Irregular Lending Practices

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has **revoked** the **license of Acemoney (India) Limited**, a Delhi-based **non-banking financial company (NBFC)**, citing irregular lending practices.
- The RBI noted discrepancies in Acemoney's management of risks and code of conduct in its digital lending operations through third-party apps.

5.3 India Reduces Windfall Tax On Petroleum Crude

- India has adjusted its **windfall tax** on **petroleum crude**, **reducing it** to 8,400 Indian rupees (\$100.66) per metric ton from 9,600 rupees, effective May 1.

5.4 Worldline ePayments India Receives RBI Approval as Payment Aggregator

- **Worldline ePayments India** has announced its **receipt of approval** from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to **operate as a payment aggregator**.

5.5 Unified Payment Interface (UPI) Transactions Decline Slightly in April

- In **April 2024**, Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions witnessed a **marginal dip of 1% in volume and 0.7% in value** compared to March.
- Despite this, **year-on-year growth remains robust**, with a **50% increase in volume and 40% in value**.

5.6 Record High GST Revenue Collection in April 2024

- In **April 2024**, India witnessed a historic milestone in its Goods and Services Tax (GST) **revenue collection**, reaching an **unprecedented Rs 2.10 lakh crore**.
- This marked a substantial 12.4% increase from the previous year's collections. The surge was primarily driven by a robust 13.4% growth in domestic transactions and an 8.3% rise in imports.

5.7 Core Sector Growth Moderates to 5.2% in March

- In **March**, the growth of **India's core sectors slowed to 5.2% from February's 7.1%**, primarily due to the statistical effect of a high base.

5.8 ICICI Bank Joins India's Top 5 Companies with Market Cap Surpassing Rs 8 Trillion

- In a remarkable achievement, **ICICI Bank** has etched its name among **India's top five companies by market capitalization**, **surpassing the Rs 8 trillion mark**.
- The private lender's shares surged over 5%, propelling its market value to new heights and cementing its position as a financial powerhouse.

5.9 RBI Imposes Monetary Penalties on Co-operative Banks

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recently **imposed monetary penalties** on **several co-operative banks** for various regulatory violations.
- These penalties are based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and are not intended to validate or invalidate any specific transactions or agreements entered into by the banks with their customers.

5.10 NPCI Partners with Bank of Namibia to Develop UPI-Like Instant Payment System

- In a groundbreaking move, **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** has **joined hands with the Bank of Namibia (BoN)** to **introduce a real-time payment** system akin to **India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI)** in Namibia.
- This partnership **marks NPCI's first collaboration** with a **central bank for deploying the UPI stack in an international market**, aiming to revolutionize digital payments in Namibia.

5.11 RBI Announces 8% Interest on Floating Rate Bond 2034

- The **Government of India** has introduced a **Floating Rate Bond (FRB) maturing in 2034**, with the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) **declaring an 8% interest rate** for the Floating Rate Savings Bond (FRSB) 2034.
- This bond offers a **variable interest rate that resets every six months**, reflecting market conditions.

5.12 India's Manufacturing Activity in April: Second Strongest in 3.5 Years

- **In April**, the HSBC India Manufacturing **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** revealed a buoyant picture, with manufacturing activity registering its second strongest expansion since early 2021.

5.13 Micron's Venture in India: Rollout of First India-Made Chips

- **Micron India's Sanand unit** gears up to unveil its inaugural batch of domestically manufactured **semiconductor chips** in 2025, with a focus on global exportation.

5.14 Adani Green Energy Secures \$400 Million Financing for 750 MW Solar Projects

- **Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL)** has successfully secured **USD 400 million financing** from a consortium of five leading international banks for its 750 MW solar projects in Rajasthan and Gujarat.

5.15 OECD Raises Indian Economy Growth Forecast to 6.6% for 2024-25

- The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** has **revised India's GDP growth projection** upward to **6.6% for the fiscal year 2024-25**.

5.16 HDFC Life Introduces “No Jhanjhat Life Insurance Fatafat” Campaign: Revolutionizing Insurance Purchase Experience

- **HDFC Life** launches the “**No Jhanjhat Life Insurance Fatafat**” campaign, aimed at **simplifying and expediting life insurance purchases** through its online platform.

5.17 YES Bank Collaborates with ANQ to Launch Pi and Phi Credit Cards

- **YES Bank** has **partnered with ANQ** to introduce two innovative credit cards, **Pi and Phi**, aiming to blend traditional banking with fintech solutions.
- The **Pi card** offers **digital-only credit** on UPI for domestic transactions, while the **Phi card** provides **physical access for both domestic and international purchases**.

5.18 Fi Secures NBFC License from RBI: Expanding Financial Services Offerings

- **Fi**, a **neobanking startup**, backed by investors such as Peak XV and Temasek, has **obtained a non-banking finance company (NBFC) license** from the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**), enabling it to provide loans from its own books.

5.19 RBI Approves Re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as HDFC Bank Part-Time Chairman

- **Atanu Chakraborty's** re-appointment as **part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank** for three years, effective from May 5, 2024, to May 4, 2027, has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**).

5.20 REC Receives RBI Approval to Establish Subsidiary in GIFT City

- In a significant development, **REC Ltd.**, under the **Ministry of Power**, has obtained **approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to **establish a subsidiary in Gujarat International Finance Tech-City (GIFT), Gandhinagar**.

5.21 RBI Report: 97.76% of Rs 2000 Currency Notes Returned

- The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has disclosed that **97.76% of the Rs 2000 denomination banknotes** have been **reabsorbed into the banking system**, leaving only Rs 7,961 crore in circulation with the public.

5.22 GetVantage Secures NBFC License from RBI: Pioneering RBF Start-up

- In a groundbreaking move, **GetVantage**, a start-up specializing in **revenue-based finance (RBF)**, has achieved a significant milestone by **obtaining a non-banking financial company (NBFC) license** from the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**).
- This accomplishment marks a pivotal moment as **GetVantage becomes the first RBF and alternative funding platform in India to receive such authorization**.

