

Daily Current Affairs

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MEITY Launches Pan India Startup Initiative Launchpad

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY)** today launched the pan-India startup initiative **Launchpad for Tech-Entrepreneurs** towards Accelerated Growth and Pioneering in New Delhi.
- The Ministry said the initiative **aims to promote Investment, Mentorship, and Global Connect Initiative** for accelerated growth of young entrepreneurs to initiate and scale their ventures.
- It added that budding startups will also get a **three-month intensive training** and funding up to **one crore rupees**.
- MEITY Secretary, S. Krishnan highlighted the changing landscape of enterprising in India.
- He said the nation is no longer a place for outsourcing but a startup hub with India now a world leader in Digital Public Infrastructure.
- He added that the message of this event is to promote entrepreneurship in tier two and tier three cities and greater participation from women and people from vulnerable communities.



सत्यमेव जयते

इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी एवं
सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
**ELECTRONICS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Chief Information Commissioner

- Information Commissioner **Heeralal Samariya** sworn-in as the Chief Information Commissioner. President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to him at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

- Mr. Samariya was currently serving as the Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.
- The Central Information Commission is a statutory body, set up under the **Right to Information Act in 2005** under the Government of India to act upon complaints from those individuals who have not been able to submit information requests to a Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer due to either the officer not have been appointed, or because the respective Central Assistant Public Information Officer or State Assistant Public Information Officer refused to receive the application for information under the Right to Information Act.



Women For Water, Water For Women Campaign

- The **Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry** will launch, a three-day Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign to celebrate Jal Diwali.
- The Ministry said that **women Self Help Groups (SHG)** will visit more than 500 fifty water treatment plants as part of the campaign.
- It added the aim is **to provide a platform for the inclusion of women in water governance**, and instill a sense of ownership and belonging towards water infrastructure.
- The Ministry is expecting more than **15 thousand SHG women** to participate nationwide in the first phase.



- The campaign is part of the Ministry's flagship scheme, **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation** in partnership with the National Urban Livelihood Mission.
- **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation** is a development mission launched by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi in June 2015 with the focus to establish infrastructure that could ensure adequate robust sewage networks and water supply for urban transformation by implementing urban revival projects.



IT Ministry Issue Order To Block 22 Illegal Betting Apps

- **Electronics and IT Ministry** has issued an order to **block 22 illegal betting apps** and websites, including Mahadev Book.
- The action follows investigations conducted by the Enforcement Directorate against illegal betting app syndicate and subsequent raids on Mahadev Book in Chhattisgarh, revealing the app's unlawful operations.
- The owners of Mahadev Book are currently in custody.
- Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said, Chhattisgarh government had all the power to recommend shutting down of website and app under the IT Act.
- He said, however, the state government did not shut the app and no such request is made by the Chhattisgarh Government. Mr Chandrasekhar said, the first and only request has been received from ED and it has been acted upon.



RBI Wins 'Changemaker Of The Year' Award

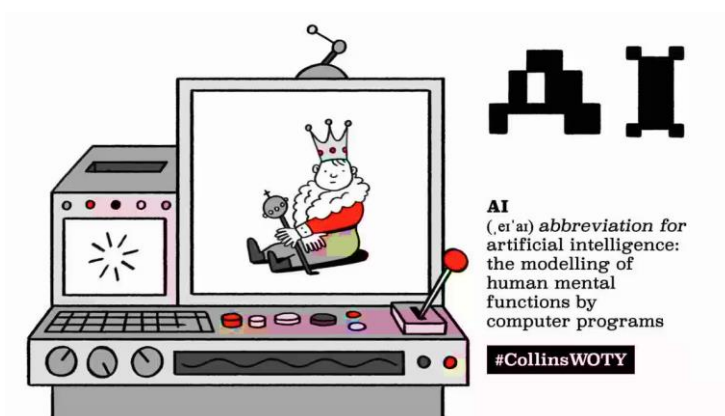
- The recent '**Changemaker of the Year**' award was presented to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), with Governor Shaktikanta Das graciously accepting the honor on behalf of the organization.
- The esteemed accolade was bestowed upon the RBI at the **Hindu Businessline** Changemaker Awards 2023, hosted at ITC Maurya in New Delhi on November 3.
- In his acceptance speech, Governor Shaktikanta Das attributed the achievement to the unwavering dedication and hard work of the RBI's 13,000 officers and employees.
- He emphasized their collective efforts and cohesive teamwork, which played a pivotal role in effectively navigating the challenges presented by the COVID-19

pandemic. Moreover, their steadfast commitment ensured the preservation of the nation's financial stability during these trying times.



Collins Dictionary

- Collins Dictionary has **declared “AI” as the Word of the Year for 2023**, reflecting the increasing prominence of Artificial Intelligence in our daily lives.
- According to Collins managing director Alex Beecroft, AI has been the central point of discussion this year, with its usage quadrupling.
- This recognition comes as U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak hosts a summit to explore the potential benefits of AI while addressing associated risks.



