

Daily Current Affairs

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FutureLABS center

- Union Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Jal Shakti, **Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar inaugurated India's first FutureLABS center in C-DAC Thiruvananthapuram.**
- This center, namely, "**Centre for Semiconductor Chips & Systems for Strategic Electronics**", will be playing a crucial role in catalyzing an ecosystem for next generation chip design, manufacturing, and research.



- Among the other announcements, there was a **collaboration announced between C-DAC (T) and the Ministry of Railways** for the development of electric locomotive technologies.
- An **MoU was signed between C-DAC(T) and Tata Power** for the development and deployment of microgrid technologies.
- There was also the announcement for the transfer of technology of the electric vehicle wireless charger, **developed by C-DAC(T) and VNIT Nagpur**, to BelRise Industries Limited.
- Along With key industry partners, the **Minister addressed over 100 students** and explained to them what this center will provide to them in terms of opportunities.



- **“India has made tremendous strides in the semiconductors**, for 75 years we had no presence in semiconductors at all, and in the last few years we have received 2.5 lakh crores of investments and we are now creating an ecosystem that ranges from Fabs manufacturing, innovation, packaging, design, skills and research.
- The **digitisation and digital technologies** is accelerating at an unprecedented pace even in areas that are not intuitively digital, technology is making its presence felt.
- **So clearly Digitisation as a trend is increasing.** The second trend is that of the Semiconductors and Artificial intelligence are two dominant technologies that are going to shape the future of what we know as Tech in the coming years. And the third, is that every system that you know today whether it’s the laptop, desktop or the server, compute automotive, railways is being redesigned and re-architected almost from scratch.

Digital Empowerment For Rural India

- **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)** under **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**, signed a **tripartite MoU** with Prasar Bharati (under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting) and Open Network for Digital Commerce (a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) initiative of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry) to proliferate affordable and accessible digital services across the country.
- The **objective of the MoU is to bundle broadband services** with OTT and e-commerce platform for the rural India riding on BharatNet infrastructure under the USOF.



- The **Prime Minister's vision** and unwavering commitment to foster a conducive environment for **digital innovation underpins** this truly unique collaboration synergizing connectivity, content and commerce to empower the rural India.
- The **MoU was signed in the presence of Dr Neeraj Mittal**, Secretary (Telecom); Shri Niraj Verma, Administrator, USOF; Shri T Koshy, MD & CEO, ONDC, Shri A K Jha, ADG, Platforms, Prasar Bharati and Shri Sunil Kumar Verma, Joint Secretary, DoT.
- The USOF has been instrumental in enabling **highspeed broadband and mobile connections across Gram Panchayats** (GPs) and villages in the country.
- This MoU will enable the bundled Prasar Bharati OTT as a service, including linear channels, Live TV and on-demand content, among the end consumers while USOF will ensure efficient and high-speed broadband services in rural and remote areas.



- The **national public service broadcaster, Prasar Bharati**, with an unparalleled legacy content, consumer reach and brand recall, will source and produce content that will run on its OTT platform. In addition, the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), a leading player in digital infrastructure, will provide the technical expertise and necessary framework in enabling digital commerce in products & services.
- This will be expanded to cover more services like education, health, training, credit, insurance, agriculture amongst others.

Yaounde Declaration

- In a landmark gathering in **Yaoundé, Cameroon**, health ministers from **11 African nations**, along with global malaria partners and stakeholders, convened to address the escalating malaria crisis in Africa.
- Despite available tools and systems, malaria cases surged globally, with Africa bearing the brunt, **accounting for 94% of cases and 95% of deaths** in 2022.
- Global malaria cases rose from **233 million to 249 million** between 2019 and 2022.



- Africa witnessed a **significant increase from 218 million to 233 million cases** during the same period, marking it as the epicenter of the malaria crisis.
- The 11 African countries represented at the conference face the highest burden of malaria infections and deaths.
- **Health ministers** from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Uganda, and Tanzania expressed unwavering commitment to eradicate malaria.



- They pledged to leverage global commitments and regional strategies, including **dedicating 15% of annual budgets to strengthen the health sector**, as endorsed by African heads of state.
- Political will must translate into tangible actions on the ground to combat malaria effectively.



