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8th to 14th August 2023

WEEKLY Current Affairs

For

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EXAMS

- NMC's Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of Registered Doctors
- Digital India RISC-V' Symposium
- Ethiopia Declares State of Emergency in Amhara Region
- FDA's Approval for Zurzuvae
- IWC's First Extinction Alert
- Postal Life Insurance's Direct Incentive Disbursement Program
- CBI Academy Joins Interpol Global Academy Network



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Current Affairs 8 to 14 August 2023

Brief:-

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NMC's Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of Registered Doctors:

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has recently released comprehensive guidelines for the professional conduct of registered doctors in modern medicine. These guidelines cover various aspects of medical practice, including the use of social media, prescription practices, treatment refusal, continuous professional development (CPD), and participation in conferences. Doctors are allowed to use social media to educate and inform, but they must avoid discussing patient specifics and violating patient privacy. They are also prohibited from sharing testimonials or soliciting patients through social media. The guidelines emphasize prescribing generic medicines, except for specific cases, and discourage the use of fixed-dose combinations unless approved. Doctors are given the right to refuse treatment to abusive or non-paying patients, except in emergencies. Continuous professional development is mandated, and doctors must acquire 30 credit points in their field every five years. Conferences cannot be sponsored by pharmaceutical companies, and doctors must avoid receiving gifts or endorsements from such entities.

Doctors are allowed to share information and announcements online, but it must be accurate and not misleading. Patient-specific information or scans should not be posted, and soliciting patients through social





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media is considered unethical. Educative content should relate to the doctor's expertise, and doctors should maintain professionalism when discussing colleagues online.

How do the guidelines address the use of generic medicines?

Doctors are encouraged to prescribe generic medicines, except in cases where narrow therapeutic index drugs are required. The guidelines aim to promote generics' equivalence to branded drugs and urge pharmacies to stock them. However, concerns exist about availability and quality variations among generic medicines.

Under what circumstances can a doctor refuse treatment?

Doctors can refuse treatment if patients or their family members display abusive or violent behavior. Additionally, if a patient cannot afford the consultation fees, doctors can decline treatment after informing the patient of estimated costs. However, treatment refusal is not applicable during medical emergencies.

What is Continuous Professional Development (CPD), and why is it important according to the guidelines?

CPD is an obligation for doctors to continue learning and updating their skills. The guidelines mandate doctors to undertake training sessions and accumulate credit points every five years. This is vital due to evolving medical practices, emerging diseases like Covid-19, and technological advancements in the field.

How do the guidelines regulate doctors' participation in conferences?

While doctors are required to undergo CPD, conferences and educational sessions cannot be sponsored by pharmaceutical companies. This regulation aims to prevent potential conflicts of interest or bias that could arise from such sponsorships.

What restrictions do the guidelines place on doctors receiving benefits from pharmaceutical companies?

Doctors and their families are prohibited from accepting gifts, travel facilities, monetary grants, or endorsements from pharmaceutical companies, healthcare establishments, and medical device companies. However, salaries of doctors working for such entities are exempt from this restriction.

Digital India RISC-V' Symposium

The Digital India RISC-V Symposium, a one-day event held on August 6, 2023, at the prestigious IIT Madras Research Park, was a momentous occasion for the Indian electronics industry. Organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, in collaboration with IIT Madras and IITM Pravartak Technologies Foundation, the Symposium aimed to showcase the future of Electronics in India through the RISC-V pathway.

The primary goal of the Digital India RISC-V Symposium was to create a platform to demonstrate India's potential in the electronics sector. The Symposium brought together esteemed academics, industry experts, researchers, professors, and students to discuss the advancements and innovations in the field of electronics, particularly with a focus on the RISC-V pathway.

An Engaging Hackathon and Investor Meeting

In addition to the tech talks and interactive stalls, the Symposium hosted an engaging hackathon that encouraged participants to brainstorm and develop innovative solutions using RISC-V technology.





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Furthermore, a special Investor meeting was organized to attract investment and foster collaboration between industry players and startups involved in the RISC-V ecosystem.