- Notably, AI has also played a role in music, with The Beatles utilizing it to retrieve John Lennon’s vocals from an old cassette to create their “last song,” set to be released soon.

- The Word of the Year selection by Collins Dictionary traditionally mirrors the key preoccupations and discussions of a given year. In **2022, it was “permacrisis,”** reflecting the constant upheavals in British politics.
- The Collins English Dictionary is a printed and online dictionary of English. It is published by HarperCollins in Glasgow.

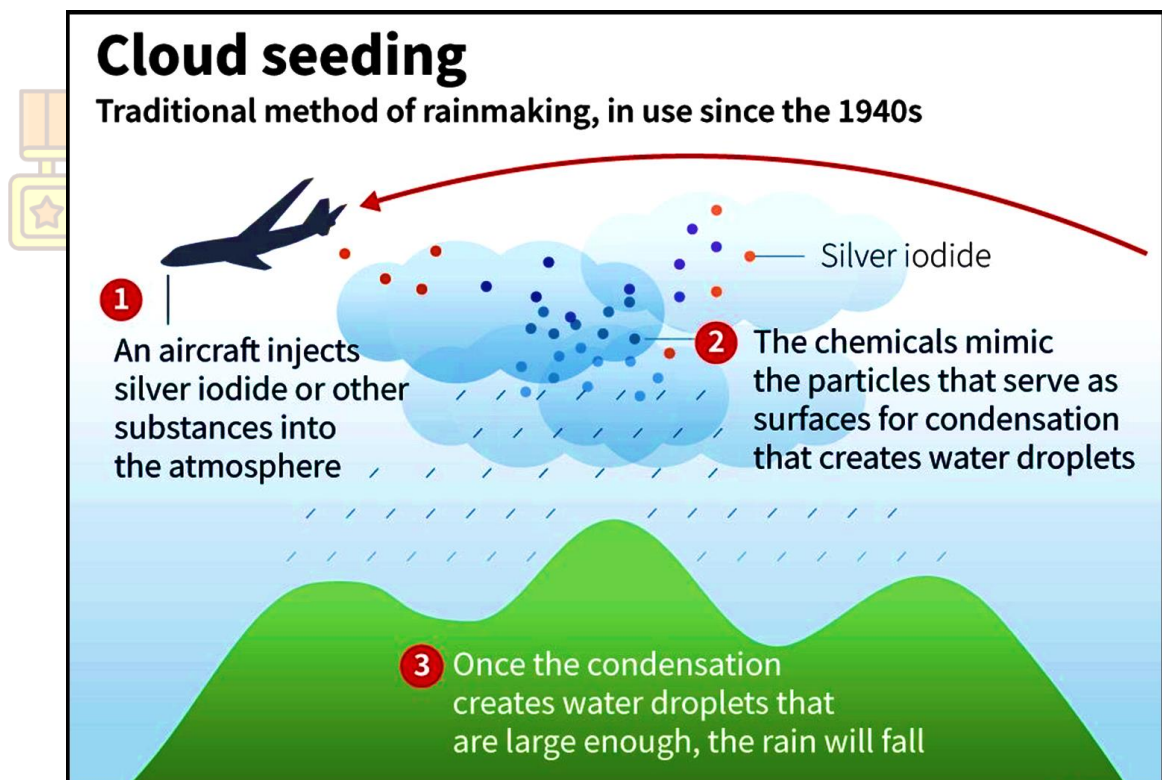
Sultan Of Johor Cup 2023

- The Indian junior men’s hockey team added another feather to their cap by **securing the bronze medal** in a heart-stopping match at the Sultan of Johor Cup 2023, in **Johar, Malaysia**.
- In an electrifying 3rd/4th place contest, they faced arch-rivals Pakistan and emerged victorious in a dramatic penalty shootout.
- This victory marks a significant milestone for the young Indian hockey talents and it is an evident of their relentless hard work and determination.
- This victory marked **India’s third title in the Sultan of Johor Cup**. The junior men’s hockey team had previously won the prestigious Johor Bahru Cup twice in **2013 and 2014**.
- They reached the final in the 2019 edition but narrowly lost 2-1 to Great Britain. Prior to this year’s triumph, they had finished as runner-up in the tournament four times, in 2012, 2015, 2018 and in the last edition in 2019.
- **Germany emerged as the champion** of the 11th Sultan of Johor Cup, securing the gold medal by defeating Australia 3-1 in a penalty shootout. India has to face a tough defeat at the hands Germany in the semi-finals, but they bounced back to seize the bronze, making their presence felt on the international stage.



