

Apple joins CERT-In probe

Apple is collaborating with CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team) in the investigation of alleged iPhone hacking attempts on Opposition leaders.

About CERT-In

- ♦ **CERT-In** is the **national nodal agency** for responding to computer security incidents as and when they occur.
- ♦ **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- ♦ **Mandate:**
 - ◊ Collection, analysis and dissemination of information on cyber incidents.
 - ◊ Forecast and alerts of cyber security incidents
 - ◊ Emergency measures for handling cyber security incidents

Zika Virus

- ♦ Zika virus has been detected in a mosquito species in **Chikkaballapura district of Karnataka.**
 - ♦ Zika virus is a **mosquito-borne flavivirus** that was first identified in **Uganda in 1947** in monkeys through a network that monitored yellow fever.
 - ♦ It is caused by a **virus transmitted primarily by Aedes mosquitoes.**
 - ♦ There is scientific consensus that Zika **virus is a cause of microcephaly and Guillain-Barré syndrome.**
 - ♦ It is also transmitted from mother to fetus during pregnancy.
 - ♦ There is **no vaccine** for Zika
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Air pollution increases diabetes risk in Delhi, Chennai: CARRS study

- ◆ Exposure to polluted air is associated with an **increased risk of type-2 diabetes**, according to a first study of its kind in India published in the **BMJ Open Diabetes Research and Care journal**.
The study conducted in Delhi and Chennai found that inhaling air
- ◆ with high amounts of fine pollution particles (PM2.5) — **30 times thinner than a strand of hair** — led to high blood sugar levels and increased type-2 diabetes incidence.
- ◆ Exposure to fine particulate matter has been **associated with several cardiovascular** and cardiometabolic diseases.
- ◆ **For every 10 micrograms per cubic metre** ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) increase in annual average PM2.5 level in the two cities, the risk for diabetes increased by 22 per cent.

India-US 2+2 meet

- ◆ India and the US are scheduled to hold their next **2+2 ministerial dialogue in India** next week, involving the foreign and defense ministers of both countries.
- ◆ The **2+2 dialogue** is a format of **meeting of the foreign and defense ministers** of India and its allies on strategic and security issues.
- ◆ **Agenda:**
 - ◇ To discuss bilateral and global concerns and developments in the Indo-Pacific.
 - ◇ **Discuss Chinese aggression** in the South China Sea and Pacific regions.
- ◆ **India's Other Partners in 2+2 ministerial dialogue:**
 - ◇ Australia, Japan, and Russia.
 - ◇ Besides Russia, the other three countries are also India's partners in the Quad.

**Global
Partnership on
Artificial
Intelligence
(GPAI)**

- ◆ India, in its capacity as the chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), has taken a leadership stand on AI during day 2 of “AI Safety Summit 2023” held at **Bletchley Park, in the United Kingdom.**

About Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI):

GPAI is a **multi-stakeholder initiative which aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI** by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities.

It brings together engaged minds and expertise from science, industry, civil society, governments, to foster international cooperation.

- ◆ It is a **congregation of 25 member countries**, including the US, the UK, EU, Australia, **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand**, Republic of Korea, and Singapore.
- ◆ India joined the GPAI in **2020** as a **founding member**.
- ◆ Its **Secretariat** is hosted at the **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development(OECD)**.