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1. G20 Culture Ministers' meeting begins in Varanasi (Aug. 26, 2023)

The G20 Culture Ministers' meeting began on 26 August in Varanasi.

An Overview of the News

- The event represents the culmination of India's G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) meetings and discussions.
- A comprehensive report summarizing the insights and recommendations of the webinar '**G20 Culture: Shaping the Global Narrative for Inclusive Growth**' will be unveiled during the meeting.
- A special stamp will be issued to commemorate the '**Culture Unites All**' campaign, an important initiative under India's G20 Presidency CWG.

Union Culture Minister - **G Kishan Reddy**

Minister of State for Culture - **Meenakshi Lekhi**

About the G20

- It is an international forum of the world's leading economies **established in 1999**.
- Its primary objective is **to promote international financial stability and sustainable economic growth**.
- The G20 serves as a forum to discuss and coordinate policies related to a wide range of economic and financial issues such as **trade, investment, employment, energy and climate change**.

2. B20 Summit India 2023 begins in New Delhi (Aug. 25, 2023)

B20 Summit India 2023 began in New Delhi on 25 August.

An Overview of the News

- During the three days, the summit will be attended by various prominent personalities, including **Union Ministers like Nirmala Sitharaman, Dharmendra Pradhan, and Dr. S Jaishankar**.
- The first day of the summit will host seven sessions covering topics like B20 India's priorities, global alignment, Artificial Intelligence's role in business and society, trade opportunities and regulations, resilient global trade's inclusive value chains, and a session with Trade Ministers.
- **Eminent leaders including Tata Sons Executive Chairman and B20 India Chairman N Chandrasekaran**, Mastercard CEO Michael Meibach, and World Economic Forum President Borge Brende will be present.

- **The theme of the summit is "B20 India R.I.S.E." which is a symbol of responsible, agile, innovative, sustainable, and equitable businesses.**
- Under the chairmanship of India, seven task forces were set up, covering areas such as global value chains, future of work, skill development, mobility, digital transformation, financing economic reforms, climate change, technology, innovation, and financial inclusion for empowerment.
- Summit discussions expanded to two Action Councils focusing on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) matters related to business and African economic integration.

3. The fourth meeting of the G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) begins in Varanasi (Aug. 23, 2023)

The 4th G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) meeting begins in Varanasi and will end with the Culture Ministers' meeting on August 26, 2023.

An Overview of the News

- Representatives of G20 member states will attend the event, inviting countries and international organizations.
- Building on the successes of the previous meetings in **Khajuraho, Bhubaneswar, and Hampi, the Varanasi CWG meeting from August 23 to 25, 2023 aims to generate actionable outcomes by keeping culture at the core of policymaking.**
- The "**G20 Culture: Shaping the Global Narrative for Inclusive Growth**" report, a compilation of insights and recommendations from expert-driven global thematic webinars, will be launched during the Culture Ministers' Meeting.
- The Varanasi Culture Ministers' Meeting intends to prompt collective efforts to advance the **four priority areas outlined by the Indian Presidency:** Protection and Restitution of Cultural Property, Harnessing Living Heritage for a Sustainable Future, Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries and Creative Economy, and Leveraging Digital Technologies for Culture's Protection and Promotion.
- CWG launched the campaign 'Culture unites all' under India's G20 presidency, symbolizing India's commitment to peaceful coexistence among diverse cultures. **A unique postage stamp to commemorate this campaign will be unveiled on August 26, 2023.**
- The G20 Global Orchestra's performance, titled "**Sur Vasudha**", will celebrate the musical heritage of the G20 member states and invitees.
- The G20 Culture Ministers' meeting was convened for the first time in 2020 during the Saudi Arabian Presidency. In 2021, the Italian Presidency formalized the Culture Working Group, leading to the inaugural G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting and the 'Declaration of the Rome Ministers of Culture'. The 'Bali Declaration' of 2022 under the Indonesian presidency further emphasized the role of culture in sustainable development.

4. India to host 5th World Coffee Summit in Bengaluru for the first time (Aug. 1, 2023)

India-to-host-5th-World-Coffee-Summit-in-Bengaluru-for-the-first-time

India is all set to host the 5th World Coffee Conference (WCC) for the first time from 25-28 September 2023 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. During the event, tennis player Rohan Bopanna will serve as the brand ambassador.

An Overview of the News

- The theme of the World Coffee Summit 2023 is "**Sustainability through circular economy and regenerative agriculture**".
- The conference will bring together growers, farmers, roasters, exporters, policy makers and researchers from over 80 countries to discuss important topics related to the global coffee sector.

