

DAILY PT POINTERS

19th February, 2024



HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The HINDU:S&T(GSIII)-Page 9

Why OpenAI's new video generator, Sora, is making a splash

Sora in Japanese means sky, an imagery that evokes 'limitless creative potential'. The video clips produced by the AI-based image generator are so photorealistic that they will stun anyone who looks at them for the first time



OpenAI, the creator of the revolutionary chatbot ChatGPT, has launched a new generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) model “**Sora**”

Sora is an AI model that can create realistic and imaginative scenes from text instructions.

Sora can generate **videos up to a minute** long while maintaining visual quality and adherence to the user’s prompt.

Sora is able to generate complex scenes with multiple characters, specific types of motion, and accurate details of the subject and background.

Concerns : The current model has weaknesses. It may struggle with accurately simulating the physics of a complex scene, and may not understand specific instances of cause and effect.

Future Outlook : Open AI is building tools to help detect misleading content such as a detection classifier that can tell when a video was generated by Sora.

Open AI will be engaging policy makers, educators and artists around the world to understand their concerns and to identify positive use cases for this new technology.

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The Hindu:Species in news(GSIII)

New lapwing observed at Warangal lake, a first in India



- It is native to North Africa, the Middle East and Mediterranean regions
- It is found around wetlands, but also away from water in cultivated areas
- Lays its eggs on the ground, and is often very aggressive against invaders to its territory
 - Also active at night.
- listed as Least Concern.

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The Hindu:Places (GSI)



Workers from Oil Mop Environmental Services (OMES) pump out oil from a spill off Lambeau Village river mouth, in Tobago Island, Trinidad and Tobago, on Friday. The country is considering declaring an international emergency to deal with the spill, which has stained kilometres of its shores and threatens to spread to its Caribbean neighbors. The owner of the vessel whose sinking caused the spill is yet to be determined. REUTERS

- The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is an archipelagic state in the southern Caribbean, lying northeast of the South American nation of Venezuela and south of Grenada in the Lesser Antilles.
- It also shares maritime boundaries with Barbados to the northeast and Guyana to the southeast.
- The country covers an area of 5,128 square kilometres (1,979 sq mi) and consists of two main islands, Trinidad and Tobago, and 21 smaller islands.
- Trinidad is the larger and more populous of the main islands; Tobago is much smaller, comprising about 6% of the total area and 4% of the population. The capital of Trinidad and Tobago is Port of Spain.



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The Hindu: Miscellaneous

Japan's 'naked men' festival succumbs to ageing society



- The *Sominsai* festival, regarded as one of the strangest festivals in Japan
- Men cleanse their bodies in a river during the *Sominsai* festival at Kokuseki-ji Temple in Japan
- It is the latest tradition impacted by the country's ageing population crisis that has hit rural communities hard.

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Indian Express:Health(GSII)-Page 11

The bubonic plague is back. Should you be worried?

The Black Death killed as many as 50 million in Europe from 1346 to 1353. Medieval Europeans, however, did not have access to antibiotics.



What is the bubonic plague?

- The plague is caused by *Yersinia pestis*, a zoonotic bacteria, i.e. bacteria that can spread between animals and people. *Y pestis* is usually found in small animals and their fleas.
- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), humans can be infected in one of three ways — “the bite of infected vector fleas”, “unprotected contact with infectious bodily fluids or contaminated materials” (like bitten by an infected rat), and “the inhalation of respiratory droplets/small particles from a patient with pneumonic plague”.
- Plague epidemics have occurred in Africa, Asia, and South America; but since the 1990s, most human cases have occurred in Africa.

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PIB:S&T(GSIII)



- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is organising a special programme for School Children called "Young Scientist Programme" "YUva Vigyani KAryakram" (YUVIKA).
- The key objective of this initiative is to impart basic knowledge on Space Science, Space Technology and Space Applications to the younger students in emerging trends in space science and technology.
- YUVIKA programme is also expected to encourage more students to pursue in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) based research and aligned career.
- Students studying in Class 9 as on January 1, 2024, within India are eligible to apply for the ISRO Young Scientist Programme (YUVIKA)

Ministry of Science & Technology

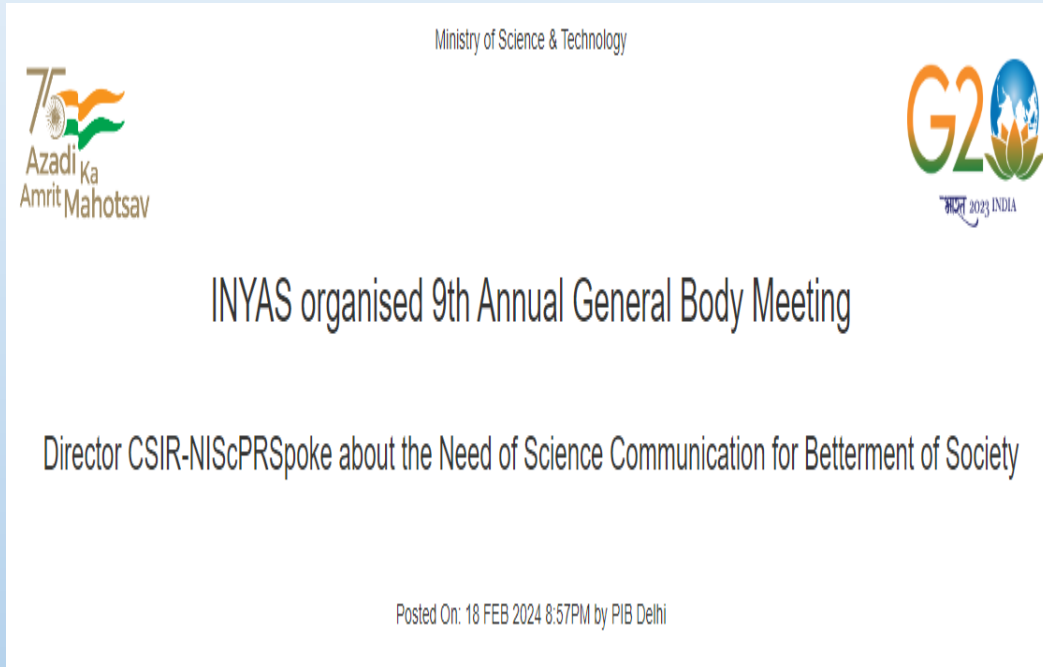


ISRO Announces Young Scientist Programme 2024 (YUVIKA)

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PIB:S&T(GSIII)



- Indian National Young Academy of Sciences (INYAS) is the first and only recognized young scientist academy of India. INYAS was founded by the INSA council in December 2014 with a vision to promote Science education and networking among young scientists at National as well as International level. Currently, we have a total of 95 members.
- INYAS provides a platform to exchange ideas, initiate discussions on scientific topics, collaborations among the new generation of scientists and to make the voices of the young researchers be heard by senior academicians and policy makers of the country.