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### **1. 2nd Trade and Investment Working Group meeting begins in Bengaluru ( May 23, 2023 )**

2nd Trade and Investment Working Group meeting begins in Bengaluru

On 23 May, the **second Trade and Investment Working Group meeting** under the G20 India Presidency began in **Bengaluru**.

#### **An Overview of the News**

- It is a three-day meeting and is attended by **75 delegates from G20 countries**, invited countries and regional/international organisations.
- The objective of the Bengaluru meeting is to address issues related to international trade and investment and seek agreeable solutions.
- Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry **Som Prakash** inaugurated the seminar.
- The meeting discussed reforming the multilateral trading system and finding agreeable solutions for international trade and investment.
- An exhibition of Indian Startups is also a part of the event.
- The first Trade and Investment Working Group meeting was held in Mumbai.

#### **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.

#### **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 centre of technology and innovation.
- Hampi, located in northern Karnataka, was once the capital of the **Vijayanagara Empire** and is now a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- Kannada is the official language of Karnataka, although English and Hindi are also widely spoken.

Chief minister - **Siddaramaiah**

Governor - **Thawar Chand Gehlot**

Official Animal - **Indian Elephant**

Official Bird - **Indian Roller**

Official Dance - **Yakshagana**

Official Song - **Jaya Bharat Jananiya Tanujate**

## **2. Second G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group meeting begins in Mumbai ( May 23, 2023 )**

The **second meeting of the G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG)** began on 23 May in **Mumbai**.

### **An Overview of the News**

- **The objective** of the meeting is to reduce the impact of disasters on vulnerable communities.
- **The meeting aims** to identify opportunities and examine creative financing mechanisms for disaster risk reduction.
- Government officials, industry experts, private sector representatives and stakeholders from more than twenty countries participated in the three-day meeting.
- The meeting is based on the theme of "**Financing for DRR**" from the first DRRWG meeting held in Gandhinagar.
- The Coastal Road Project in Mumbai was discussed during the DRRWG meeting.

### **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**

## **3. Third meeting of G-20, Tourism Working Group begins in Srinagar ( May 22, 2023 )**

Third-meeting-of-G-20

The **third meeting of the G-20, Tourism Working Group** began on 22 May in **Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir**.

### **An Overview of the News**

- The meeting focused on five key priority areas: **Green Tourism, Digitization, Skilling, MSME and Destination Management**.
- The priorities aim to grow the tourism sector and achieve the **Sustainable Development Goals by 2030**.
- The objective of the meeting is to **strengthen economic growth, preserve cultural heritage and promote sustainable development**.
- This is the third meeting of the Tourism Working Group after the previous meetings in **Gujarat and West Bengal**.

### **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**.

## **4. India to host 44th ISO COPOLCO Plenary ( May 22, 2023 )**

India-to-host-44th-ISO-COPOLCO-Plenary

India will host the **44th edition of the annual ISO COPOLCO Plenary** from May 23-26, 2023, by the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**.

### **An overview of the news**

- The event to be held in **New Delhi** will be inaugurated by Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal**.
- COPOLCO President **Sadie Denton**, ISO Secretary General **Sergio Mujica** and other high ISO officials will also attend the event.
- Organized by the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, the grand event will include interactive sessions and workshops on relevant topics, apart from various activities aimed at enhancing consumer engagement in the standardization process.
- It will also feature a distinguished presence of leaders from government and business sectors, as well as an international delegation of eminent global stakeholders.

### **About ISO COPOLCO**

- ISO COPOLCO, known as the **Committee on Consumer Policy**, is a vital committee under the **International Organization for Standardization (ISO)**.
- It is responsible for advocating consumer interests in the **standardization process and ensuring that standards are developed with consumers'** needs in mind.
- It provides a forum for the exchange of information and experience on consumer involvement in **ISO's international standardization** work.
- COPOLCO's membership consists of **128 ISO member countries**, represented by representatives of these countries' national standards bodies and consumer organizations.

### **Themes of the Plenary**

- 'Challenges and Good Practices for Consumer Engagement', 'Empowering Consumers for a Sustainable Future' and 'Consumer Protection and Legal Framework'.

### **International Standards Organisation (ISO)**

- It is an international body with **168 member countries**.
- It plays a crucial role in developing standards that impact a wide range of business and social sectors worldwide.

## **5. Panel discussion on 'Role of G20 in creating global economic stability' ( May 21, 2023 )**

A recent panel discussion held in **Dubai** highlighted the **important role of the G20 in creating global economic stability**.