5.23 RBI Revises Guidelines for Banks' Capital Market Exposure in T+1 Settlement

- In response to the introduction of the **T+1 settlement regime for stocks**, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has **updated the guidelines for custodian banks** regarding the issuance of **Irrevocable Payment Commitments (IPCs)**.
- Under these revised guidelines, custodian banks issuing IPCs will be subject to a maximum intraday risk, considered as **capital market exposure (CME)**, capped at **30 percent** of the settlement amount.

5.24 RBI Lowers Margin Funding Limits to 30% from 50%

- Following the reduction in trade settlement time from **T+2 to T+1 and T+0 for select equities by stock exchanges**, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has **decreased the maximum risk** for custodian banks issuing irrevocable payment commitments (IPCs) from **50% to 30%**.

5.25 India Ratings Raises Sovereign GDP Growth Estimate for FY25 to 7.1%

- **India Ratings and Research** have revised upward their **GDP growth estimate for FY25 to 7.1%**, citing strong government expenditure, improved corporate and banking sector balance sheets, and a budding private corporate capex cycle.

5.26 ICICI Bank Introduces UPI for NRIs Using International Mobile Numbers

- **ICICI Bank** has unveiled a groundbreaking feature **allowing non-resident Indian (NRI) customers to utilize Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in India through their international mobile numbers**.
- This innovation aims to simplify daily payments for NRIs by eliminating the need to register an Indian mobile number with their NRE/NRO accounts, thereby enhancing convenience.

5.27 RBI's G-Sec Buyback Results and Market Dynamics

- The **Reserve Bank of India** recently conducted a **buyback of government securities (G-Secs)**, receiving offers totaling ₹17,384.552 crore, but accepting only ₹10,513 crore, despite the notified amount being ₹40,000 crore.
- Market analysts speculate that banks may have offered G-Secs at higher prices, leading to rejection of offers out of sync with secondary market prices.

5.28 Enhancing Global Commerce Opportunities: YES BANK and EBANX Partnership

- **YES BANK**, a leading **private sector bank in India**, is **collaborating with EBANX**, a global fintech firm specializing in payment solutions for emerging markets.
- Together, they **aim to provide a comprehensive range of scalable payment solutions to merchants**, facilitating seamless cross-border transactions and expanding global commerce opportunities for both merchants and customers in India.

5.29 SBI's Q4 Report Highlights Strong Performance and Improved Asset Quality

- In its latest quarterly report, State Bank of India (SBI) showcased remarkable financial performance, **recording its highest standalone quarterly net profit at ₹20,698 crore.**

5.30 India's Retail Inflation Marginally Eases to 4.83% in April

- **India's retail inflation** has eased marginally to touch an **11-month low of 4.83 per cent on an annual basis in April**, according to government data released on Monday.

5.31 Public Sector Banks' Profit Surpasses ₹1.4 Lakh Crore in FY24

- In the financial year ending March 2024, the cumulative **profit of public sector banks (PSBs) surged, reaching over ₹1.4 lakh crore**, marking a significant 35% increase from the previous year's earnings of ₹1.04 lakh crore.
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** emerged as a major contributor, accounting for over **40% of the total earnings.**

5.32 RBI Gold Holdings and Foreign Exchange Reserves Update

- In the fiscal year **2023-24**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** saw a significant increase in its **gold reserves, adding 27.46 metric tonnes** and reaching a total of **822.10 metric tonnes by the end of March 2024.**
- This brought the **share of gold in the total foreign exchange reserves** to about **8.15%**, up from 7.81% in the previous year.

5.33 RBI Approves Quant MF to Raise Stake in RBL Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted **approval to Quant Mutual Fund (MF)** to **increase its stake in RBL Bank to 9.98%** by May 12, 2025.
- This approval, subject to conditions and provisions under the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, was disclosed in a regulatory filing.

5.34 HDFC Bank Introduces Pixel Play: India's Premier Virtual Credit Card with Visa

- In a groundbreaking move, **HDFC Bank** has rolled out **Pixel Play**, the **nation's inaugural virtual credit card partnered with Visa.**
- Offering **two distinct variants, Pixel Play and Pixel Go**, this innovative card empowers users to craft personalized cards tailored to their lifestyle preferences and chosen merchants, all through the bank's PayZapp mobile app.

5.35 Wholesale Inflation Hits 13-Month High: Food and Fuel Surge

- **In April, wholesale inflation** in India soared to a **13-month high of 1.26%**, up from 0.53% in March.

- This surge was primarily fueled by rising prices of food articles, particularly vegetables, and a year-on-year increase of 1.4% in fuel and power costs after months of deflation.

5.36 Moody's Forecasts Indian Economy to Expand at 6.6% in FY25

- **Moody's Ratings** predicts a **6.6%** expansion for the **Indian economy** in the fiscal year ending March **2025 (FY25)**.

5.37 Five States Show Interest in Aadhaar-Based Authentication for GST Registration

- According to an official statement, **five Indian states, such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana**, have **shown interest in using Aadhaar-based authentication for GST registration**.
- Additionally, **Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh**, and the Union Territory of **Puducherry** have **started testing Aadhaar identification**.
- **Currently, OTP-based Aadhaar authentication is used by GST officials** to verify the identities of people who want to register. However, this method has been abused, with people using other people's names to create fake businesses to claim Input Tax Credit (ITC).

6 Business News

6.1 Former BharatPe COO Dhruv Bahl Launches Eternal Capital VC Fund

- In the dynamic landscape of Indian startups, **former BharatPe COO Dhruv Dhanraj Bahl** steps into the world of venture capital with the launch of his maiden fund, **Eternal Capital**, with a substantial corpus of Rs 240 crore, including a greenshoe option.

6.2 Infibeam's CCAvenue Expands Merchant Access Through Shivalik SFB Partnership

- **Infibeam Avenues' CCAvenue**, a leading payments platform, has entered into a **strategic partnership with Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SFB) to enhance merchant access**.
- Through this collaboration, merchants registered with CCAvenue will gain access to Shivalik SFB's extensive customer base.
- The integration will enable account holders of the bank to make payments seamlessly on websites powered by CCAvenue, leveraging Shivalik SFB's internet banking service.

6.3 Bajaj Auto Set to Revolutionize Transportation with World's First CNG Motorcycle

- **Bajaj Auto**, led by Managing Director Rajiv Bajaj, is all set to introduce a groundbreaking innovation in the world of motorcycles.
- Amidst soaring petrol prices, the company is gearing up to **launch the world's first CNG-powered motorcycle** on June 18, 2024.