Understanding RISC-V

RISC-V stands for Reduced Instruction Set Computer. Unlike traditional proprietary processor architectures, RISC-V is an open-source ISA that provides designers with the freedom to customize processors for various applications. It was initially developed at the University of California, Berkeley, and the 'V' in RISC-V stands for the fifth generation, signifying the continual evolution and improvement of this cutting-edge technology.

DIR-V Program: India's Ambitious Pursuit

The DIR-V program, launched by India, has a clear objective: to boost the country's semiconductor ecosystem. By creating advanced microprocessors based on the RISC-V architecture, India aims to become self-reliant in semiconductor design, reducing its dependence on foreign technology providers. The government's commitment to this initiative showcases its determination to establish India as a major player in the global semiconductor landscape.

RISC-V International: Pioneering Collaboration

RISC-V International, the organization responsible for managing RISC-V, plays a pivotal role in driving the technology's global adoption. With over 3,000 members, the organization fosters collaboration, innovation, and standardization within the RISC-V community. This inclusive approach has led to the creation of a robust ecosystem for RISC-V development and application across various industries.

Diverse Applications of RISC-V Processors

RISC-V processors find applications in a wide range of fields, including wearables, industrial devices, IoT sensors, and home appliances. Their adaptability and customizability make them ideal for space-constrained and battery-powered designs. Additionally, RISC-V cores can be tailored for specific industries such as smartphones, automotive, high-performance computing (HPC), and data centers, showcasing the versatility and potential of this revolutionary technology.

Empowering Innovation through RISC-V ISA

One of the most significant advantages of RISC-V architecture is its impact on software development. The ISA's simplified processor instructions streamline the development process, enabling quicker custom processor development. Moreover, the open-standard nature of RISC-V encourages industry collaboration and fosters innovation, as designers can work together to create unique features and solutions.

India's Ascent as a RISC-V Talent Hub

By establishing itself as a RISC-V Talent Hub for the World, India aims to showcase its strides in the global RISC-V community. This ambitious goal highlights the country's thriving ecosystem of chip designers in academia, scientific societies, and startups, all striving to secure a prominent position in the growing RISC-V market. The government's commitment to nurturing local talent and providing tech opportunities positions India as a major supplier of RISC-V SoCs worldwide.

Ethiopia Declares State of Emergency in Amhara Region:





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The Amhara region of Ethiopia has been thrown into chaos as a result of increasing violence pitting a local ethnic militia, called Fano, against the national army. The situation has become so dire that the council of ministers declared a state of emergency to address the mounting threat to public security and the significant economic damage caused by armed extremist groups.

Reasons for Declaring a State of Emergency: Violence

The primary reason for the declaration of a state of emergency in the Amhara region is the surge in violence between the local ethnic militia, Fano, and the national army. The clashes have intensified over a disputed plan to integrate regional security forces into the national army. Last year, the government also attempted to suppress the Amhara militia, which further escalated tensions in the region. The violence has resulted in an unknown number of casualties, causing serious economic, social, and humanitarian damage, prompting the need for immediate intervention.

The Ethnic Militia: Fano

At the center of the violence in the Amhara region is the local ethnic militia known as Fano. This group, alongside the regional security forces, played a significant role in the two-year-long civil war with the neighboring Tigray region. The Amhara population supports Fano and the regional security forces, considering them protectors of their interests. However, the Ethiopian government views these groups as a threat to the constitutional order and aims to suppress their influence.

Implications on the Amhara Region

As violence continues to escalate, the Amhara region has been severely affected. Flights to tourist hotspots like Gondar and Lalibela have been canceled, disrupting the region's tourism industry. Government officials have fled several towns, leaving a power vacuum, and the internet has been cut, restricting communication and access to information. Moreover, the use of live ammunition and artillery in civilian areas has exacerbated the humanitarian crisis.

Geographic Significance of Amhara

The Amhara region is of great geographic significance to Ethiopia. It is home to Lake Tana, the largest inland body of water in Ethiopia and the source of the Blue Nile River. The region's highlands receive 80% of Ethiopia's total annual rainfall, making it the country's most fertile and climatically hospitable area.