### **An overview of the news**

- A panel discussion held in Dubai shed light on the vital role of the G20 in creating global economic stability.
- The event took place on the sidelines of the International Conference jointly organized by the Indian Institute of Management Rohtak, Academy for Global Business Advancement, and Council for Strategic Affairs.

### **Importance of the G20**

- The panelists highlighted the significance of the G20 in the current international order.
- The group plays a multifaceted role in creating global economic stability, fostering inclusive growth, ensuring financial stability, promoting balanced and sustainable growth, and effectively managing and preventing crises.

### **Panelists and insights**

- The panel consisted of Manjeev Singh Puri, former ambassador of India to Nepal, Prof Tatiana Karabchuk from UAE University, and Prof Mayssa Banat from Rafik Hariri University in Lebanon.
- They provided valuable insights into the G20's role and its impact on global economic stability.
- The discussion was moderated by Prof. Dheeraj Sharma, the Director of IIM Rohtak.

### **G20 as a platform for decision-making**

- Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri highlighted the G20's ability to bring together leaders from the world's largest economies and facilitate effective decision-making and implementation through national and multinational systems.
- Despite lacking de jure power, the G20 possesses significant de facto power, making it influential in driving positive change globally.

### **Specific areas of impact**

- The panelists delved into specific areas where the G20 can make a significant impact.
- Prof Tatiana Karabchuk emphasized the importance of public opinion polls for informed decision-making and suggested the G20's role in implementing necessary changes in online education.
- Prof Mayssa Banat emphasized the power of language education in overcoming barriers and shaping global economic policies.

### **G20's contribution to global economic stability**

- The panel discussion showcased the diverse aspects of the G20's role in fostering cooperation among major economies and driving sustainable development.
- The group's focus on inclusive growth, financial stability, crisis management, and balancing de jure and de facto power within global institutions is essential for global economic stability.

## **6. Department of Pharmaceuticals to organise International Conference on 'India Pharma and India Medical Devices' ( May 20, 2023 )**

India-Medical-Devices

Department of Pharmaceuticals, **International Conference on 'India Pharma and India Medical Devices'** will be organised on 26th May and the **8th edition** of this conference will be inaugurated by **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers.

### **An Overview of the News**

- The Department of Pharmaceuticals is partnering with the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** for the event.

- The aim of the conference is to showcase India as a manufacturing hub for high quality medical products in the pharmaceutical and medical devices sector.
- During the conclave, Dr. Mandaviya will launch the **National Medical Devices Policy-2023** and **Export Promotion Council for Medical Devices**.
- A new scheme called '**Medical Device Clusters for Common Facilities (AMD-CF)**' will also be launched, focusing on strengthening or setting up of common infrastructure and testing facilities for medical devices.

### **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI):**

- It is a **non-governmental trade association** and advocacy group based in India.
- **Subhrakant**, Managing Director of Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Limited has been appointed as the President of FICCI for 2022-2023.
- He took over from **Sanjiv Mehta** during the 95th **Annual Convention held in New Delhi**.

Formation - **1927**

Founder - **Ghanshyam Das Birla, Purushottamdas Thakurdas**

Headquarters - **New Delhi**

### **7. Asia Petrochemical Industry Conference 2023 ( May 19, 2023 )**

Asia-Petrochemical-Industry-Conference-2023

Union Minister of Health, Chemicals and Fertiliser **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya** presided over the **Asia Petrochemical Industry Conference 2023 in New Delhi** on 19th May.

#### **An overview of the news**

- The **Chemical and Petrochemicals Manufacturers Association (CPMA)** of India hosted the 41st edition.
- The theme of the event was “**Ushering in a Sustainable Future**”.
- Over 1200 delegates from seven member nations as well as participants from **Europe, China, America, Mid East and other Asian Countries** and global partners participated in the conference.
- Mansukh Mandaviya said that the Indian chemical manufacturing industry has indeed been one of the emerging global manufacturing hubs for petrochemicals.
- India is determined to be a trusted partner in the **global supply chain of chemicals and petrochemicals** to the world.

#### **Objective of Conference**

- The main objective of the conference is to spur discussion and co-operation on the issues of the day being faced by the industry related to growth, trade, investment, and sustainability, in Asia-Pacific and also around the world.

### **About Asia Petrochemical Industry Conference**

- The conference is hosted on a rotational basis by the seven member countries-**Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan and India.**
- It is a prominent event held annually in Asia that brings together **industry professionals, experts, and stakeholders** from the petrochemical sector.
- The conference aims to facilitate **knowledge exchange, foster collaborations, and address challenges and opportunities** in the petrochemical industry across the Asian region.

