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1. Sujata Saunik Appointed Maharashtra's First Woman Chief Secretary (July 3, 2024)

Sujata Saunik, a 1987 batch IAS officer of the Maharashtra cadre, has been appointed as the first woman Chief Secretary (CS) of Maharashtra, effective from June 30, 2024.

An Overview of the News

- The appointment of Sujata Saunik comes after the retirement of Nitin Kareer, who had served as the CS of Maharashtra since January 2024.
- Saunik will serve a one-year term, retiring in June 2025.
- She becomes the 45th CS of Maharashtra since the state's establishment in 1960.
- Before this role, she held positions including Additional Chief Secretary of the Home Department and ACS in the General Administration Department.
- She also served as ACS of the Skill Development, Employment, and Entrepreneurship Department (SDEED), and as Principal Secretary of Public Health and Financial Reform.

About Maharashtra

- It is a state located in the western part of India and covers a significant part of the Deccan Plateau.
- Chief Minister - **Eknath Shinde**
- Governor - **Ramesh Bais**
- Official Animal - **Indian giant squirrel**
- Official Bird - **Yellow-footed Green Pigeon**
- Official Dance - **Lavani**

Additional Information:-

- Maharashtra becomes the first state in the country to approve Good Governance Regulations
- Ramesh Bais, Governor of Maharashtra, launched a book titled 'Gateways to the Sea: Historic Ports and Docks of Mumbai Region' at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai.
- On June 28, 2024, Maharashtra Government Launches Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana.

2. Maharashtra CM Extends Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana Age Limit to 65 Years (July 3, 2024)

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has extended the age limit for the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana to 65 years.

An Overview of the News

- The requirement for women from families owning government land has been removed.

Implementation Details:

- Eligible beneficiaries to receive ₹1500 monthly aid starting from July.
- Chief Minister warns against bribery for scheme registration, ensures transparency.
- Officials caught demanding bribes will face suspension.

Government's Two-Year Achievements:

- Mahayuti government completes successful two years.
- Emphasizes treating entire Maharashtra as family.
- Focus on hassle-free distribution of scheme benefits to eligible citizens.

Budgetary Allocations and Welfare Measures:

- State budget allocates substantial funds for welfare schemes.
- Over ₹1 lakh crore earmarked for distribution among beneficiaries.
- Commitment to benefit all sections of society with citizen-friendly decisions.

Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana

- Eligible women aged 21 to 65 years will receive a monthly allowance of Rs 1,500 under this scheme.
- The scheme aims to provide financial relief and empower women by supporting their health, nutrition, and overall well-being.
- The program is set to kick off in July, strategically timed four months before the state elections scheduled for October.
- This initiative reflects the government's commitment to supporting women and fostering self-reliance.

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3. Union Minister Launches Global India AI Summit in New Delhi (July 3, 2024)

Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the Global India AI Summit in New Delhi.

An Overview of the News

- Vision of AI Utilization: India aims to democratize technology through its approach to artificial intelligence (AI).

India AI Mission

- India AI Mission: The government will launch the India AI Mission, a ₹10,000 crore initiative.
- Investment Focus: It will focus on creating AI computing infrastructure with 10,000 or more GPUs through public-private partnerships.

AI Innovation Center

- Establishment: An AI Innovation Center will be established.
- Focus: It will concentrate on acquiring high-quality datasets to enhance research and startup efforts.

Legislative Efforts

- Regulatory Framework: The government is developing legislation to regulate AI.
- Objectives: The legislation aims to manage risks and implement safeguards against potential harms associated with AI technologies.

Summit Highlights

- Participants: The summit featured speeches by Japanese Minister Hiroshi Yoshida, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Jitin Prasada, IT Secretary S. Krishnan, President of Nasscom Debjani Ghosh, and Vice President of Open AI Srinivas Narayanan.

- Focus Areas: Sessions covered various critical aspects of AI application, governance,
- talent development, and scaling AI innovations.

4. International Day of Parliamentarism - 30 June 2024 (June 30, 2024)

June 30 is recognized as the International Day of Parliamentarism, which commemorates the founding of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in 1889.

An overview of the news

- This day holds significance as it provides an opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the progress made by parliaments worldwide in achieving their predetermined goals.
- International Day of Parliamentarism 2024 Theme: "**Parliamentary Diplomacy: Building Bridges for Peace and Understanding**"

Definition and Purpose of Parliamentary Diplomacy

- Parliamentary diplomacy involves fostering relationships and promoting cooperation between national parliaments through various initiatives.
- It encourages members of parliaments to engage in inter-parliamentary organizations, bilateral exchanges, and other diplomatic efforts.