The new COVID variant spreading in the UK has been identified as EG.5.1 or the Eris variant. Its discovery has triggered heightened monitoring and analysis by health authorities to understand its characteristics and implications.

One in Seven Cases: The Penetration of the Eris Variant

The Eris variant has rapidly gained ground in the UK, with one in seven COVID-19 cases now attributed to this strain. This alarming figure underscores the significance of identifying and tracking new variants to manage the spread effectively.

Beyond Borders: The Global Reach of EG.5.1





The Eris variant has not confined itself to the UK alone. Its presence has been felt in multiple countries across different continents, including Europe, Asia, and North America. The global spread emphasizes the importance of international cooperation in tackling the virus's mutations.

An 11.8% Presence: Classifying EG.5.1 in the UK Sequences

In the second week of July, approximately 11.8% of the UK's sequenced COVID-19 cases were identified as EG.5.1. This percentage highlights the increasing prevalence of the variant and the need for continuous vigilance.

Contributing Factors: Unraveling the Spike in Cases

Health experts have identified two factors contributing to the recent spike in Eris variant cases. Bad weather conditions and waning immunity have played roles in facilitating the variant's transmission and causing a surge in infections.

Protective Measures: Shielding Against the Eris Variant

Individuals can take proactive steps to protect themselves from the Eris variant. Practicing proper sanitization, frequent handwashing, and maintaining social distance are effective measures to reduce the risk of infection and transmission.

The Symptom Puzzle: Understanding the Eris Variant

While specific symptoms have not been mentioned for the Eris variant, it exhibits common flu-like symptoms similar to those of COVID-19. These symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, body aches, and loss of taste or smell.

Athidhi Portal

The Kerala government is taking proactive measures to expedite the registration process and introduce a unique identification system for migrant workers in the state. In response to recent sexual crimes allegedly committed by migrant workers against children, the government has initiated the 'Athidhi portal.' This user-friendly web portal aims to streamline the registration of "guest workers" and ensure their social security.

The Athidhi portal, a novel initiative by the Kerala government, is set to be launched on Monday. Its primary objective is to speed up the registration of migrant workers, especially in the aftermath of two appalling sexual crimes against minors. One such incident involved the abduction, rape, and murder of a five-year-old girl from Aluva in Ernakulam District, allegedly by a migrant worker from Bihar. The state is determined to strengthen its measures to protect vulnerable individuals and uphold their rights.

Assisting Guest Workers through Help Desks

In an effort to ensure that no guest worker is left out of the portal, the Kerala government is planning to establish help desks at railway stations, where guest workers often arrive in large numbers. These help desks will provide valuable assistance to the workers, guiding them through the registration process and ensuring their inclusion in the system.

Statewide Launch and Worker Registration





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The Athidhi portal is scheduled for a statewide launch on August 7, and it is expected to streamline the registration of guest workers across the state. Contractors and employers will play a crucial role in registering the workers in the portal, ensuring that all necessary information is entered accurately. The enrolling officer will then carefully examine the details provided and issue a unique ID to each worker. This identification system will help keep track of the workers and facilitate efficient management of their records.

Securing Social Security for Migrant Workers

The Athidhi portal goes beyond merely expediting the registration process. It is designed to collect vital information about migrant workers to ensure they have access to social security measures. By creating a unique identification system, the portal will help protect the rights of the workers and offer them a sense of security in an unfamiliar environment.

FDA's Approval for Zurzuvae

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recently granted approval for a groundbreaking oral pill called Zurzuvae, co-developed by Biogen and Sage Therapeutics, to address postpartum depression (PPD) and major depressive disorder (MDD). This revolutionary medication offers hope and relief for millions of women affected by these debilitating conditions.

Zurzuvae marks a major milestone in psychiatric medicine as it is the first oral pill designed to specifically treat severe depression after childbirth. In addition to addressing PPD, Zurzuvae also focuses on MDD or clinical depression, offering a holistic approach to aid individuals dealing with these mental health issues.

