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Four New Countries Hold Consultations to Join OPEC

- **VIENNA, 5th July 2023 (WAM)** -- Haitham Al Ghis, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), revealed that so far Azerbaijan, Malaysia, Brunei and Mexico have been consulted to join the organization due to the organization's aspirations to increase the number of member states.
- In a statement to the Emirates News Agency, WAM, on the sidelines of the **8th OPEC International Seminar**, Al Ghais said consultations with new countries outside the organization contribute to strengthening OPEC's solidarity, indicating that the organization aims to Not to include a specific number of countries. But to target countries that have similar strategic objectives of protecting and stabilizing oil markets.

- ➔ The OPEC Secretary-General noted that the four countries that were consulted have been in solidarity with the organisation since 2017, adding that "they have gone through qualitative challenges during the collapse of the markets and the pandemic in 2020, and therefore all of these countries have the common goal that is in the interest of stabilising the oil markets."
- ➔ **OPEC was established in the year 1960** with founding members Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela which now consists of 13 member countries.
- ➔ OPEC produces about 30% of the world's crude oil and its members account for about 60% of the global petroleum trade.
- ➔ In the year 2016, OPEC formed OPEC+ to expand its organization by including 10 major oil-producing countries.
- ➔ **OPEC+ consists** of 13 OPEC member states along with Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan.

➔ Its objective is to coordinate and integrate petroleum policies, stabilize the oil market, ensure a steady supply of petroleum to consumers, provide reliable income to producers and provide reasonable returns on investment in the petroleum industry. **OPEC is headquartered in Vienna, Austria.**

WORLD

OPEC Member Countries



Digital Personal Data Protection Bill

- **The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill** has got cabinet approval. With the bill being converted into law, it will be your right to get information about digital data sharing. Be it government or big tech companies, everyone will have to tell where your data is being used.
- If this bill becomes law, then you will be able to complain to the board about the digital marketing calls coming throughout the day.
- **The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022** is an important pillar of the comprehensive framework of technology regulations being framed by the Centre.
- The Bill will apply to the processing of digital personal data within India where such data is: collected online, or collected offline and digitised.
- This will also apply to the processing of personal data outside India if it is for the purpose of offering goods or services or profiling of individuals in India.

- ➔ Entities violating its provisions can bring it up to the Data Protection Board, which can decide to stay proceedings against the entity by accepting a settlement fee.
- ➔ Repeated offences of the same nature may attract higher financial penalties.
- ➔ **The data protection law** specifies norms on the management of the personal data of Indian residents and requires explicit consent from those whose data is collected and used.
- ➔ The Bill has a clause to offer voluntary undertaking if an entity wants to admit that a violation has taken place and pay a fine as a mitigative measure to avoid court litigation.

➔ The Data Protection Board of India may impose fines on companies that do not protect user data, ranging from **₹10,000 to ₹500 crores** for individual offences, which may be applicable in case of data breaches.

DATA
PROTECTION
BILL



Threads App

- ➔ **Instagram**, owned by Meta Company, launched its new app **Threads on 6 July**.
- ➔ It is a social networking app designed to compete with **Twitter**. **Instagram** is somewhat similar to Twitter in terms of viewing threads and features.
- ➔ It has been launched in **100 countries simultaneously**. The app can be downloaded from Google and Apple Play Store. It can also be run on desktop.
- ➔ The company's decision stems from regulatory concerns regarding compliance with the DMA, a framework introduced to address the dominance of large digital platforms and ensure fair competition within the digital market.
- ➔ The **DMA** is a regulatory initiative aimed at regulating the behaviour of "**gatekeeper**" platforms that have substantial market power.
- ➔ It establishes stricter rules for major Internet companies operating in Europe, including Meta.

- ➔ This prevents platforms from sharing data across different services while ensuring fair competition and data privacy.
- ➔ Meta has faced scrutiny from European regulators in the past due to concerns over data use.
- ➔ The company's attempt to leverage data from **WhatsApp** to strengthen **Instagram** and **Facebook** violated EU rules, raising data privacy concerns.
- ➔ Meta is actively working towards compliance with EU regulations to avoid further conflicts.



Taiwan to Open New Representative Office in Mumbai

→ **Taiwan** has announced the opening of its third representative office in India in **Mumbai** with an aim to strengthen the economic ties between the two countries.



- ➔ Despite not having formal diplomatic relations, **India** and **Taiwan** have made progress in various fields such as economics, trade and technology.
- ➔ Taiwan, officially the Republic of China, is a country in East Asia.



■ चीन ताइवान को अपना ही हिस्सा मानता है। जबकि ताइवान खुद को एक स्वतंत्र देश मानता है। चीन इसलिए ताइवान पर कब्जा करना चाहता है।

■ ऐसा करके चीन पश्चिमी प्रशांत महासागर इलाके में अपना दबदबा दिखाने के लिए आजाद हो जाएगा।

■ इससे गुआम और हवाई जैसे अमेरिकी मिलिट्री बेस के लिए खतरा पैदा हो जाएगा।

- ➔ It is located in the **northwestern Pacific Ocean** at the junction of the East and South China Seas, bordered by the People's Republic of China to the northwest, Japan to the northeast, and the Philippines to the south.
- ➔ **Taiwan** is not a member of the **UN** (United Nations) and the **WHO** (World Health Organization).
- ➔ Taiwan is a member of the **WTO** (World Trade Organization) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) under the name "Chinese Taipei".
- ➔ Taiwan produces 92% of the world's most advanced logic chips and 70% of smartphone chipsets, among other important components.
- ➔ China and Taiwan split in 1949 during the Chinese Civil War. Although China still considers Taiwan a part of its territory, Taiwan considers itself a sovereign country.

Aravali Jungle Safari

- **The world's largest jungle safari park** will be developed in Gurugram and Nuh. Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said that after its construction, on the one hand, it will help in preserving the Aravalli mountain range.
- Ten thousand acres of land in the Aravalli region in Gurugram and Nuh districts have been identified for Jungle Safari Park.



- ➔ The Jungle Safari will be set up **on 10,000 acres** of land in Gurgaon and Nuh districts of Haryana.
- ➔ The aim of this safari is to conserve the local/native flora and fauna.
- ➔ To improve the overall soil water regime to preserve and enrich the ecology.



1. हिमालय पर्वत
2. अरावली पर्वत
3. विन्ध्याचल पर्वत
4. रेवतक पर्वत
5. महेन्द्र पर्वत
6. मलय पर्वत
7. सह्याद्री पर्वत

- **Groundwater recharge, improving wildlife habitat, local weather,** and developing as a sink for **CO₂** and other pollutants.
- Conservation of the natural heritage of the region and promotion of environmental awareness among the people.
- All types of animals and birds will be included in the safari.
- It will be developed as a centre for the conservation of migratory birds and the maintenance and protection of endangered animals.
- Aravalli Safari would be a suitable habitat for the tiger.
- Species like chital, sambar, deer, blue bull, barking deer and blackbuck are planned to be kept in the safari.
- The world's largest safari is in Sharjah, which is spread over 800 hectares and is home to 120 species.
- This project will be the largest such project in the world.
- The project proposes to set up a **large herpetarium**, an aviary, a **'Big Cat'** area and a nature tourism area.