‘Artificial Rains’ To Tackle Delhi’s Air Pollution Crisis

- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** has a quick-fix solution to offer to **Delhi and its neighbouring regions choking in toxic air** – it can help the city wash down pollutants and dust with “artificial rains”.
- **Artificial rain**, also known as **cloud seeding**, is a weather modification technique that has been developed to induce precipitation by altering the microphysical processes within clouds.
- This method has gained considerable attention due to its potential to address water scarcity issues, manage droughts, and enhance agricultural productivity.
- This knowledge can be valuable in fields such as meteorology, agriculture, and environmental science, as well as for policymakers and researchers seeking to harness this technology for the betterment of society while safeguarding the environment.



US, South Korea And Japan To Establish New Forum

- The **US, South Korea and Japan** will establish a new forum to coordinate responses to illicit **North Korean cyber operations** that fund its nuclear program, Seoul's presidential office announced.



- The **Office of National Security** said that the high-level trilateral consultative body will seek to strengthen practical joint response **capabilities against global cyber threats**, including measures to block cyber activities that are abused as major sources of funds for **North Korea's weapons development**, such as nuclear and WMD.
- The new council's formation is in line with the result of the three countries' summit at Camp David in August, during which their leaders expressed concern about North Korea's illicit cyber activities and decided to establish a trilateral interagency working group.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What Is The Aim Of The MEITY Launchpad Initiative

- A. Promoting Investment In Established Companies
- B. Encouraging Mentorship For Young Entrepreneurs
- C. Providing A Platform For Outsourcing Companies
- D. Fostering Collaboration With International Corporations

ANSWER: B

2. Who Sworn In As Chief Information Commissioner

- A. Heeralal Samariya
- B. Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha
- C. P S Rana
- D. Dr. S.S. Guleria

ANSWER: A

3. Which Ministry Is Launching Women For Water, Water For Women Campaign

- A. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- B. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- C. Ministry of Women & Child Development
- D. Ministry of Water Resources

ANSWER: B

4. What Has Collins Dictionary Declared As The Word Of The Year For 2023

- A. Permacrisis
- B. AI
- C. Puggle
- D. Quisling

ANSWER: B

5. What Is The Recent Accolade Received By The RBI

- A. Best Bank of the Year
- B. Changemaker of the Year
- C. Financial Stability Award
- D. Central Banker of the Year

ANSWER: B

6. How Many Times India Won Sultan Of Johor Cup

- A. Once
- B. Twice
- C. Three times
- D. Four times

ANSWER: C

7. Which Country's Presidential Office Announced Establishment Of New Forum To Counter North Korean Cyber Operations

- A. China
- B. South Korea
- C. North Korea
- D. Japan

ANSWER: B

8. Recipient Of 2023 Ezhuthachan Puraskaram, Instituted By Kerala Government

- A. S.K. Vasanthan
- B. Sugathakumari
- C. M.T. Vasudevan Nair
- D. K.S. Achuthan

ANSWER: A

9. Rafah Border Crossing Is Located Between Which Of The Following

- A. Egypt And Israel
- B. Gaza Strip And Israel
- C. Egypt And The Gaza Strip
- D. Israel And The West Bank

ANSWER: C

10. Who Was Awarded The Prestigious Kerala Jyothi Award By The Kerala Government In 2023

- A. M.T. Vasudevan Nair
- B. T. Padmanabhan
- C. N.S. Madhavan
- D. K.R. Meera

ANSWER: B

11. Which Country Has The Largest Palestinian Population Outside The Arab World

- A. Argentina
- B. Brazil
- C. Chile
- D. Venezuela

ANSWER: C

12. Who Is Known As Trimurthy Of Carnatic Music'

- A. Muthuswami Dikshitar
- B. Purandardasa
- C. Swami Thirunal
- D. None of these

ANSWER: A

13. What Is The Air Pollutant That Is Most Strongly Associated With An Increased Risk Of Developing Type-2 Diabetes

- A. Ozone
- B. Nitrogen dioxide
- C. Sulfur dioxide
- D. PM2.5

ANSWER: D

14. Which Institution Conducts The 'Inflation Expectations Survey Of Households

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. RBI
- D. SEBI

ANSWER: C

15. Two Ancient Temple Caves Were Recently Discovered Near Rajapur, Ratnagiri In Which State

- A. Karnataka
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: B

16. Which Country Is Associated With The 'B61-13' Nuclear Bomb

- A. Russia
- B. Israel
- C. USA
- D. China

ANSWER: C

17. 'Maitree Super Thermal Power Project' Is Situated In Which Country

- A. Bangladesh
- B. India
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Nepal

ANSWER: A

18. 1st Country To Successfully Sterilize & Vaccinate Its Entire Stray Dog Population

- A. Nepal
- B. Indonesia
- C. Bhutan
- D. Thailand

ANSWER: C

19. Which State Released The Draft State Energy Efficiency Action Plan

- A. Kerala
- B. Goa
- C. West Bengal
- D. Assam

ANSWER: A

20. Which Country Did India Sign A Mobility And Migration Partnership Agreement With

- A. Italy
- B. France
- C. Germany
- D. United Kingdom

ANSWER: A