The Impact of Postpartum Depression

PPD has far-reaching consequences on the lives of women who experience it. The disorder severely hampers their ability to return to normal functioning after pregnancy. It can create emotional turmoil, anxiety, and sadness, potentially affecting the mother's bond with her newborn child. Acknowledging the gravity of this problem, the FDA's authorization of Zurzuvae brings a glimmer of hope to ease the distress faced by mothers dealing with postpartum depression.

Anticipated Availability of Zurzuvae

Following FDA approval, Zurzuvae is expected to be commercially available in the fourth quarter of 2023. However, it is subject to scheduling as a controlled substance by the US Drug Enforcement Administration, which is predicted to occur within 90 days. Once available, Zurzuvae is set to be a game-changer in the field of mental health treatment.

Insights from FDA's Complete Response Letter

During the evaluation process, the FDA issued a Complete Response Letter for the New Drug Application for Zurzuvae concerning its treatment of adults with MDD. The agency indicated that the application did not provide sufficient evidence of the drug's effectiveness for MDD treatment. Further studies are needed to support its approval in this area.

The Prevalence of Depressive Disorders

The prevalence of depressive disorders, including MDD, is substantial in the US. In 2021, an estimated 21 million adults in the country experienced at least one episode of major depressive disorder. Additionally, PPD





affects approximately one in seven women who give birth. The availability of Zurzuvae as an oral medication brings new hope to address these mental health challenges more effectively.

Previous Treatment Options and Usual Treatments for PPD

Before Zurzuvae's approval, treatment for postpartum depression was primarily available in the form of intravenous injections. However, with the introduction of Zurzuvae, women will now have the option of an oral pill, enhancing convenience and accessibility of treatment. Alongside Zurzuvae, counseling and antidepressants are commonly used to manage and alleviate the symptoms of postpartum depression.

IWC's First Extinction Alert:

On August 7, 2023, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) released its first ever 'extinction alert,' focusing on the vaquita porpoise, a species with a mere 10 remaining individuals located in the Gulf of California or Sea of Cortez in Mexico. The vaquita is exclusively present in the northern section of the Gulf of California, Mexico, with its population dwindling from around 570 in 1997 to roughly 10 animals in 2018.

Exclusive Habitat: Mexico's Gulf of California

The vaquita porpoise is an endemic species, exclusively found in the northernmost part of the Gulf of California, Mexico. This restricted habitat adds to the urgency of conservation efforts, as the species' survival hinges on the protection and restoration of its unique environment.

Bycatch: A Deadly Threat

The primary cause of the vaquita porpoise's rapid decline is bycatch – the unintentional capture of these marine mammals in fishing gear. Gillnets, commonly used for fishing, have proven to be a lethal threat to the vaquita population.

Totoaba Trade Complications

Gillnets targeting totoaba, a fish highly valued in Chinese cuisine for its swimbladders, inadvertently trap vaquita porpoises. The illicit international trade in totoaba has further complicated efforts to address gillnet fishing and its devastating consequences on the vaquita population.

Enforcement: A Ray of Hope

Despite the grim scenario, the IWC's alert emphasizes that enforcement of a complete gillnet ban within the vaquita's core habitat could still offer a chance of recovery for this resilient species. The IWC underscores the critical importance of implementing effective measures to protect the vaquita from further harm.

A Lesson in Conservation

The IWC's Scientific Committee emphasizes the lesson that conservation efforts must be multi-disciplinary. Addressing the broader factors contributing to extinction requires a comprehensive approach that goes beyond immediate concerns.

Luna-25 Spacecraft

After a hiatus of 47 years, Russia is poised to make a remarkable leap in lunar exploration with the launch of its Luna-25 spacecraft. This venture not only signifies a resurgence in space exploration but also represents a strategic race with India to reach the moon's south pole. The quest is driven by the tantalizing potential of the





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moon's south pole to provide a crucial resource – water. It will be launched from the Vostochny cosmodrome, which is situated 5,550 kilometers from Moscow

India's Chandrayaan-3 lunar lander, scheduled to touch down on the moon's south pole on August 23, is competing in a captivating lunar race with Russia's Luna-25. Both nations aim to explore the potential of the moon's south pole as a valuable source of water, which could have profound implications for future human presence in space.

