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FIVE NON-PERMANENT MEMBERS SELECTED FOR THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL FOR 2027–28

- Five countries — Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe — have been elected as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for the 2027–28 term.
- These countries won in a closely contested secret ballot held on Wednesday in the 193-member UN General Assembly.
- The terms of the current non-permanent members — Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama, and Somalia — will end in late 2026. The newly elected countries will assume office from January 1, 2027, for a two-year term.
- Election Results - Western European and Others Group (2 seats) : Portugal won 134 votes; Austria won 131 votes.
- African and Asia-Pacific seats : Zimbabwe secured 182 votes, winning comfortably.
- For another seat, after four rounds of voting, Kyrgyzstan defeated the Philippines with 142 votes.
- This marks Kyrgyzstan's first-ever term on the Security Council.
- Latin America and Caribbean Group : Trinidad and Tobago secured 181 votes and was elected. Structure of the UN Security Council
- The 15-member UN Security Council includes : Permanent Members with Veto Power : United States, United Kingdom, China, France, Russia.
- Non-Permanent Members - The newly elected five countries will join the continuing members : Bahrain, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Latvia, Liberia from next year onward.

DRAFT RULES RELEASED FOR AI USE IN THE JUDICIARY AREAS WHERE AI CAN BE USED

- » AI may be used for:
 - Legal research and locating previous judgments and legal provisions
 - Translating judgments and court discussions instantly into text

- Listing cases and preparing notices and summons
 - Providing specialized tools for persons with disabilities
 - Chatbots for assisting ordinary citizens
 - Identifying defects in petitions
 - Scheduling cases efficiently for hearings
 - Areas Where AI Should Not Be Used
- » AI should not be used for:
- Delivering judgments or imposing punishments
 - Deciding whether bail should be granted
 - Predicting witness credibility
 - Predicting future behavior of accused persons
 - Secret surveillance of judges or lawyers
 - Interfering in the core responsibility of delivering justice
 - The guidelines emphasize that artificial intelligence cannot replace human judgment in the judicial process.

GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH 5,200 ETHANOL DISTRIBUTION STATIONS ACROSS INDIA

- To reduce crude oil imports and control environmental pollution, the central government introduced ethanol blending with petrol.
- Petrol sold in India contains up to 20% ethanol blending. This fuel is marketed as E-20 petrol.
- Recently, an event in Delhi showcased the launch of the Maruti Suzuki Wagon R, capable of operating on 85% ethanol fuel (E-85).
- What is Flex Fuel Technology? Technology that enables vehicles to use high ethanol blends is called : Flex Fuel Technology
- Upcoming Developments - Two-wheelers and four-wheelers capable of running on 85%–100% ethanol are expected to enter the market soon.
- If 50% of vehicles sold become flex-fuel vehicles : Ethanol demand could rise to 400 crore liters.
- Higher ethanol usage could : Support farmers through increased agricultural demand, Strengthen India's energy security, Reduce dependence on imported crude oil, Lower environmental pollution
- The expansion of ethanol infrastructure is therefore being viewed as both an energy and agricultural strategy.