

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1) Pakistan's President took the step of dissolving the country's parliament

- In a significant political development, Pakistan's President took the step of dissolving the country's parliament as per the recommendation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

- The lower house of the Parliament's five-year term is due to end on August 12.

- This move comes at a critical juncture as Pakistan grapples with both political and economic challenges.

2) Australia's involvement in the AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, United States) pact

- Australia's involvement in the AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, United States) pact has gained attention due to its potential role as a testing ground for advanced hypersonic and long-range precision weapons.

- The agreement, initially focused on supplying Australia with nuclear-powered submarines, has evolved to address the growing influence of China in the Asia-Pacific region.

- U.S. Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth highlighted Australia's unique contributions and the collaborative nature of the pact.

3) Deflation in China

- Deflation, the inverse of inflation, signifies a persistent decline in the general price levels of goods and services within an economy.

- The recent occurrence of deflation in China, the world's second-largest economy, has triggered concerns about its economic prospects and the need for robust policy responses from Beijing.

4) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) faces a critical situation

- In the aftermath of a recent coup in Niger on July 26, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) faces a critical situation.

- The coup leaders have defied ECOWAS' deadline to reinstate the ousted president, prompting discussions among regional leaders.

- This article delves into the ongoing crisis, ECOWAS' response, and the potential implications for the region.



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NATIONAL NEWS

1) Delhi Services Bill

- The Delhi Services Bill, officially known as the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023 has been passed with total 131 votes votes in favour and 102 against in Rajya Sabha.

- It aims to replace an existing ordinance that has caused conflicts between the Aam Aadmi Party, led by the Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and the Central Government.

The bill was introduced by the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, in the Lok Sabha on August 3, 2023. It was passed by the Lok Sabha on August 6, 2023, and by the Rajya Sabha on August 7, 2023.

- The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, also known as the Delhi Services Bill, was passed by the Indian Parliament on August 7, 2023.

- The bill gives the central government control over the appointment, transfer, and posting of all bureaucrats in the Delhi government.

STATE NEWS

1) Asian Elephant population and demography 2023

- According to a report on Asian Elephant population and demography 2023, the state of Karnataka has witnessed a remarkable increase in elephant population.

- The number of elephants in Karnataka has surged from an estimated 6,049 in 2017 to an impressive 6,395, making it the highest elephant-populated region in the country.

- The report was introduced ahead of the approaching World Elephant Day on August 12, with the aim of raising awareness about the critical need to conserve and safeguard these animals.

2) "Indira Gandhi Free Smartphone Yojana 2023."

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- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot of Rajasthan has launched the "Indira Gandhi Free Smartphone Yojana 2023."

- This program provides free mobile phones, internet, and voice call services to women in the state.

- The distribution of smartphones will take place from August 10 to August 30, 2023, prioritizing widows and divorced women.



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3) Jal Jeevan Survekshan (JJS-2023)

- The Srinagar district has become the highest-performing district under the Jal Jeevan Survekshan (JJS-2023), outshining 114 Har Ghar Jal certified villages across India.

- This remarkable recognition solidifies Srinagar's commitment to the successful implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), a visionary initiative aimed at ensuring universal access to clean and safe drinking water.

4) Geographical Indication

- In a significant recognition of local craftsmanship and agricultural heritage, the Geographical Indication (GI) Tags have been bestowed upon Rajouri Chikri Wood Craft from Rajouri district and the prized Mushgbudji Rice variety from Anantnag district.

- These labels signify the unique nature and exceptional qualities of these products, tracing their origins to specific regions.

- This achievement is a result of a collaborative effort involving NABARD, the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, and the Department of Agriculture, commencing in December 2020.

BANKING NEWS

1) Poly Vinyl Chloride (r-PVC)

- India's first payment bank, Airtel Payment Bank also became the first Indian Bank to launch an ecofriendly debit card for its new and existing customers with a savings bank account.

- The debit cards will be crafted from recycle- Poly Vinyl Chloride (r-PVC) material, a certified eco-friendly material, against normal PVC cards.

- The introduction coincides with the Bank's dedication to sustainability and its drive to advocate for environmentally conscious practices within the financial industry.





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APPOINTMENTS AND RESGINATIONS

1) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) approved the appointment of Amit Jhingran as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for SBI Life Insurance Company Limited. Amit Jhingran has over three decades of experience in the insurance sector and serves as the Assistant General Manager of the Hyderabad Circle.

- He joined the company in 1991 as a probationary officer and has been with SBI Life since then. Amit Jhingran had also held the post of CEO of SBI, Chicago.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1) World Lion Day

- Every year on August 10th, people worldwide commemorate World Lion Day. This global observance aims to increase understanding about the conservation and safeguarding of lions.

- It provides an opportunity to inform individuals about the difficulties these magnificent animals encounter across the globe and to endorse initiatives for their preservation.

- Additionally, the day is a chance to honor these grandiose felines, recognizing their importance in ecosystems and various cultures globally.

2) World Biofuel Day

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- World Biofuel Day is observed every year on 10th August to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels and to highlight the various efforts made by the Government in the biofuel sector.

- This day also honors the research experiments by Sir Rudolf Diesel who ran an engine with peanut oil in the year 1893.

- His research experiment had predicted that vegetable oil is going to replace fossil fuels in the next century to fuel different mechanical engines.

- The World Biofuel Day is being observed by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas since 2015.



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3) August 11th as World Steelpan Day

- On July 24th, a significant step is anticipated as the United Nations prepares to adopt a draft resolution. This resolution will declare August 11th as World Steelpan Day, to be celebrated annually on the UN's calendar.

- Let's delve into the fascinating history and cultural importance of the steelpan, an instrument that emerged from the heart of Trinidad and Tobago.

- On August 11th, the world will resonate with the joyful notes of the steelpan, echoing the vibrant history of Trinidad and Tobago.

- World Steelpan Day stands not only as a celebration of music but also as a tribute to the resilient spirit of cultural diversity and sustainable development.





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