Unlocking Lunar Resources: Ice at the South Pole

The moon's south pole holds the promise of vast ice deposits that could potentially be utilized as a resource to support human activities on the lunar surface. The presence of ice opens doors for extracting fuel, oxygen, and even drinking water, vital for the sustenance of future human endeavors in space.

Intricacies of Luna-25

Russia's Luna-25, with a mass of 1.8 tons, carries a scientific payload weighing 31 kg. This sophisticated spacecraft will deploy a scoop to collect rock samples from depths of up to 15 cm. These samples will be scrutinized for frozen water content, a crucial element for assessing the potential for human habitation on the moon.

Postal Life Insurance's Direct Incentive Disbursement Program

Postal Life Insurance (PLI), a venerable name in the insurance sector with a legacy dating back to 1884, is making significant strides in its commitment to customer-centricity. Recognizing the paramount importance of its sales force, PLI is introducing a groundbreaking pilot program known as "Direct Incentive Disbursement" in the Delhi and Uttarakhand Circles. This program aims to revolutionize the way PLI's agents are rewarded and compensated.

Established in 1884, PLI has been a steadfast player in the insurance industry. Its decades-long presence has cemented its position as a trusted entity, fostering both growth and security for its customers. The institution's longstanding legacy stands as a testament to its dedication to providing valuable services to the public.

Innovative Approach: Direct Incentive Disbursement

The new pilot program, "Direct Incentive Disbursement," marks a strategic shift in PLI's approach. This initiative highlights PLI's recognition of the instrumental role played by its sales force in achieving organizational milestones. In alignment with PLI's ongoing commitment to improvement, this program is aimed at enhancing the agent incentive program, thereby optimizing their performance.

Geographical Implementation

The pilot program is set to be launched in two prominent regions: Delhi and Uttarakhand. These regions have been selected as initial testing grounds for the program's efficacy. The choice of these regions underscores PLI's measured approach to innovation, ensuring that the new system is robust before nationwide implementation.

Empowering Agents: Streamlined Fund Transfers

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Under the “Direct Incentive Disbursement” feature, agents will experience an innovative system of commission transfer. Instead of traditional methods, commissions earned in the previous month will be directly transferred to agents’ Post Office Savings Bank Accounts. This streamlined process not only ensures security and speed but also eliminates delays associated with physical checks.

Impact and Reach

The pilot initiative is expected to impact a substantial number of PLI’s sales force members across the nation. This includes diverse categories of employees such as Gramin Dak Sevaks, Direct Agents, Field Officers, and Departmental Employees. The program’s implementation across such a diverse workforce underscores PLI’s commitment to inclusivity and efficiency.

Fostering Growth and Relationships

The dedication of PLI’s agents is crucial to the organization’s success. Agents play a pivotal role in acquiring and retaining clients, effectively serving as brand ambassadors. Their commitment to delivering personalized services and cultivating strong client relationships aligns with PLI’s mission of growth through customer satisfaction.

Guru Gorakhnath Board

The Rajasthan government’s recent initiative to set up the Guru Gorakhnath Board marks a significant step towards addressing the challenges faced by the Jogi, Yogi, and Nath communities in the state. Its primary objective is to identify and alleviate the problems and issues plaguing these backward classes while ensuring their access to basic and necessary facilities.

The Guru Gorakhnath Board’s main purpose is to conduct a comprehensive survey to identify the specific problems and issues faced by the Jogi, Yogi, and Nath communities in Rajasthan. By understanding their unique challenges, the board aims to propose targeted solutions that will improve the living conditions and prospects of these communities.

Suggesting Welfare Measures to the State Government

Based on the primary survey report, the Guru Gorakhnath Board will send well-researched suggestions to the state government. These suggestions will encompass various welfare measures tailored to meet the needs of the backward classes. The board intends to focus on the provision of essential facilities and amenities that can uplift the quality of life for the marginalized communities.