6.4 P-note Investments in Indian Markets Soar to Nearly 6-Year High

- **Investments** through **participatory notes (P-notes)** in the Indian capital markets reached a staggering **Rs 1.5 lakh crore at the end of February 2024**, marking the **highest level in nearly six years**.
- This surge in P-note investments, encompassing Indian equity, debt, and hybrid securities, has been driven by the strong performance of the domestic economy.

6.5 Setu Unveils Sesame, India's First BFSI-Focused Large Language Model

- **Setu**, a leading **Indian fintech company** and part of the Pine Labs Group, has **unveiled Sesame, India's first Large Language Model (LLM)** specifically **designed for the banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) sector**.
- **Developed in collaboration with** indigenous AI research firm **Sarvam AI**, this groundbreaking initiative marks a significant milestone in the adoption of advanced AI technologies in the financial services industry.

6.6 India Leads Global Remittances, Surpassing \$100 Billion Mark

- **India emerged** as the **global leader in remittances in 2022**, receiving over **\$111 billion, surpassing the \$100 billion mark for the first time**.
- The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) highlighted **India, alongside Mexico, China, the Philippines, and France**, as the **top five** remittance recipient countries.

6.7 NCLT Approval: Sapphire Media's Acquisition of Big 92.7 FM

- The **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Mumbai** has sanctioned **Sapphire Media's acquisition plan for Reliance Broadcast Network's Big 92.7 FM**.

6.8 IREDA Establishes Subsidiary in GIFT City, Gujarat

- **IREDA**, a state-owned entity under the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, has formed a subsidiary named **IREDA Global Green Energy Finance IFSC Limited** at the International Financial Services Centre (**IFSC**) within **GIFT City, Gujarat**.
- This move aims to leverage global financial markets to support the growth of the renewable energy sector in India.

6.9 Bharti Enterprises Sells ICICI Lombard Shares for ₹663 Crore: Transaction Overview

- **Bharti Enterprises**, led by Sunil Bharti Mittal, divested 38.50 lakh shares of ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company for ₹663 crore through open market transactions.
- This sale **reduced Bharti Enterprises' stake in ICICI Lombard** from **2.43% to 1.63%**.

6.10 India's Industrial Production Growth Slows to 4.9% in March 2024

- **India's industrial production growth** rate decelerated to **4.9% in March 2024** compared to 5.7% in February, as per data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- The **Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for FY24 stood at 5.8%**, up from 5.2% in the previous year. In March 2023, industrial output had grown by 1.9%.

6.11 Thomas Cook India Introduces TCPay: A Game-Changer in International Money Transfers

- **Thomas Cook India** has revolutionized international money transfers with the **launch of TCPay, a user-friendly digital service designed to simplify and enhance the remittance process.**
- Traditionally, sending money abroad involved tedious paperwork and limited operating hours. **With TCPay, customers can now enjoy 24×7 remittances with ease and efficiency.**

6.12 Coca-Cola India Joins Forces with Hockey India to Empower Women's Hockey

- **Anandana, The Coca-Cola India Foundation**, has forged its **maiden alliance with Hockey India for the National Women's Hockey League 2024.**
- This collaboration aims to elevate women's hockey by providing essential resources and support to players, aligning with Coca-Cola India's commitment to sports and gender equality through its **#SheTheDifference campaign.**

6.13 Reliance Capital Acquisition: Hinduja Group's IIHL Receives IRDAI Approval

- **Hinduja Group's IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL)** has obtained approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for the **acquisition of Reliance Capital.**
- This acquisition encompasses Reliance Capital's insurance subsidiaries, including Reliance General Insurance and Reliance Nippon Life Insurance.

6.14 Mahindra & Mahindra Sign MoU with MSDE for 'Drone Didi' Pilot Project

- In a significant step towards empowering women in emerging technology sectors, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (**MSDE**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **Mahindra & Mahindra** Ltd to conduct **two Pilot Projects under the Drone Didi Yojana**.
- The event, attended by Secretary Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, and Group CEO & MD of Mahindra Group Dr. Anish Shah, marks a crucial **collaboration aimed at creating new livelihood opportunities for women in agriculture through drone technology**.

6.15 SAIL-Bhilai to Set Up Chhattisgarh's First 15-Mw Floating Solar Plant

- In a significant stride towards sustainable energy practices, the **Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP)**, a key unit of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) situated in **Chhattisgarh**, is set to **inaugurate the state's premier floating solar project**.

6.16 Hero MotoCorp Joins ONDC Network to Revolutionize Two-Wheeler Industry

- In a groundbreaking move, **Hero MotoCorp**, India's leading two-wheeler manufacturer, has **become the first in its sector to integrate with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**.
- By leveraging ONDC's platform, Hero MotoCorp aims to enhance accessibility and convenience for its customers, offering a seamless digital experience for purchasing two-wheeler parts, accessories, and merchandise.

7 Important Days

7.1 International Labour Day 2024 Celebrated on 1st May

- **International Labour Day**, also known as **May Day** or **Workers' Day**, is celebrated on Wednesday, **May 1st, 2024**.
- Every year, the **theme** is announced by **international labour organisations** like the International Labour Organization (ILO). This year, the focus is on **ensuring safety and health at work in a changing climate**.

7.2 World Tuna Day 2024 Observed Annually on May 2nd

- **World Tuna Day**, observed **annually on May 2nd**, is dedicated to raising awareness about the critical importance of tuna conservation.

7.3 World Press Freedom Day 2024 Celebrates on May 3rd

- On **May 3rd**, the global community will come together to observe **World Press Freedom Day**.
- The **theme for 2024** is **"A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis."**

7.4 World Asthma Day 2024 Observed on May 7, 2024

- **Every year on the first Tuesday of May**, we celebrate **World Asthma Day**. This year World Asthma Day is observed on May 7, 2024 is **organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma, (GINA)** with World Health Organization collaborative organization founded in 1993.

