

28th October 2024

Center for Generative AI

IndiaAI and Meta announced the establishment of the Center for Generative AI, Srijan at IIT Jodhpur and the launch of the YuvAI initiative for Skilling and Capacity Building in partnership with All India Council for Technical Education.

Key Points

- ❖ This collaboration is aimed at propelling the advancement of open-source artificial intelligence (AI) in the country.
- ❖ The partnership will enable development of indigenous AI applications, advance skill development in AI, boost research capabilities with the aim of contributing to India's AI mission of ensuring tech sovereignty and the vision of building AI solutions that are tailor made for India.

Center for Generative AI, Srijan

- ❖ As part of this collaboration, Meta will support the **establishment of the Center for Generative AI, Srijan, ("GenAI CoE")** at IIT Jodhpur.
- ❖ This GenAI CoE aims to **advance research and development in AI** while fostering the growth of responsible and ethical AI technologies in India.
- ❖ It will support and enhance **open science innovation across the AI technology landscape**.

AI for Skilling and Capacity Building initiative

- ❖ Meta, in collaboration with MeitY and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), also launched the "YuvAI initiative for Skilling and Capacity Building".

- ❖ This program aims to **bridge the AI talent gap in the country** by empowering 100,000 students and young developers aged 18-30 to leverage open-source large language models (LLMs) to address real-world challenges.
- ❖ It **aims to build capacity in generative AI skills**, utilizing open-source LLMs while fostering AI innovation across key sectors.
- ❖ Over the next three years, the initiative **will train one lakh youth**, developers, and entrepreneurs, contributing significantly to India's AI ecosystem across critical sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture, smart cities, and financial inclusion.

Ganga Utsav 2024

The celebration of Ganga Utsav 2024 is being organised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) on November 4 at Chandi Ghat in Haridwar.

Key Points

- ❖ This would be the **eighth edition of the event and first one being celebrated on the bank of the river**.
- ❖ NMCG commemorates this event every year to mark the anniversary of **declaring the Ganga River as the 'National River.'**



- ❖ **Aim:** The primary aim of this festival is to promote the conservation of the Ganga River, highlight its cultural and spiritual significance, and raise public awareness about cleanliness.
- ❖ It would promote people's connection with the river and further the cause of conservation of the Ganga River.
- ❖ The event will also be celebrated across the **Ganga basin states in 139 Districts by District Ganga Committees**. Also, each state will have one main event in the state.
- ❖ The festival will also include a program called **Ghat Par Haat**, along with various stalls set up by local departments to showcase the aspects of the Namami Gange initiative.

Novel molecules for Alzheimer's Disease

Scientists at the Agharkar Research Institute in Pune have developed new non-toxic molecules for treating Alzheimer's disease.

Key Points

- ❖ Scientists have designed and synthesized **novel molecules through a blend of synthetic, computational, and in-vitro studies** for treating Alzheimer's Disease (AD).
- ❖ These **non-toxic molecules** could be effective in the treatment of the disease.
- ❖ Neurons are specialized cells in the brain that form the nervous system. The nervous system communicates between the brain and the rest of the body.

Alzheimer's disease (AD) disrupts this communication, causing limitations in learning and memory and changes in adaptive behaviour.

Alzheimer's Disease

- ❖ It is a **neurodegenerative disease**. It occurs due to an imbalance in certain hormones.
- ❖ AD is the most common form of dementia and constitutes around 75% of all dementia cases.
- ❖ Of the about 55 million people worldwide with **dementia, 60% to 70% are estimated to have AD. The disease most commonly affects people over the age of 65.**
- ❖ **Causes:** The causes mainly include a combination of age-related brain changes and genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors.
- ❖ **Treatment:** The treatment may be able to slow dementia and improve quality of life, but these conditions are progressive, and symptoms of the disease worsen over time.
- ❖ To date, treatment options available to cure AD are limited to **one N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor antagonist (Memantine) and three anti-cholinesterase drugs (Donepezil, Rivastigmine, Galantamine).**

NFDC Film Bazaar

The 18th edition of the NFDC Film Bazaar has announced its official selection for the Co-Production Market featuring 21 feature films and 8 web series from seven countries.

Key Points

- ❖ Film Bazaar is organized every year alongside the prestigious **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** scheduled to take place from **20th to 28th November, 2024** in Goa.
- ❖ This year, the **Film Bazaar will be taking place from 20th to 24th November 2024**, at the Marriott Resort in Goa.
- ❖ This year's official selection showcases a rich tapestry of languages, including **Hindi, English, Assamese, Tamil, Marwari, Bengali, Malayalam, Punjabi, Nepali, Marathi, Pahadi, and Cantonese.**
- ❖ In the Film Bazaar, Filmmakers from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Australia, the UK, Germany, and Hong Kong will pitch their projects.

About Film Bazaar

- ❖ **Since its inception in 2007**, Film Bazaar has been dedicated to discovering, supporting, and showcasing South Asian films and talent in filmmaking, production, and distribution.
- ❖ The Bazaar also facilitates the sales of world cinema in the South Asian region, serving as a converging point for South Asian and international filmmakers, producers, sales agents, and festival programmers seeking creative and financial collaboration.

About IFFI

- ❖ **Founded in 1952**, the **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** stands as one of Asia's premier film festivals.

- ❖ Since its inception, IFFI has **aimed to celebrate films, their captivating stories, and the talented individuals behind them.**
- ❖ The festival seeks to promote and spread a deep appreciation and love for films, build bridges of understanding and camaraderie among people, and inspire them to reach new heights of individual and collective excellence.

Abhay

Abhay- the seventh Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) was launched in Kattupalli.

Key Points

- ❖ It is built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers.**
- ❖ The contract for building **eight ASW SWC ships was signed between MoD and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata in April 2019.**
- ❖ The Arnala class of ships will replace the in-service Abhay class ASW Corvettes of the Indian Navy and are designed to undertake anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO) and Mine Laying Operations.
- ❖ The launch of Abhay highlights the nation's resolve towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat in shipbuilding.

Short News- Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ **National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)** concluded its 2nd Webinar of webinar series on Public Policy and Good Governance in collaboration with IIT Kanpur on 24th October 2024.

Person In News- Obituary

Physicist Rohini Godbole

She was a **noted Physicist**. She was one of the prominent voices advocating equal opportunities for women in science in India. She passed away at the age of 71. She was a Padma Shri recipient.



Species In News

Asiatic Golden Cat

- ❖ Wildlife experts have reconfirmed the existence of Asiatic golden cat, a rare medium-sized feline, in Assam's Manas National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site.



- ❖ **Scientific Name:** Catopuma temminckii
- ❖ The Asiatic golden cat is a medium-sized wild feline found across Northeast India, Southeast Asia, and southern China.
- ❖ **Conservation Status:** Protected under **Scheduled-I of India's Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, and listed as **Near Threatened** by the IUCN, the species thrives in a wide range of habitats, from tropical rainforests to sub-alpine forests, at elevations of up to 3,738 meters.

Important News- Other States

Ladakh

NTPC has partnered with the **Indian Army** to **establish a solar hydrogen-based microgrid at Chushul, Ladakh**. This system will replace existing diesel generators at off-grid Army locations, providing a sustainable power supply despite harsh winter conditions.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ **Manika Batra** has made table tennis history as **she became the first Indian to qualify for quarter-finals at a WTT Champions event**.