Objectives of Parliamentary Diplomacy

- Representing national interests on international platforms.
- Facilitating dialogue and cooperation with parliamentary counterparts from other countries.
- Working towards consensus on global issues through diplomatic channels.

Benefits of Parliamentary Diplomacy

- Enhancing mutual understanding and trust between nations.
- Contributing to peacebuilding and conflict resolution efforts.
- Strengthening international cooperation and partnerships for sustainable development.

Role of Parliamentarians

- Advocating for their countries' interests in international forums.
- Building bridges and promoting cultural exchange through parliamentary engagements.
- Supporting diplomatic efforts to address global challenges collaboratively.

Background of the day

- The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in **2018** to establish the **International Day of Parliamentarism**, emphasizing the importance of parliamentary institutions in democratic governance.
- The **Inter-Parliamentary Union** was **founded in 1889**, and the inaugural celebration of the UN International Day of Parliamentarism took place in **1899 to mark its establishment**.
- The day serves as a platform to reflect on the achievements and challenges faced by parliaments globally and to foster dialogue and cooperation among parliamentary bodies.

5. GRSE wins 'Sustainable Governance Champion Award 2024' (June 29, 2024)

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Ltd. received the "Sustainable Governance Champion Award" at the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024.

An Overview of the News

- GRSE demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainable practices and governance excellence.
- The award acknowledges GRSE's integration of sustainability into core operations.

Innovation and Environmental Stewardship:

- GRSE is recognized for driving innovation in sustainable shipbuilding practices.
- The company promotes environmental stewardship within the maritime and defense sectors.

Technological Advancements:

- GRSE has implemented advanced technologies in its shipbuilding processes.
- These technologies focus on eco-friendly measures to minimize environmental impact.

Significance of the Summit:

- The Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards is a prestigious platform for industry leaders and policymakers.
- It celebrates and promotes sustainable initiatives across various sectors.

6. CAG has Inaugurated the Chadwick House Museum in Shimla (June 29, 2024)

Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Girish Chandra Murmu, inaugurated the 'Chadwick House Navigating Audit Heritage' Museum in Shimla.

An Overview of the News

- Chadwick House, a historic landmark in Shimla, hosted Mahatma Gandhi during the 1946 Cabinet Mission.
- After independence, it housed a training school for the Indian Audit and Accounts Service until neglect led to its near demolition in 2018.

Restoration and Establishment:

- The Supreme Audit Institution of India intervened to preserve Chadwick House's heritage.
- An MoU with Prasar Bharati in December 2020 initiated its transformation into a museum.

Museum Features:

- The museum showcases the evolution, achievements, and milestones of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) institution.
- It comprises ten galleries exploring various aspects of CAG's history through artefacts, documents, and interactive displays.
- Exhibits include historical documents, artefacts, and photographs documenting CAG's role in governance and audits.

Inaugural Address and Purpose:

- Murmu highlighted the museum's role as a knowledge repository and an inspiration for future auditors.
- Chadwick House and its museum symbolize dedication to public service and governance integrity.

Educational and Historical Value:

- The museum uses multimedia and artefacts to educate visitors about CAG's contributions to India's governance.
- It aims to preserve and showcase the historical significance of auditing in India.

7. Cyril Ramaphosa Re-Elected South African President (June 15, 2024)

Cyril Ramaphosa has been re-elected as the President of South Africa.

An Overview of the News

- This follows a landmark coalition deal between his African National Congress (ANC) and opposition parties.
- The new government combines Ramaphosa's ANC, the centre-right Democratic Alliance, and other smaller parties.

Parliament Vote

- Ramaphosa won convincingly in a Parliament vote.
- He received 283 votes against Julius Malema's 44 in the 400-member house.
- Malema is the leader of the far-left Economic Freedom Fighters.

Crucial Agreement

- Ramaphosa secured his second term after an agreement with the Democratic Alliance.
- This agreement was struck just hours before the presidential vote.
- The ANC lost its 30-year majority in Africa's national assembly.

Election Results

- In the recent elections, the ANC's vote share dropped to 40%.
- The Democratic Alliance emerged as the second-largest party with 22% of the votes.

Co-Governance

- The parties will now co-govern South Africa.
- This marks the first national coalition where no party has a majority.