7.5 World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2024 Observed on May 8th

- **May 8th** is observed as **World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day**, a global day to celebrate the uniqueness and unity of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- The **theme** of this year's World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, **Keeping Humanity Alive**, is a call to celebrate those who give their time, and sometimes their lives, to ease the suffering of others and protect their inherent human dignity.

7.6 World Thalassaemia Day 2024 Celebrates on 8th May

- Observed **annually on May 8th**, **World Thalassaemia Day** aims to raise global awareness about this **genetic disorder**, support those affected and their caregivers, promote research for a cure, and dispel myths surrounding the disease.
- This year's **theme** is: **"Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassaemia Treatment for All"**.

7.7 International Day of Argania 2024 Observed on 10th May

- On **May 10 every year**, people around the world celebrate the **International Day of Argania**.
- This special day **honours the Argan tree (Argania spinosa)**, an ancient species that has grown in Morocco for about 80 million years.

7.8 World Migratory Bird Day 2024: Celebrating the Importance of Insects

- **World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD)** is an annual global campaign that aims to raise awareness about the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.
- This year, **WMBD will be celebrated on two dates: Saturday, 11 May 2024, and Saturday, 12 October 2024**, to align with the cyclic patterns of bird migration in different hemispheres.
- The **theme** for World Migratory Bird Day 2024 is **"Insects"**.

7.9 National Technology Day 2024, Celebrating India's Technological Prowess

- **National Technology Day** is celebrated **annually in India on 11 May**.
- The day was **first established in 1998** to **commemorate the successful nuclear test at Pokhran**.

7.10 International Nurses Day 2024 Observed on 12th May

- Every year on **12 May**, the world observes **International Nurses Day** to honor the **birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale**, the pioneer of modern nursing.
- Her unwavering compassion and tireless efforts during the Crimean War (1853-56) earned her the legendary **title of “Lady with the Lamp.”**

7.11 International Day of Plant Health 2024 Observed on 12th May

- The **International Day of Plant Health (IDPH)** is observed annually on **12 May** to raise awareness about the critical importance of protecting plant health.

7.12 United Nations Declares May 25 as World Football Day

- In a historic move, the **United Nations General Assembly** has unanimously proclaimed **May 25 as the World Football Day**.

7.13 International Day of Families 2024 Observed on May 15th

- Every year on **May 15th**, we celebrate the **International Day of Families**.

8 Ranks & Reports

8.1 Indian EdTech Giants Shine on TIME's Global Ranking

- In a remarkable achievement, **Emeritus**, the Indian **edtech startup**, has secured the coveted **top spot in TIME Magazine's “World's Top EdTech Companies of 2024” ranking**.

8.2 World Press Freedom Index 2024 Announced, India Ranked 159th Out of 180 Countries

- In the latest edition of the **World Press Freedom Index** published **annually by Reporters Without Borders (RSF)**, India finds itself at a concerning position, ranking **159th out of 180 countries**.
- This marks a **slight improvement from its previous rank of 161**, yet it still underscores significant challenges faced by journalists in the country.
- Surprisingly, **India trails behind its neighboring nation Pakistan**, which holds the **152nd position**, while **Sri Lanka stands at 150th place**.
- **Norway topped the ranking**, while Denmark was on the second rank in World Press Freedom Index. Sweden ranked third on the list.

8.3 Mumbai & Delhi Among 50 Wealthiest Cities of World: Henley & Partners

- In a testament to India's sustained economic growth, **Mumbai and Delhi** have **debuted in the top 50 wealthiest cities worldwide** according to the **Wealthiest Cities Report 2024** by **Henley & Partners and New World Wealth**.
- **Mumbai** secured the **24th position** while **Delhi** claimed the **37th spot**.

8.4 IIM Ahmedabad Tops India's Educational Institutions in Center for World University Rankings 2024

- As per the **Center for World University Rankings (CWUR) Report 2024**, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad has been ranked as the **best-performing institute across India**.
- **IIM Ahmedabad** climbed nine spots to secure the **410th position globally**. The rankings process examined data from over 20,966 universities worldwide.
- **Globally, Harvard University maintained its top ranking** for the thirteenth consecutive year.

8.5 2024 World Wildlife Crime Report

- The **2024 World Wildlife Crime Report** was released by the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime** on May 13, 2024.
- This report provides **insights into the illegal wildlife trade** that occurred between 2015 and 2021.

8.6 World Migration Report 2024

- The **World Migration Report 2024**, released by the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** underscores that while migration remains an integral part of the solution for many economies, societies, and families worldwide, significant challenges persist in the rapidly changing global context.

8.7 World Bank Report on Agri-food System

- The **World Bank's** recent report, "**Recipe for a Livable Planet: Achieving Net Zero Emissions in the Agrifood System**", has emphasized on significant potential for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the **agrifood sector**, which **currently accounts for about a third of all global emissions**.
- The report outlines actions that countries can take to enhance food security, improve the food system's resilience to climate change, and protect vulnerable populations during the transition to a low-carbon economy.
- The **World Bank report identifies** the **top ten agrifood system emitters**, which include **China, Brazil, India, the United States, and Indonesia**, among others. These countries are responsible for 55% of global agrifood emissions, with the top 20 emitters accounting for 67%.

9 Awards News

9.1 Purnima Devi Barman Gets the 'Green Oscar' Whitley Gold Award 2024

- **Dr. Purnima Devi Barman**, a wildlife biologist from Assam, has been recognized with the **prestigious Whitley Gold Award** for her exemplary conservation efforts

aimed at **protecting the endangered Greater Adjutant Stork** and its wetland habitat.

- This accolade, often **referred to as the 'Green Oscar'**, highlights her remarkable contributions to wildlife conservation and underscores the importance of grassroots efforts in safeguarding biodiversity.

9.2 UNESCO Guillermo Cano Prize 2024 Awarded to Palestine Journalists in Gaza

- In a gesture of solidarity and recognition, **Palestinian journalists** covering the crisis in Gaza have been named laureates of the 2024 **UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize**.

9.3 Alok Shukla Awarded Goldman Environmental Prize for 2024

- **Alok Shukla**, a 43-year-old environmental activist **from Chhattisgarh**, India, has been **awarded** the prestigious **Goldman Environmental Prize for 2024**.
- Shukla led a successful grassroots campaign to **protect 445,000 acres of the biodiversity-rich Hasdeo Aranya forests** from the development of 21 proposed coal mines.