- Despite some progress, malaria incidence has only **declined by 7.6% and mortality by 11.3%**, falling short of African Union's interim goals. Only seven out of 46 member states have achieved a 40% reduction in malaria incidence or mortality.

- Urgent action is needed to fill a financial gap of **\$1.5 billion to sustain** basic malaria services, particularly for vector control.
- Without **additional funding of \$5.2 billion** annually to make progress towards elimination and \$11 billion for climate adaptation in the health sector, significant surges in cases and deaths, especially among vulnerable populations like children and pregnant women, are anticipated.

ACI-ASQ's Best Airport

- **Delhi Airport has once again asserted** its dominance in the aviation sector by securing the prestigious title of **'Best Airport' in the Asia-Pacific region** for the sixth consecutive year.
- This accolade, bestowed by the **Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards**, reaffirms **Delhi Airport's commitment** to excellence and leadership in providing top-notch services to passengers.
- The **Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Best Airport award for 2023** was conferred upon Delhi Airport in the category of over 40 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) by the Airports Council International (ACI).



- This award underscores **Delhi Airport's consistent dedication** to enhancing the passenger experience and maintaining high standards of service excellence.
- ASQ Awards, organized annually by ACI World, evaluate airport performance based on customer experience metrics gathered from passengers participating in ASQ's Departures and Arrivals Surveys.

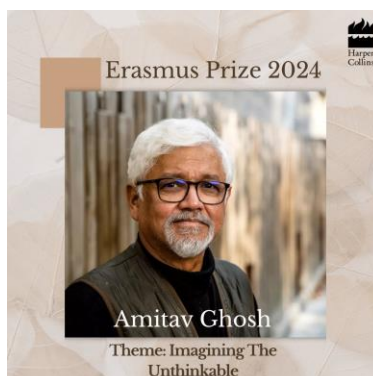
- **ACI World collaborates with Amadeus**, a leading travel technology company, to administer the ASQ Awards, ensuring a rigorous and impartial assessment process.



- Delhi Airport's repeated recognition as the best airport in the Asia-Pacific region underscores its pivotal role as a benchmark for excellence in the global aviation industry.
- This achievement reflects **Delhi International Airport Limited's (DIAL)** unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional services and maintaining its position as a preferred hub for travelers in the region.

Prestigious Erasmus Prize 2024

- The **Praemium Erasmianum Foundation** has awarded the Erasmus Prize 2024 to the Indian writer Amitav Ghosh.
- He receives this prestigious honour for his passionate contribution to the theme **"imagining the unthinkable,"** in which he explores the unprecedented global crisis of climate change through his literary works.
- Ghosh has delved deeply into the question of how to give justice to the existential **threat of climate change**, which defies our imagination. His work offers a remedy by making an uncertain future palpable through compelling stories about the past.



- He wields his pen to show that the **climate crisis is a cultural crisis** resulting from a lack of imagination.
- Born in Kolkata in 1956, Ghosh has produced a vast body of work, including historical novels and journalistic essays that carry the reader across continents and oceans.
- His works are **grounded in thorough archival research and transcend boundaries** and time periods with literary eloquence.
- Nature has been an important character in Ghosh's work, particularly after witnessing the ravaging effects of climate change and rising sea levels in the Sundarbans region while **researching for his book "The Hungry Tide."**
- Drawing from the rich history of the Indian subcontinent, he describes how the effects of natural catastrophes have been inextricably linked with human destiny in that part of the world. Ghosh has won various prizes, including the **2018 Jnanpith Award**, the highest literary prize in India.
- In 2019, he received an honorary doctorate from Maastricht University and was ranked by "Foreign Policy" magazine as one of the most important global thinkers of our time.

Poshan Pakhwada 2024

- **Ministry of Women and Child Development** will organize Poshan Pakhwada nationwide from March 9 to March 23, 2024.
- This **15-day celebration** aims to spread awareness about nutrition, dietary practices, and women's health.



- The **main focus theme's for activities and awareness** during Poshan Pakhwada 2024 will be: Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi (PBPB) – Promoting better Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE), Tribal, Traditional, Regional, Local dietary practices –

Sensitizing about nutrition, Health of pregnant women & Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices.