About South Africa

- It is located at the southernmost tip of the African continent and is known for its diverse ecosystems.
- Capital:- Pretoria (executive), Cape Town (legislative) and Bloemfontein (judicial)
- Largest city:- Johannesburg

8. Appointment of Sandeep Batra as Chairman of ICICI Prudential Life (June 2, 2024)

Sandeep Batra's appointment as Chairman of the Board of Directors of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited has been approved by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

An Overview of the News

- Batra will assume the role following the retirement of M S Ramachandran, who has reached the maximum age limit of 75 years. Batra's appointment will take effect from 30 June 2024.

About Sandeep Batra:

- Long-Term Association: Batra has been associated with ICICI Group since 2000.
- Executive Director at ICICI Bank: He has served as an Executive Director on the Board of ICICI Bank since 2018.
- Board Memberships: Batra serves on the boards of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, ICICI Lombard General Insurance, ICICI Prudential Asset Management, and ICICI Ventures.
- Founding Member: He was one of the founding members of ICICI Prudential Life, holding the position of Chief Financial Officer (CFO) from September 2000 to 2006.
- Previous Roles: Batra has held various positions including Executive Director and Board member from January 2014 to July 2018, and also served as a Group Compliance Officer at ICICI Bank.

About M. S. Ramachandran:

- Non-Executive Independent Director: Ramachandran is the current Non-executive Independent Director and Chairman of the ICICI Prudential Board.
- Corporate Leadership Experience: He has previously served as the Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited, among others.
- Involvement in Governance: Ramachandran has been a Member of the Governing Council of India Habitat Centre.
- Directorship at ICICI Bank: Additionally, he has served as a Director on the Board of ICICI Bank Limited.

About ICICI Prudential Life

- It was established on July 20, 2000, as a public limited company according to the Companies Act of 1956.
- Operations began in 2001 following its incorporation.
- The company is jointly promoted by ICICI Bank Limited and Prudential Corporation Holdings Limited.
- Mr. Anup Bagchi serves as the Managing Director and CEO.
- The headquarters of ICICI Prudential Life is located in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

9. Appointment of Pradeep Kumar Sinha as Non-Executive Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank Limited (May 27, 2024)

Pradeep Kumar Sinha appointed to succeed Girish Chandra Chaturvedi as the Non-Executive Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank Limited upon Chaturvedi's retirement on June 30, 2024.

An Overview of the News

- Sinha to assume the position from July 1, 2024, following Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approval, for a term of three years.

- Sinha approved as an Additional Independent Director by ICICI Bank's Board of Directors for a five-year term (2024 to 2029) during the meeting held from February 15-17, 2024.

Background of Pradeep Kumar Sinha

- Sinha, a 1977 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from Uttar Pradesh (UP) Cadre, brings extensive administrative experience to the role.
- Held Government Nominee Director positions in major public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) including ONGC, IOCL, HPCL, BPCL, and GAIL.
- Served as India's Cabinet Secretary from 2015 to 2019, demonstrating leadership at the highest levels of government.
- From 2019 to 2021, Sinha served as a Principal Advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, contributing to strategic decision-making.
- Additionally, Sinha served as an Additional Independent Director in Bharti Airtel Limited from 2022 to May 14, 2024, bringing corporate governance insights to his roles.

About ICICI Bank Limited

- Established:- **1994**
- MD & CEO:- **Sandeep Bakhshi**
- Headquarters:- **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- Tagline:- **Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka**

10. Delhi High Court appoints Justice Najmi Waziri as Chairperson of Ad-hoc Administrative Committee (AAC) (May 26, 2024)

The Delhi High Court (HC) has appointed Justice Najmi Waziri, retired judge of Delhi HC, as the Chairperson of the Ad-Hoc Administrative Committee (AAC) to oversee the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI).

An Overview of the News

- The committee includes Dr. S.Y. Quraishi, former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, as the Observer, and Advocate Rohini Musa as a Member of the AAC.

Key responsibilities of the committee:

- Manage the daily administration and operations of the EFI.
- Issue necessary orders for EFI's day-to-day functioning, authorized by the Chairperson's signature.
- Establish appropriate governance arrangements for the EFI until new elections are held.

About Justice Najmi Waziri

- Elevated as an Additional Judge of the Delhi High Court on April 17, 2013, and retired on April 14, 2023.
- Famously known as the 'Green Judge' of Delhi for advocating the planting of 3.7 lakh trees to enhance the greenery of New Delhi.
- Appointed as the Chairman of the Internal Departmental Committee in April 2024, tasked with protecting and managing deemed forests in New Delhi, Delhi.
- Honored with the SKOCH India Law Award in 2023 for exemplary services to justice.