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International & National News

Google unveils 'Gemini,' AI tech trained to behave like humans



Context

Google launched **project Gemini**, an AI model trained to behave in **human-like ways** that's likely to intensify the debate about the technology's potential promise and perils.

Key points

- The rollout will unfold in phases, with less sophisticated versions of Gemini called '**Nano**' and '**Pro**' being immediately incorporated into Google's AI-powered chatbot Bard and its Pixel 8 Pro smartphone.
- Gemini will be able to **quickly summarise recordings made on the device** and provide automatic replies on messaging services, starting with WhatsApp
- Based on a demonstration of Gemini for a group of reporters, Google's '**Bard Advanced**' might be capable of unprecedented AI multitasking by simultaneously recognizing and understanding presentations involving text, photos and video.

Messi named Time's 'Athlete of the Year'



Context

- Lionel Messi has been named Time magazine's '**Athlete of the Year**' for **2023**
- He got an **eighth Ballon d'Or award** recently.

Centre announces ₹1,500-cr. aid to T.N. and A.P. after cyclone

Context

- The Union government released **₹493.60 crores to Andhra Pradesh and ₹450 crores to Tamil Nadu** in the wake of the damage inflicted by severe cyclonic storm Michaung
- Centre also approved another tranche of ₹561.29 crore for Chennai for flood mitigation efforts for '**Integrated Urban Flood Management activities for Chennai Basin Project**' under the **National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF)**

Lalduhoma sworn in as Mizoram Chief Minister



Context

- **Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) leader Lalduhoma** was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Mizoram
- Mr. Lalduhoma **announced 12 programmes** of his new government to be implemented in the next 100 days.
- Mr. Lalduhoma had served as the security in-charge of former **Prime Minister Indira Gandhi**
- He is a **former IPS**



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

U.S. FDA approves pair of gene therapies for sickle cell disease



Context

- The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** approved a pair of gene therapies for sickle cell disease, including the first treatment based on the breakthrough CRISPR gene editing technology.
- The agency approved **Lyfgenia from bluebird bio, and a separate treatment called Casgevy** by partners Vertex Pharmaceuticals and CRISPR Therapeutics for the illness.
- Both the therapies were approved for people aged **12 years and older**.

About Sickle cell disease

- It is a painful, **inherited blood disorder** that can be debilitating and lead to premature death.
- It affects an estimated 1,00,000 people in the U.S., most of whom are Black.
- In sickle cell disease, the body makes flawed, sickle-shaped hemoglobin, impairing the ability of red blood cells to properly carry oxygen to the body's tissues.
- The **sickle cells tend to stick together and can block small blood vessels**, causing intense pain. It also can lead to **strokes and organ failure**.
- The **only longer-term treatment** for sickle cell disease is a **bone marrow transplant**.

RBI enhances UPI payment limits

Context

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **enhanced the UPI payment limits** for healthcare and education to ₹5 lakh from ₹1 lakh, and the limit on recurring e-payment mandates for credit card and insurance premia payments as well as mutual fund investments to ₹1 lakh from the current limit of ₹15,000.
- It has also decided to lay down a **regulatory framework for web-aggregation of loan products**.
- This is expected to result in enhanced customer centricity and transparency in digital lending

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