



National

Telangana to have an e-voting app

The Telangana State Election Commission has planned to conduct a dry run of a "Mobile-Based e-voting system". This app was developed keeping in mind the COVID-19 pandemic. Before being launched officially, there will be a test run held in the village of Khammam district of Telangana, whereby the users can register themselves for testing out the app.

The Smartphone/Mobile-based e-voting system will make use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for a three-factor authentication of the valid voter. The system will then match the voter's name with the Aadhaar, detect the individual live and match their image using EPIC database. This technology has been used to secure de-identified and encrypted votes in order to maintain them as immutable records

Dream 11 suspends operations in Karnataka

Dream11 has currently suspended their operations after they were booked under the Karnataka Police Act, where under the newly amended Act, online gambling is prohibited. As per Dream11, they have been wrongly placed under the category of "game of chance", as opposed to a game of skill. They have, however, consulted with the Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports regarding the matter, who have shared an opinion from a former Supreme Court Judge, stating that the Karnataka Police (Amendment) Act 2021 does not apply to its member Fantasy Sports Operators. This is because the FIFS format of Fantasy Sports has been upheld by the hon'ble Courts of India as not amounting to gambling, betting or wagering.

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Launch of Intel Unnati Labs

Intel has announced the launch of the new "Intel Unnati Labs" in India. These are launched with a view to help engineering students gain technical knowledge with less hindrances. Around 100 Unnati Labs are planned by Intel, to be formed by 2022. The labs presently have resources such as course-content, Intel hardware and software resources, certifications, and so on. This will help in R&D, and equip students with the necessary know-how on technology and innovations which are done so forth. The labs at present cater to the needs of artificial intelligence (AI), AI Internet of Things (AI IoT) and FPGA (Field Programmable Gate Arrays).

MyParkings app launched

The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur, launched the 'MyParkings' app on October 14, 2021. It is a unique app where people can book parking slots online in areas, primarily which are under the jurisdiction of South Delhi Municipal Corporation.



In this way, congestion due to parking shortage can be avoided. The app will show the total parking spots and how many of those spots have been filled. This will ease the process of booking parking slots and will provide a new parking experience, for citizens of Delhi, at the moment. It is also cashless and paperless, which will save tonnes of paper on a daily basis.

Geospatial Energy Map launched

NITI Aayog has launched a Geospatial Energy Map, which pinpoints and gives an overall holistic view of energy resources like oil wells, petroleum refineries, power plants, coal fields and so on. This map has been launched in collaboration with ISRO, and will help in the efficient planning of the energy sector in India, thereby helping in the increase of revenue generation, making it easier for future stakeholders to access the data with more ease.

Tamil Nadu launches face recognition software

Tamil Nadu CM, MK Stalin, launched a face recognition software on October 4, 2021 for assisting police officials in their investigation. This software will help in comparing the photos of suspects with "data resource" that have been uploaded in Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), where on the CCTNS website, more than 5.30 lakh photos of suspects have been uploaded. The software will compare suspects, accused persons, missing persons, and unidentified corpses with the data uploaded on CCTNS website. Also, data related to accused or suspect will be shared between the stations on need basis, and history sheeters will also be shared. In addition to this, department has also planned to improve face recognition software in order to compare and identify faces through CCTV footage.

International

Facebook rebranded as 'Meta'

Facebook Inc. has been rebranded as announced by Mark Zuckerberg on October 28th, 2021. The logo and name has been renamed to 'Meta Platforms Inc.' or Meta, as a symbol of the surroundings around us, which has been dubbed as the 'metaverse',



where people can go and interact with other people; as a way of bringing social networking "in the 3D world". This was mainly done to bring all the apps and the technologies of the company under one brand, however, the social network will still be called Facebook.

Nations meet to counter Ransomware

The White House co-ordinated a meet with more than thirty nations to counter the ill effects of Ransomware. There was a joint statement issued that stated the importance of improving network resilience, and governance structures to incorporate these systems efficiently. Further, the effect of such ransomware on financial activities, and what are the measures that law enforcement and government agencies can take to counter ransomware on a global level.

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