### **About CPMA**

- It is the apex forum in the country representing the **Indian Chemicals & Petrochemicals Industry.**
- It was **established in 1993.**
- It offers its members a podium to collectively present their ideas, voice their concerns and offer suggestions on industry issues.
- It provides a linkage between the **industry, the Government and the society at large.**

## **8. First Inter-Ministerial Committee Meeting held on World Food India 2023 ( May 19, 2023 )**

First Inter- Ministerial Committee Meeting

Secretary, Food Processing Industries (FPI) **Anita Praveen**, chaired the **First Inter-Ministerial Committee Meeting** with senior representatives from Ministries/Departments/Boards on 16th May 2023 in **New Delhi.**

### **An overview of the news**

- The agenda of the committee meeting was to apprise the officials about the preparations made so far for **World Food India 2023** and to discuss the participation of concerned Ministries/Departments/Organizations in the event.
- This was in continuation of the series of interactions held to apprise them of the **Ministry's action plan** for the upcoming World Food India 2023 and discuss possible areas of collaboration.
- The meeting was attended by senior officials from key Ministries and Departments of the Central Government.

- In the meeting, the stakeholders were requested to share the specific action plan
- regarding the **mega food event to be held in Delhi from 3rd to 5th November 2023.**
  - The next meeting of the **Inter-Ministerial Committee** is expected to be held in **June 2023** to strengthen the partnership/participation of various stakeholders.

### **About World Food India**

- World Food India (WFI) is a **global event** to facilitate partnerships between **Indian and international businesses and investors.**
- It is a gateway to the Indian food economy and an opportunity **to showcase, connect and collaborate.**
- It is organized by the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India.**
- WFI is the largest gathering of **investors, manufacturers, producers, food processors, policy makers** and organizations from the global food ecosystem.
- It aims to provide investment and business opportunities in the food processing sector for leading Indian and international companies.
- World Food India 2023 theme is “**Processing for Prosperity**”.

### **9. 3rd G20 TWG meeting to be held in Srinagar ( May 17, 2023 )**

3rd-G20-TWG-meeting-to-be-held-in-Srinagar

The **third G20 Tourism Working Group (TWG)** meeting will be held in **Srinagar** from 22 to 24 May.

### **An Overview of the News**

- Security arrangements on the **Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44)** have been reviewed by the Army and other security agencies.
- **NH-44 is the only all-weather road** connecting the **Kashmir Valley to the rest of the country.**
- A high-level meeting with senior police and CRPF officials was held at **Ramban, chaired by a brigadier-level officer.**
- Several security forces including **Army, BSF, Police, CRPF and Village Defense Committees** have been deployed along the **International Border (IB) and the Line of Control (LoC).**

### **About Jammu and Kashmir**

**Jammu and Kashmir was a state of India until August 2019**, which was bifurcated as two union territories namely **Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on 31 August 2019.**



Capital- **Srinagar (May-October), Jammu (November-April)**

Lieutenant Governor - **Manoj Sinha**

Legislative Council - **36 seats**

Legislative Assembly - **89 seats**

Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, Justice - **Koteshwar Singh**

### **10. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the National Homoeopathic Convention 'Homocon 2023' ( May 15, 2023 )**

the-National-Homoeopathic-Convention

Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** inaugurated the **National Homoeopathic Convention 'Homeocon 2023'** at **Doon University, Dehradun** and launched a documentary on Homeopathy.

### **An Overview of the News**

- Homeopathy has been recognized as the second most practiced system of medicine in the world and its importance has been demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The commitment of the state government to establish Uttarakhand as a major AYUSH region is due to the economic and effective nature of homeopathy.

### **Ministry of AYUSH:**

- It is a **government ministry in India.**
- It is responsible for the development, promotion and regulation of traditional systems of medicine.
- AYUSH is the abbreviation of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Society and aims to promote education and research of the above.
- The ministry provides educational and training programs.
- Establishment - **2014**
- Responsible Ministers - **Sarbananda Sonowal, Cabinet Minister and Mahendra Munjapara, Minister of State**
- Ministry Executive - **Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary**
- Ministry of Motherhood - **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India**

### **About Uttarakhand**

- It is a state in **North India.**

- **Rishikesh** is a major centre of yoga studies and gained prominence in **1968 after the Beatles' visit**.
- The **Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand** is home to the **Bengal tiger and other wildlife**.

Capital - **Dehradun (Winter)**

Chief Minister - **Pushkar Singh Dhami**

Governor - **Gurmeet Singh**

Official Animal - **Alpine Musk Deer**