About International Coffee Organization (ICO)

- The International Coffee Organization (ICO), **established in 1963** under the auspices of the United Nations following the ratification of the **first International Coffee Agreement in 1962**, is the organising body behind the World Coffee Conference.
- ICO is headquartered in the UK, and currently has 75 member countries and top-level experts working towards building a circular coffee economy, promoting regenerative agriculture, promoting sustainability through consumption and increasing access to finance. work in
- The World Coffee Conference is a high-level event held every four to five years, previously held in the **United Kingdom (2001), Brazil (2005), Guatemala (2010) and Ethiopia (2016)**.
- Its main goal is **to facilitate discussion on important issues affecting the global coffee industry**.

5. Union Minister launches Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Alliance in Chennai (Aug. 1, 2023)

Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav launched the Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC) during the 4th G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) and Environment and Climate Ministers' Meeting in Chennai.

An Overview of the News

- The official launch included the signing of the Basic Charter and the unveiling of the alliance's logo.
- The minister acknowledged the commitment of the 39 founding members of RECEIC to join this alliance.
- The alliance, envisioned by India's G20 Presidency, is envisaged to be industry-driven and self-reliant even beyond India's G20 Presidency.

- RECEIC's mission is to foster company-to-company collaboration and build advanced capabilities across diverse sectors and value chains, and to bring together the global experiences of alliance members to enhance resource efficiency and accelerate the circular economy transition.
- RECEIC is structured around three guiding pillars: partnerships for impact, technology collaboration and finance for scale.
- The Alliance aims to contribute to progress on key global goals and priorities set by the G20 and other international fora.
- RECEIC will act as a comprehensive platform that will enable industries to address information gaps and coordination challenges among G20 members.
- The objective of the meeting was to formulate an action plan and direct collaborative efforts towards developing effective strategies and initiatives for a sustainable future and combating climate change.

6. G20 Empower Summit begins in Gandhinagar (Aug. 1, 2023)

On 1 August, the G20 Empower Summit under India's G20 Presidency began in Gandhinagar.

An Overview of the News

- Union Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani will inaugurate the summit.
- The theme of the two-day conference is "**Women-led development: ensuring sustainable, inclusive and equitable global economic growth**".
- In the inaugural session, Smriti Irani will launch the G20 Empower Digital Inclusion platform, which aims to bridge the gender digital divide by providing digital skills and knowledge to women.
- Several other key outcomes under the G20 Empower agenda will also be unveiled, including the adoption of the Best Practices Playbook and the G20 Empower Communicate.
- The summit will host various sessions, each focusing on different aspects of women empowerment.
- It will see the participation of a large number of delegates including global experts, policy makers and stakeholders from G20 countries, invited countries and international organisations.
- The G20 Alliance for the Empowerment and Advancement of Women's Economic Progress is a private sector-led initiative under the Sherpa Track of the G20.

About the G20

- It is an international forum of the world's leading economies **established in 1999**.
- Its primary objective is to **promote international financial stability and sustainable economic growth**.

- The G20 serves as a forum to discuss and coordinate policies related to a wide range of economic and financial issues such as **trade, investment, employment, energy and climate change**.

7. 5th Helicopter and Small Aircraft Summit (July 23, 2023)

The 5th Helicopter and Small Aircraft Summit will be held on 25 July 2023 at Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.

An Overview of the News

- The event is jointly organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Pawan Hans Limited and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- The summit will be inaugurated by Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and Shri Jyotiraditya M.Scindia, Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel.
- The objective of the event is to foster collaboration between industry stakeholders and policy makers, so that effective decisions can be taken that will further boost India's civil aviation industry.

Theme:

- The theme of the summit is "Reaching the last mile: Regional connectivity through helicopters and small aircraft".

Objective:

- The objective of the summit is to provide a platform to industry stakeholders and policy makers to discuss the development of the Indian helicopter and small aircraft industry.
- One of the major objectives is to increase the coverage of UDAN schemes in remote and hilly areas with a focus on expanding rural-to-urban connectivity.
- The event also aims to improve helicopter and small aircraft connectivity to existing and potential tourism hotspots and ensure seamless services.

Roles of helicopters and small aircraft:

- Helicopters and small aircraft play a vital role in India's transport ecosystem, providing better access to remote areas and supporting tourism, emergency medical services and disaster management.

Advantages of small planes:

- Small aircraft provide efficient transportation options for business and leisure travellers, promoting regional air connectivity and encouraging the exploration of lesser-known destinations.

About Madhya Pradesh

- It is the second largest state of India by area after Rajasthan.
- Governor - **Mangubhai Patel**
- Chief Minister - **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**
- Capital - **Bhopal**

8. India and ASEAN Conference on Traditional Medicines in New Delhi (July 21, 2023)

Association-of-Southeast-Asian-Nations-(ASEAN)

The Ministry of **AYUSH in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs** and the **Indian Mission in ASEAN** organized a conference of India and the **Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)** on **Traditional Medicines** in **New Delhi** on 20 July 2023.