- **Other important themes include:** Improving nutrition through Mission Life (water conservation, rainwater harvesting), Promoting Millets & Poshan Vatikas (kitchen gardens) for sustainable food systems, Adopting healthy lifestyles through Ayush practices, Focus on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) and diarrhea management, Test, Treat, and Talk Anemia, Swasth Balak Spardha (SBS) to promote regular growth monitoring of children at Anganwadi Centres (AWCs)



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REVIEW QUESTIONS

EXAMS

1. Yaounde Declaration Signed For The Purpose Of

- A. Dengue
- B. Malaria
- C. TB
- D. Anaemia

ANSWER: B

2. Erasmus Prize 2024 Is Awarded To

- A. Anurag Ghosh
- B. Amitav Ghosh
- C. Kiran Ghosh
- D. Amit Ghosh

ANSWER: B

3. Which Organization Marked The Completion Of The Second Phase Of The Dak Karmayogi Project By Releasing A Special Cover

- A. Department of Posts
- B. Ministry of Education
- C. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- D. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation

ANSWER: A

4. Where Did Bharat Tex 2024, Largest Global Textile Event In India, Conclude

- A. Bengaluru
- B. New Delhi
- C. Mumbai
- D. Chennai

ANSWER: B

5. Which Institution Collaborated To Develop India Specific AI Model Named Garbhini GA2 For Determining Gestational Age Accurately

- A. Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
- B. Indian Institute of Technology Madras
- C. Indian Institute of Science
- D. Indian Institute of Technology Delhi

ANSWER: B

6. What Material Have Indian Scientists Used To Create Eco Wound Dressings

- A. Bamboo
- B. Guar gum
- C. Chitosan
- D. Banana Fibers

ANSWER: D

7. In Which State HURL Sindri Fertiliser Plant Inaugurated By The Prime Minister

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: C

8. With Whom Did C-DOT Sign An Mou To Boost India's Telecom Sector At Mobile World Congress 2024

- A. Qualcomm
- B. Samsung
- C. Apple
- D. Huawei

ANSWER: A

9. Which Provision Of Indian Constitution Poses A Major Obstacle To Regulating Coal Mining In Nagaland

- A. Article 371A
- B. Article 370
- C. Article 356
- D. Article 243A

ANSWER: A

10. Which Institute Developed A Cancer Treatment Known As The "Rs 100 Tablet"

- A. Indian Cancer Society
- B. Tata Institute
- C. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
- D. National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research

ANSWER: B

11. Which City Has Been Announced As The Host Of The 2027 World Athletics Championships By The World Athletics Council

- A. London
- B. Tokyo
- C. Beijing
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: C

12. Which Institution Introduced 'Investor Information And Analytics Platform' For Startups

- A. IIM Bangalore
- B. IIT Bombay
- C. IIM Ahmedabad
- D. IIT Madras

ANSWER: D

13. Which Country Is Repealing The Law Banning Tobacco Sales To Future Generations

- A. New Zealand
- B. Australia
- C. Canada
- D. United Kingdom

ANSWER: A

14. Where Is Oil India Hosting Its First Ever Global Partner Roadshow

- A. Dubai
- B. Riyadh
- C. Doha
- D. Abu Dhabi

ANSWER: D

15. Who Is The First Woman Sniper Of The BSF

- A. Sanjukta Parashar
- B. Merin Joseph
- C. Suman Kumari
- D. Subhashini Sankaran

ANSWER: C

16. Where Was The Chapchar Kut Festival Celebrated

- A. Mizoram
- B. Manipur
- C. Nagaland
- D. Tripura

ANSWER: A

17. Where Was The New Species Of Amazon Anaconda Discovered

- A. Ecuador's rainforest
- B. Brazil's grasslands
- C. Colombia's mountains
- D. Peru's desert

ANSWER: A

18. Who Has BPCL Teamed Up With As The Brand Ambassador For Their Premium Petrol 'Speed'

- A. PV Sindhu
- B. Neeraj Chopra
- C. P.T. Usha
- D. Virat Kohli

ANSWER: B

19. What Platform Allows Individuals To Report Suspected Fraudulent Communication In India

- A. CyberGuard
- B. FraudAI
- C. Chakshu
- D. Scamkaram

ANSWER: C

20. Parrot Fever Caused By Which One Of The Following Agents

- A. Virus
- B. Fungus
- C. Bacteria
- D. Protozoa

ANSWER: C

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EXAMS