9.4 2024 Pulitzer Prize Winners Announced

- The prestigious **Pulitzer Prizes for 2024** were announced on May 7, 2024, by Columbia University in the United States of America.
- The awards, **considered the most prestigious in the fields of journalism and arts**, were **conferred by Columbia University** on the recommendation of the Pulitzer Prize Board. The winners will be formally recognized at a ceremony later, presided over by the president of Columbia University.

9.5 Oxford Bookstores Honours Excellence in Book Design and Visual Arts

- Oxford Bookstores announced **Bhavi Mehta** as the **winner of the 9th edition of the Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize**.
- Mehta's winning entry was the **book jacket** for "**The Book Beautiful**" published by Hachette India and authored by Pradeep Sebastian.

9.6 Pawan Sindhi Honored with Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024

- **Pawan Sindhi** was bestowed with the prestigious **Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024** at an event attended by esteemed saints, Mahatmas, and sadhus.

9.7 Dr. Soumya Swaminathan Honoured with Honorary Doctorate by McGill University

- **Dr. Soumya Swaminathan**, a globally renowned leader in public health and infectious diseases, has been **named among the 10 exceptional individuals to**

receive an honorary degree from Canada's prestigious McGill University during the Spring 2024 Convocation ceremonies.

9.8 Hindustan Shipyard Limited's CMD Cmde Hemant Khatri Honored with 'PSU Samarpan Award'

- In a prestigious ceremony held in New Delhi, Cmde **Hemant Khatri**, the Chairman and Managing Director (**C&MD**) of **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)**, was **bestowed with the esteemed 'PSU Samarpan Award'** by Gov Connect.

9.9 Chandrakant Satija Honoured with Global Excellence Award 2024

- **Chandrakant Satija**, the renowned educationist and Founder/CEO of Chandra Admission Consultants, was **honoured with the Global Excellence Award 2024**.

9.10 Ruskin Bond Awarded Sahitya Akademi Fellowship

- The prestigious **Sahitya Akademi Fellowship** has been given to **Ruskin Bond**, a renowned British-Indian author.
- The **Sahitya Akademi Fellowship** is the **top award that India's National Academy of Letters, the Sahitya Akademi**, gives out.
- The winner of this award has made **"exceptional contributions towards enriching Indian literature."** Winners are chosen based on how much they have done in the writing world throughout their careers.

10 Science & Technology News

10.1 FLiRT: New COVID-19 Variants Increase Concern in US

- A series of **COVID-19 variants within the Omicron JN.1 lineage**, known as **FLiRT**, including the KP.2 and KP 1.1 variants, is **rapidly spreading in the United States**, exhibiting new mutations which increase their contagiousness.

10.2 Taam Ja' Blue Hole (TJBH): World's Deepest Blue Hole discovered in Mexico

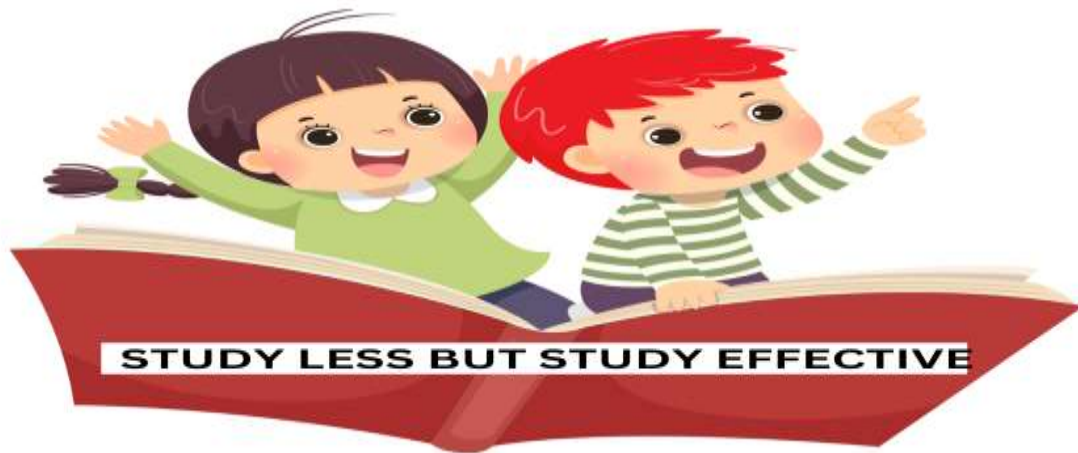
- Researchers have discovered the **world's deepest known blue hole**, the **Taam Ja' Blue Hole (TJBH)**, located in **Chetumal Bay off the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico**.
- New measurements indicate that the **TJBH extends at least 1,380 feet (420 meters) below sea level**, surpassing the previous record holder, the **Sansha Yongle Blue Hole (also known as the Dragon Hole)** in the South China Sea, by 390 feet (119 meters).

10.3 LOQU: IIT-G's Groundbreaking Speech Tech for the Speechless

- Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT-G)** have achieved breakthrough in speech technology by **developing and patenting "LOQU,"** a

novel method to **generate human speech signals directly from vocal cord vibration signals**.

- This innovative approach allows for the reconstruction of speech signals from vocal cord vibrations, offering promising applications for speech-impaired individuals and medical settings.



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10.4 Sunita Williams: Indian-Origin Astronaut Set for Third Space Mission

- Indian-origin astronaut **Sunita Williams**, alongside colleague **Butch Wilmore**, is embarking on her **third space mission to the International Space Station (ISS)**.
- This mission marks the inaugural crewed flight of the **Starliner spacecraft**, designed to test its systems from launch to landing.

10.5 ISRO Develops Semi-Cryogenic Engine Using Liquid Oxygen Kerosene

- **ISRO**, through the **Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)** with support from other launch vehicle centers, is advancing the development of a **semi-cryogenic propulsion system**.
- This system **aims to enhance the payload capacity** of Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (**LVM3**) and future launch vehicles by utilizing a 2,000 kN thrust semi-cryogenic engine powered by a combination of **liquid oxygen (LOX) and kerosene**.