An Overview of the news:

- Re-held a decade later, the conference pledged to strengthen sustainable and resilient health care systems to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and universal health coverage.

A total of 75 delegates included:

- A total of 75 delegates from India and ASEAN including two ASEAN countries participated in the conference through virtual mode.
- The Conference on Traditional Medicine between India and ASEAN countries provides a platform to deliberate on various dimensions of traditional systems of medicine to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and strategize on ways and means to take forward traditional systems of medicine.

Emphasis on Act East Policy:

- India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the 'Act East Policy' at the 12th ASEAN India Summit in Myanmar in November 2014, giving a new impetus to the strategic partnership. The Act-East policy emphasizes connectivity, commerce and culture.
- ASEAN Secretary-General **Dr. Cao Kim Horn** highlighted three key points that reflect the synergy between ASEAN and India, covering various aspects, including cooperation on public health through traditional and complementary medicines.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN):

- It was established to accelerate economic development, social progress and cultural development for a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian countries.
- **Origin:** Established in 1967 with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration).
- **ASEAN Day:** 8 August.
- **Founding countries:** Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- **Motto:** 'One Vision, One Identity, One Community'.

- **Secretariat:** Jakarta, Indonesia.
- **Member States:** 10 (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia).
- India and ASEAN celebrated the 30th anniversary of their dialogue relations.

9. G-20 Global Food Regulatory Summit 2023 for the first time in India (July 18, 2023)

The **Global Food Regulators Summit 2023** is being held in **Delhi** for the first time as a G-20 event. The summit is being held outside **Rome, Italy** for the first time.

An Overview of the news:

- The conference is being organized by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on July 20 and 21, 2023 at **Manekshaw Auditorium, New Delhi**.
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** unveiled the logo of the summit on 17 July.

Objective:

- To provide a valuable platform to the summit participants to deliberate on food safety and regulatory aspects in a cohesive network.

Conference participants:

- The Global Food Regulators Summit will focus on the important aspect of food safety, which needs as much attention as food security itself.
- The summit will serve as a platform for food regulators from over 40 countries to collaborate and work together.
- Representatives of 30 international organizations and 25 international research institutes/ universities will also participate in the event.
- Active participation of various stakeholders representing various countries, international organizations and national institutions is expected in the summit.
- Food regulators of G-20 member countries will participate in the summit and show their commitment to improve food safety systems and regulatory framework.

Main Initiatives of the Conference:

- The summit also included the release of Food-O-Copaia. It is a comprehensive collection of food category-wise monographs, which serves as a single-point reference for all applicable standards for specific product categories.
- A notable initiative is the common regulatory platform '**Sangrah**' (Safe Food for Nations: Global Food Regulatory Authority Handbook). It is a comprehensive database of food regulatory authorities from 76 countries around the world. The collection is available in a total of eight Indian languages.

10. Third Sherpa G20 meeting begins in Hampi, Karnataka (July 15, 2023)

Third-Sherpa-G20-meeting-begins-in-Hampi,-Karnataka

The 3rd Sherpa meeting of G20 under the chairmanship of India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant began on 13 July 2023 in Hampi, Karnataka.

An Overview of the News

- The meeting will last for three days on the banks of the Tungabhadra river near Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The main objective of the meeting is **to collaborate on the drafting of the Leaders' Declaration, which will be adopted by the G20 leaders at the New Delhi Summit.**
- Key issues on the agenda include green growth, climate finance, promoting eco-friendly lifestyles, inclusive and resilient growth, sustainable development goals, technological change, digital public infrastructure, multilateral institutions for the 21st century and women-led development Are.
- Over 120 delegates from G20 member states, invitees and international organisations, led by the G20 Sherpa of India, will participate in the talks to finalize the text representing the priorities of the presidency.
- Delegates will have the opportunity to explore the fascinating landscape of Hampi including its monuments, boulders and waterways, which were developed during the Vijayanagara Empire from 1336 to 1646 AD.

About Karnataka

- It is a state in southwest India and is bordered by Maharashtra to the north, Goa to the northwest, Andhra Pradesh to the east, Tamil Nadu to the southeast, and Kerala to the southwest.
- Bengaluru, the capital of Karnataka, is known as the "Silicon Valley of India" and is a major center of technology and innovation.
- Kannada is the official language of Karnataka.

Chief Minister - **Siddaramaiah**

Governor - **Thawar Chand Gehlot**

Official Animal - **Indian Elephant**

Official Bird - **Indian Roller**

Official Dance - **Yakshagana**

Official Song - **Jaya Bharat Jananiya Tanujate**