Coordinating with Departments for Effective Implementation

In addition to proposing new schemes, the board will play a vital role in coordinating with different government departments. This coordination is crucial to ensure the effective implementation of ongoing schemes that target the betterment of the Jogi, Yogi, and Nath communities. By fostering collaboration among various departments, the board seeks to streamline the delivery of services and maximize their impact.

Promoting Educational and Economic Progress

The Guru Gorakhnath Board recognizes the significance of education and economic stability in uplifting marginalized communities. Therefore, the board will work diligently on promoting progress in these areas.





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Through targeted initiatives and programs, it aims to enhance educational opportunities and create avenues for economic growth and self-sufficiency among the backward classes.

Composition of the Board

The Guru Gorakhnath Board will consist of five non-official members, including a chairman, vice-chairman, and three other members. This diverse composition ensures the representation of different perspectives and expertise, contributing to a well-rounded approach in addressing the community's challenges.

CBI Academy Joins Interpol Global Academy Network

In recent developments, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Academy has been officially inducted into the prestigious Interpol Global Academy Network.

Stepping onto the global stage, the CBI Academy now holds the esteemed title of being the 10th member of the Interpol Global Academy Network. This induction is not just a testament to the academy's capabilities but also to its dedication to maintaining global standards of law enforcement training and methodologies.

About Interpol Global Academy Network

Initiated in 2019, the INTERPOL Global Academy Network was established to bolster INTERPOL's mission of fostering a worldwide methodology for Law Enforcement Training. With members spanning various regions, the Network encourages scholarly cooperation between Law Enforcement Training Institutions worldwide.

The Hub of the Academy

Situated in Ghaziabad, the CBI Academy stands as a pillar for India, training the country's finest in crime investigation, prosecution, and vigilance. Its geographical location adjacent to the national capital, Delhi, provides it with both strategic and logistic advantages.

The Interpol's Innovation Hub

A major player on the global platform, the Global Complex for Innovation of Interpol is headquartered in Singapore. This complex is a symbol of Interpol's commitment to spearheading innovative practices in international policing.

A Young Yet Powerful Network

Despite being only three years in existence, the Interpol Global Academy Network is gaining significant attention for its commitment to a worldwide perspective on law enforcement education. It's an endeavor that promotes collaboration, understanding, and shared methodologies among different countries.

CBI's Pivotal Role in India

The CBI doesn't just play a crucial role in India's domestic law enforcement landscape. It's the primary nodal entity for all matters pertaining to Interpol in the country. In the past, it has successfully collaborated with notable foreign agencies like the FBI to elevate its training programs.

The Path Ahead

By joining this network, the CBI Academy doesn't just gain global recognition. It is set to benefit immensely from knowledge exchange, which will invariably enrich its training programs, making them more comprehensive and globally relevant.





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Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization

After a hiatus of 14 years, South American nation leaders convened to prioritize the Amazon rainforest's protection during the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization summit. This pivotal gathering is taking place in Belem, a Brazilian city that stands as a testament to the urgency of the situation.

Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization: Standing the Test of Time

Founded 45 years ago, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) plays a vital role in fostering collaborations amongst nations. It serves as a global entity dedicated to fostering sustainable growth within the Amazon Basin. The nations involved in this organization are Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela.

The foundation for this collaboration was laid with the signing of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) on July 3, 1978, which saw revisions in 1998. To bolster the treaty's execution, ACTO was inaugurated in 1995. Further solidifying its presence, its Permanent Secretariat was set up in Brasilia in 2002.

Challenges and Triumphs in Amazon

The Amazon spans a region double the area of India, with Brazil encompassing two-thirds of it. The remaining one-third is divided among seven nations and one territory: Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname, Ecuador, and French Guiana.

Already, 17 percent of the Amazon forest has been deforested. However, its vast expanse still holds 10 percent of Earth's biodiversity, emphasizing its unparalleled ecological importance.

Experts warn that if deforestation reaches between 20% to 25%, the Amazon forest might uncontrollably release vast amounts of carbon dioxide, a grave environmental threat. But, on the brighter side, collective efforts have borne fruit. The Escazu Agreement of 2018, endorsed by Latin American nations, champions the public's right to environmental data and ensures their participation in eco-conscious decision-making.