10.6 Goldene: Swedish Scientists Create First Freestanding 2D Gold Sheet

- Scientists at **Sweden's Linköping University** have recently made a significant scientific breakthrough by **creating the first free-standing sheet made of gold**, which is **only one atom thick**.
- This **2D sheet**, named **"goldene,"** is **similar to graphene** and marks the **first time a metal has been transformed into a 2D sheet**.

10.7 NASA and JAXA Forge Ahead with XRISM Despite Instrument Glitch

- **NASA** and the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (**JAXA**) have decided to **operate an instrument on the X-ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission (XRISM) satellite** as-is for at least the next year and a half, despite encountering an issue affecting one of its instruments.
- This decision showcases the agencies' determination to push forward with this groundbreaking X-ray astronomy mission.

10.8 NASA Announces Plan To Build First Railway System On Moon

- **NASA** has unveiled its **ambitious plan to construct the first lunar railway system, known as FLOAT (Flexible Levitation on a Track)**, designed to revolutionize payload transport on the Moon.
- This innovative system **aims to provide reliable, autonomous, and efficient transportation essential for the daily operations of a sustainable lunar base**, aligning with NASA's Moon to Mars initiative and mission concepts like the **Robotic Lunar Surface Operations 2 (RLSO2)**.

10.9 TCS Unveils Global AI Centre of Excellence in France

- In a significant move, **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has announced the creation of a **Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence in the French capital, Paris**.
- The announcement was made during the prestigious "Choose France Summit" hosted by President Emmanuel Macron, underscoring TCS's commitment to the French market and the global AI landscape.

10.10 Google Arts & Culture Launches "Millets: Seeds of Change" Exhibition

- Highlighting the historical importance and modern relevance of millets, **Google Arts & Culture**, in collaboration with **India's Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**, presents an engaging **digital exhibition titled "Millets: Seeds of Change."**
- This exhibition delves into the journey of millets, showcasing their evolution from ancient staples to contemporary superfoods, and emphasizes their nutritional value, role in climate resilience, and potential to address global food security challenges.

10.11 National Workshop Boosts DeepTech Startups and Investment in India

- On May 13 and 14, 2024, the **4th National Workshop on Technology Innovation in Cyber-Physical Systems, or TIPS 4.0**, took place.
- The event was put together by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** as part of the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)**. It **happened at IIT Bombay**, more specifically at the Technology Innovation Hub for IoT & IoE (TIH-IoT).

10.12 Google Launches AI-Powered Scam Protection at I/O 2024

- At the Google I/O 2024 developer conference, Google showed off a new and useful tool that will help protect Android users from phone scams.
- This feature, which is powered by AI, is meant to make things safer by finding and warning users of possible scams over the phone.
- **Gemini Nano** is the core of this new feature. It is a small version of Google's advanced language model that was made just for Android devices.
- **Gemini Nano works offline** and listens to call conversations in real-time, looking for trends and words that are often used in scam conversations. When it finds possible scams, it warns users right away, giving them time to end dangerous calls.

10.13 OpenAI Offers Free GPT-4o, Unveils New Capabilities

- **OpenAI**, a major player in the field of artificial intelligence study, recently announced big improvements to their AI models, including the **release of the GPT-4o model**.

10.14 NASA Telescope to Hunt Big Bang-Era Black Holes in 2026

- Black Hole Week (May 6 to 10) has made people pay more attention to **NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope**, which **will be launched in 2026**.
- Most astronomers are looking forward to this project, which is **meant to look for primordial black holes**, which are leftovers from when the universe was first formed about 13.8 billion years ago.

10.15 Extreme Solar Storm Hits Earth

- On May 11, 2024, **Earth experienced its most significant solar storm** in over two decades. The storm, triggered by **multiple coronal mass ejections (CMEs)** from the sun, stirred a global buzz due to its potent impact on communication networks, satellite functions, and power grids.
- **Coronal mass ejections** are **massive bursts of solar wind and magnetic fields** rising above the solar corona or being released into space.

10.16 India Plans Dedicated Semiconductor R&D Wing Under ISRC

- The government has proposed the **establishment of a dedicated research and development (R&D) unit** under the newly envisaged **India Semiconductor Research Centre (ISRC)**.
- This initiative **aims to enhance semiconductor research that can transition swiftly to industrial production.**

10.17 ISRO Successfully Tests 3D-Printed Rocket Engine

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has achieved a remarkable feat by **successfully conducting a hot test of a 3D-printed liquid rocket engine** on May 10, 2024. This test represents a crucial step forward in **integrating Additive Manufacturing (AM) technologies into India's space exploration program.**
- The engine tested, known as the **PS4 engine**, is primarily **used in the fourth stage of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** and the Reaction Control System (RCS) of the first stage (PS1).
- It is **developed by ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)** and uses a combination of **Nitrogen Tetroxide** and **Mono Methyl Hydrazine** as propellants in a pressure-fed system.
- A rising trend within artificial intelligence involves the **creation of 'deadbots' or 'griefbots'**, which are chatbots **designed to emulate deceased individuals.**

10.18 Scientists Develop 'All-in-One' Broad Coronavirus Vaccine

- In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, researchers have recognized the urgent need for vaccines that **can provide protection against not just one, but potentially multiple coronavirus strains**, including those yet undiscovered. On May 6, 2024, a groundbreaking study was published in the journal Nature Nanotechnology, introducing an advanced **'all-in-one' vaccine designed by leading scientists from prestigious universities.**
- The primary feature of the **vaccine**, termed **"Quartet Nanocages"**, entails quartets of linked receptor-binding domains (RBDs) from a range of SARS-like betacoronaviruses connected via SpyTag/SpyCatcher links to a computationally designed nanocage.

11 Appointments News

11.1 Justice Dinesh Kumar Appointed as the SAT Presiding officer

- **Justice (retired) Dinesh Kumar** took charge as the **Presiding Officer of the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT)** on 29 April 2024.

11.2 Pratima Singh (IRS) Appointed As Director In DPIIT

- The Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) has announced the appointment of **Pratima Singh**, an officer of the Indian Revenue Service (IRS), as the **Director in the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.

11.3 Sanjaya Kumar Mishra to head GST Appellate Tribunal

- Retired Justice **Sanjaya Kumar Mishra** has been **appointed as the President of the Goods & Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) by the Centre**.
- The appointment, made by the **Appointment Committee of the Cabinet** based on the recommendation of the Search-cum-Selection Committee, comes with a salary of ₹2.50 lakh per month for a tenure of four years.

11.4 Shashi Bhushan Singh Appointed Secretary of National Jute Board

- **Shashi Bhushan Singh**, a 2010-batch Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer, has been **appointed as the Secretary (at the Director level) of the National Jute Board in Kolkata under the Ministry of Textiles**.

11.5 UNICEF India Welcomes Kareena as National Ambassador

- Bollywood actress **Kareena Kapoor Khan** has been **appointed as the National Ambassador for UNICEF India**.

11.6 Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Names Sanjeev Nautiyal as MD & CEO

- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** has announced the appointment of **Sanjeev Nautiyal** as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (**MD & CEO**) for a tenure of three years, effective from July 1, 2024.

11.7 Visa Appoints Sujai Raina as India Country Manager

- **Visa**, the global digital payments platform, has appointed **Sujai Raina** as the **new Country Manager for India**.

11.8 IRDAI Approves Appointment of Keki Mistry as Chairman of HDFC Life

- Following Deepak Parekh's resignation from the **post of Chairman, HDFC Life Insurance** appointed **Keki Mistry** to fill the position.

11.9 L&T Elevates R Shankar Raman as President

- **R Shankar Raman**, the current Whole-time Director and CFO of L&T, has been elevated to the **position of President**.

11.10 SBI General Insurance Appoints Jaya Tripathi as Head of Key Relations Group

- **SBI General Insurance** has announced the appointment of **Jaya Tripathi** as the **Head – Key Relations Group**.

11.11 RBI Appoints R. Lakshmi Kanth Rao as Executive Director

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has appointed **R. Lakshmi Kanth Rao as Executive Director**.

11.12 Zeta Launches Digital Credit as a Service for Banks in India: Revolutionizing Credit Access

- **Zeta**, a global provider of cutting-edge banking technology, has unveiled its **Digital Credit as a Service offering at Democratizing Credit 2024**.
- Leveraging **NPCI's Credit Line on UPI scheme**, Zeta aims to tap into the burgeoning credit market in India, projecting transaction volumes to surpass \$1 trillion by 2030. With a goal to capture 50% of this market, Zeta's solution streamlines credit issuance processes for banks, facilitating the rapid deployment of diverse credit products.

11.13 N Chandrasekaran to Chair Tata Electronics

- **Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran** is set to assume the role of **chairman at Tata Electronics**, a significant move that underscores the Tata group's commitment to its \$14 billion investment in the semiconductor business.

11.14 Dileep Sanghani Elected As Chairman Of IFFCO

- The **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO)** has successfully conducted its 15th RGB elections for its Board of Directors, marking a remarkable milestone in cooperative governance.

12 Agreements News

12.1 India And Europe To Strengthen 6G Collaboration

- **India's Bharat 6G Alliance** is set to sign a cooperation agreement with **Europe's Industry Alliance 6G**, following a similar agreement with the US.
- This partnership aims to foster collaboration in developing 6G technology.

12.2 CAG of India and Auditor General of Nepal Sign MoU to Enhance Collaboration in Auditing

- In a significant development, **Girish Chandra Murmu**, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (**CAG**), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **Toyam Raya, Auditor General of Nepal**.
- This agreement **aims to strengthen collaboration** and facilitate the **exchange of expertise in auditing practices** between the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of both countries.

12.3 India and Ghana Strengthen Financial Integration for Enhanced Trade

- **India and Ghana** are poised to **integrate their payment systems, UPI and GHIPSS**, to facilitate instant and cost-effective fund transfers between the two nations.
- Within six months, **NPCI's UPI is set to be operational on Ghana's GHIPSS platform**, marking a significant step in financial collaboration.

12.4 Indian Coast Guard Inks MoU with Hindalco for Indigenous Marine-Grade Aluminium

- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** and **Hindalco Industries**, a leading industry group, have joined forces to **promote the manufacturing and supply of indigenous marine-grade aluminium for the construction of ships**.

12.5 DRDO and IIT Bhubaneswar Collaborate on Defence Technology Projects

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) and the Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT Bhubaneswar**) have initiated a **partnership aimed at advancing research in electronics warfare, AI-driven surveillance, power systems, and radar systems**.
- DRDO has **sanctioned nine projects** from the Electronics and Communication Systems (ECS) Cluster to IIT Bhubaneswar, with an additional seven projects awaiting approval, backed by ₹18 crore in funding.

13 Sports News

13.1 Amul Becomes Lead Sponsor for USA and South Africa in T20 World Cup 2024

- The renowned Indian dairy giant **Amul** has been **named the Lead Arm sponsor for the USA and South Africa cricket teams** during the highly anticipated **T20 World Cup** in June.

13.2 India to Host 2025 BWF World Junior Badminton Championships in Guwahati

- The **Badminton World Federation (BWF)** has announced that **India will host the prestigious 2025 BWF World Junior Championships** at the **National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati**.
- This marks a significant milestone as **India will be hosting this premier badminton event for the first time since 2008**, when it was **held in Pune**.

13.3 Thomas & Uber Cup 2024: China secure both men's and women's crowns

- The People's Republic of **China** has reclaimed its throne as the **top badminton nation, clinching both the men's and women's titles at the prestigious 2024 BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals in Chengdu**.

- This remarkable feat marks the first time since 2012 that China has conquered both the men's and women's world team championships.

13.4 Lando Norris Storms to Maiden F1 Victory at Electrifying Miami Grand Prix

- **Lando Norris of McLaren** clinched his **first-ever Grand Prix victory** in a pulsating showdown at the **Miami Grand Prix**.

13.5 ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024: Bangladesh Gears Up for Cricketing Extravaganza

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has unveiled the fixtures for the highly anticipated **ninth ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024**, set to take place from 3 to 20 October in **Bangladesh**.

13.6 Real Madrid Clinches 36th La Liga Title

- The **Spanish football giants, Real Madrid**, have etched another remarkable achievement in their illustrious history by securing the **La Liga 2023-24 season title**.