Record-Breaking Temperatures

Global climatic changes have been alarming, with the European Union's climate observatory confirming that July was the hottest month ever recorded on Earth. Such records highlight the urgency of the actions needed to protect our planet.

Looking Back and Ahead

The momentum for regional cooperation of ACTO countries has been building over time. The last summit that saw these eight nations come together was 14 years ago, showcasing a revived and perhaps a more urgent commitment to the cause.

Furthermore, the global community's eyes will be on Belem once again in 2025, as the city is set to host the United Nations climate talks. Such significant gatherings in the region highlight its central role in global climate discussions.

Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity Project (SL-UDI)





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In a significant stride towards bolstering digitalization, India has extended a financial hand to Sri Lanka's innovative digital identity project. Known as the Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity Project (SL-UDI), the initiative is poised to transform the nation's technological landscape.

The SL-UDI project received a financial infusion of ₹450 million in advance from the Indian government. This substantial contribution constitutes 15% of the total funds required for the successful execution of the project. The funding underlines India's commitment to fostering this crucial initiative and highlights the depth of the collaborative partnership between the two nations.

The Essence of SL-UDI

The SL-UDI project aims to streamline digital identification processes in Sri Lanka. It involves collecting biographic and biometric data, encompassing facial, iris, and fingerprint information. This data will be stored within a centralized system, aligning with the standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The resulting identification cards will facilitate effective government service delivery, poverty reduction, welfare programs, and enhanced financial inclusion.

Bilateral Collaboration and Monitoring

The inception of the SL-UDI project was marked by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Sri Lanka and India in March 2022. Furthermore, a collaborative monitoring committee known as the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Project Monitoring Committee (JPMC) was instituted to supervise the advancement of the project. With its technical prowess, is taking a leading role in software development for the SL-UDI, ensuring the project's technological integrity and success.

Towards a Digitally Empowered Sri Lanka

The SL-UDI project underscores the commitment of both nations to harness the potential of digital technologies for the benefit of citizens. As the project advances, it promises to streamline identity verification processes, facilitate better access to government services, and drive financial inclusion. With India's financial support and technical expertise, Sri Lanka's digital future is poised for remarkable progress.

Rajouri Chikri Woodcraft and Mushqbudji Rice Receive GI Tags:

In a celebratory move, Jammu and Kashmir's distinct regional contributions, the Rajouri Chikri woodcraft and the Mushqbudji rice, have recently been honored with the Geographical Indication (GI) tags. This prestigious distinction draws attention to the exquisite nature and significance of these regional treasures.

These esteemed creations find their roots in the districts of Rajouri and Anantnag. While the Rajouri district is renowned for its meticulous Chikri woodcraft, Anantnag stands out for its aromatic Mushqbudji rice, characterized by its short, bold grains.

Collaborative Efforts

The journey to this recognition began in December 2020. In a combined initiative, NABARD, the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, along with the Department of Agriculture, embarked on the mission to earn these regional gems their rightful place on the global map.

Diverse Features of the Creations

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Delving deeper into these marvels, the Mushqbudji rice is not just a culinary delight but a testament to the region's agronomic brilliance. The expansion of its cultivation into districts like Budgam and Kulgam stands testimony to its increasing significance. Parallely, the Chikri wood, known for its fine grains, finds its home amidst the picturesque hill ranges of the Jammu province, echoing the region's rich artisanal heritage.

The Significance of GI Tags

More than a badge of authenticity, a Geographical Indication tag serves as an intellectual property right. This not only ensures the protection of the regional specialties but also underscores their unparalleled nature, deeply rooted in the very soil and culture they emanate from.

Looking Ahead

The success story doesn't end here. With an unwavering commitment to preserving and promoting Jammu and Kashmir's cultural heritage, the Jammu and Kashmir Agriculture Production Department is actively championing for an additional 24 crops and products to be graced with the esteemed GI tags. As the narrative unfolds, it promises a vibrant tapestry of legacies, traditions, and unmatched regional brilliance.

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