13.7 2024 Madrid Open, Iga Swiatek and Andrey Rublev Triumph

- The **2024 Madrid Open**, held in the **Spanish capital** from April 22 to May 5, witnessed two remarkable champions in the singles events. **Iga Swiatek of Poland claimed her first Madrid Open title**, while **Andrey Rublev of Russia** secured his **second triumph** in this prestigious tournament.

13.8 Yuzvendra Chahal Creates History to Become First Indian Bowler to 350 T20 Wickets

- **Yuzvendra Chahal**, the wily leg-spinner from Rajasthan Royals, continues to etch his name in the annals of T20 cricket history.
- In the ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL), Chahal achieved a remarkable feat by becoming the **first Indian bowler to take 350 wickets in the shortest format of the game**.

13.9 Amul Becomes 'Official Sponsor' of Sri Lanka Men's Cricket Team for T20 World Cup 2024

- **Sri Lanka Cricket** has announced that the Indian milk producer **Amul has been appointed as the 'Official Sponsor' of the Sri Lanka Men's Team** for the duration of the **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024**.

13.10 Bajrang Punia Provisionally Suspended by Wrestling Authorities

- The **United World Wrestling (UWW)** has provisionally **suspended** Indian wrestler **Bajrang Punia** until December 31, 2024, following his suspension by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for his 'refusal' to provide a urine sample.

13.11 Neeraj Chopra Kicks Off 2024 Season with Silver at Doha Diamond League

- **Neeraj Chopra**, the reigning Olympic and world champion in javelin throw, started his 2024 season on a strong note, **securing a second-place finish at the Doha Diamond League 2024**.
- **Chopra's impressive throw** of **88.36m** on his final attempt fell just 2cm short of Czechia's Jakub Vadlejch, the reigning Diamond League champion and Tokyo 2020 silver medalist.

13.12 Jorge Martin wins 2024 French MotoGP

13.13 Japan Wins Maiden Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Trophy

- **Japanese men's hockey team** etched its name in the history books by **clinching its maiden Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy title**.
- The **match against Pakistan** ended in a 2-2 deadlock after regulation time, leading to a penalty shootout. Japan emerged victorious, defeating Pakistan 4-1 in the nerve-wracking shootout at the Azlan Shah Stadium in Ipoh, Malaysia, on 11 May 2024.

13.14 Magnus Carlsen's Incredible Comeback Wins 2024 Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland

- In a display of sheer dominance, **World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen** pulled off an incredible comeback to **claim victory at the 2024 Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland**.

13.15 New Zealand's Colin Munro Announces Retirement from International Cricket

14 Summits and Conferences News

14.1 26th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting in New Delhi

- The **26th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting** took place in **New Delhi**, co-chaired by Secretary (East) Jaideep Mazumdar and Permanent Secretary Albert Chua of Singapore.
- Discussions encompassed the **three pillars of engagement—political-security, economic, and socio-cultural**—reviewing ASEAN-India relations as outlined in the **ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2021-2025)**.
- Key topics included the implementation of the **Prime Ministers' 12-Point Proposal** and preparations for the **upcoming ASEAN-India Summit in Vientiane**.

15 Miscellaneous News

15.1 Archaeologists uncover 7000-year-old Prehistoric Settlement in Serbia

- Archaeologists have recently discovered a **7000-year-old pre-historic settlement near the Tamiš River in northeastern Serbia**. The settlement is believed to date back to the **late Neolithic period** and spans roughly 11-13 hectares, surrounded by four to six ditches.

15.2 Oldest Evidence of Earth's Magnetic Field Found in Rocks

- **Geologists** from MIT and Oxford University **discovered the oldest evidence of Earth's magnetic field in 3.7 billion-year-old rocks from Greenland's Isua Supracrustal Belt**.
- The magnetic field protects the planet from harmful solar radiation and cosmic rays, sustains the atmosphere, and allows liquid water essential for life.

15.3 First Walrus Death From Bird Flu in Arctic

- Recently, a researcher from the Norwegian Polar Institute, Christian Lydersen, reported the **first case of a walrus dying from bird flu on Hopen Island in the Svalbard archipelago**.

15.4 Kutch Ajrakh, A Traditional Textile Craft Earns GI Tag

- In a significant recognition of **Gujarat's** rich cultural heritage, the **traditional artisans of 'Kutch Ajrakh'** have been bestowed with the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI) certificate** by the **Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks (CGPDTM)**.
- This remarkable achievement celebrates the intricate textile craft that has been deeply rooted in the vibrant region of Kutch for centuries.

15.5 National Archives of India Acquires Invaluable Collection of Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai

- The **National Archives of India (NAI)** has acquired a priceless collection of private papers and original correspondences belonging to the late **Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai**, a **prominent figure in India's freedom struggle** and nation-building efforts.

15.6 Understanding West Nile Fever: A Mosquito-Borne Viral Infection

- **West Nile fever** is a viral infection caused by the **West Nile virus (WNV)**, which is primarily transmitted through the **bite of infected Culex mosquitoes**.
- **First detected in Uganda in 1937**, this **vector-borne disease** has now spread globally, including **in India, where it was first reported in Kerala in 2011**.

15.7 Sei Whales Return to Argentina After Century

- For the **first time in over a century**, sei whales have been observed in the marine areas near Argentina's Patagonian coast.

15.8 Archeologists Discover Ancient Supercontinent Sahul, Linked Asia to Australia

- Archaeologists have uncovered evidence of **Sahul**, a **lost supercontinent** that facilitated human migration from Asia to Australia about 70,000 years ago. This finding hints towards the likelihood of many yet-undiscovered historic sites across the globe.
- **Sahul was a supercontinent exposed during the last ice age due to glaciation**, which lowered global sea levels.
- This landmass connected present-day Australia with Papua New Guinea to the north and Tasmania to the south.

15.9 Glyptothorax punyabratai: New Catfish Species Discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

- India's leading **institute for fish genetic resources ICAR-NBFGR** has identified a **new species of catfish, Glyptothorax punyabratai**, in the **Tung Stream of Brahmaputra River drainage system**.
- It has been **named in honour of Dr. Punyabarata Das**, the founding director of ICAR-NBFGR.

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





