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1. 29th Biennial Conference of the All India Primary Teachers' Federation (May 15, 2023)

29th Biennial Conference

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Addressed the 29th Biennial Education Conference of All India Primary Teachers's Federation organized at Gandhinagar in Gujarat on 12th May.

An overview of the news

- In his address, the Prime Minister said that technology can provide information but the right approach can be given only by teachers.
- He said that with the changing times, the real challenge before teachers today is to satisfy the growing curiosity of children and keep themselves updated.
- The conference was a significant event that brought together primary teachers from across India to discuss pertinent issues in the education sector.
- The theme of this summit is 'Teachers at the Heart of Transforming Education.

Purpose of the conference

• The objective of the conference is to provide a platform for primary teachers to exchange ideas, share experiences and collectively address challenges in primary education.

Focus on primary education

 The conference mainly focused on issues related to primary education, including curriculum development, teaching methods, classroom management and welfare of primary school teachers.

Professional Development and Training

• The conference emphasized the importance of professional development and training for primary teachers.

Policy discussion

- The conference discussed education **policies**, **reforms and initiatives at the national and state levels**.
- The participants shared their views, suggestions and concerns regarding the **policy implementation** and its impact on primary education.

Teacher Welfare and Rights

• The conference addressed the welfare and rights of primary school teachers, including issues such as pay structure, job security, working conditions, and professional recognition.

2. 2nd G20 Culture Group (CWG) Meeting in Odisha (May 15, 2023)

The

2nd-G20-Culture-Group second G20 Culture Group meeting, also known as the CWG meeting, took place on 14 May in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Purpose of the meeting

 The CWG meeting aims to facilitate discussion and cooperation among G20 member states on cultural issues, heritage conservation, creative industries and cultural diplomacy.

Cultural Heritage Protection

- The meeting addressed the importance of preserving and protecting cultural heritage, including tangible and intangible cultural properties.
- The discussions included topics such as heritage conservation, cultural tourism and promotion of cultural diversity.

Creative Industries and Economic Development

- The meeting explored the role of creative industries such as art, design, film, music and fashion in economic growth, job creation and innovation.
- Participants shared best practices and discussed policies to support the growth of the creative sectors.

Cultural Diplomacy and Soft Power

• The meeting recognized the role of cultural diplomacy in building bridges between nations and enhancing mutual understanding.

Youth Engagement and Cultural Education

• The meeting emphasized the importance of involving youth in cultural activities and promoting cultural education.

Outcome and Collaboration

- The outcome of the CWG meeting will be the adoption of joint statements, recommendations or action plans for cultural cooperation among G20 member states.
- These outcomes may include collaborative projects, capacity building initiatives, or cultural exchange programs.

What is the G20 Culture Group?

- The G20 Culture Group is a forum within the G20 framework that focuses on cultural cooperation and exchange.
- It brings together representatives of G20 member states to promote dialogue and cooperation in the cultural field.

3. G7 Ministerial Meeting on Health Innovation in Nagasaki, Japan (May 15, 2023)

G7 Ministerial Meeting on Health Innovation Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya** addressed the **G7 Health Ministerial meeting on Global Health Architecture in Nagasaki, Japan** on 13th May.

An overview of the news

- The meeting was organized to discuss the **global health challenges** and ways to ensure preparedness, prevention and response to future health emergencies.
- The health ministers of the G7 countries and the "Outreach 4" countries of India, Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand were invited to the meeting.

Objectives of the meeting

- To foster collaboration and exchange ideas on health innovation.
- Addressing global health challenges, and promoting advancements in healthcare research, technology, and policies.

Topics discussed

• The G7 health ministers discuss various pressing health issues such as infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, vaccine development, healthcare accessibility, digital health, and the use of artificial intelligence in healthcare.

Sharing best practices

• The meeting provides an opportunity for G7 countries to share best practices, success stories, and lessons learned in healthcare innovation and delivery.

About G7

- The G7 is a group of seven major industrialized countries, including Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- The G7 holds annual meetings to discuss various global issues, but these meetings are usually held in different locations each year.

The **48th G7 summit** was hosted by Germany in 2022.

4. 1st Ministerial meeting of India-EU Trade and Technology Council (May 13, 2023)

The first ministerial meeting of the **India and the European Union Trade and Technology Council (TTC)** will be held in **Brussels** on 16 May.

An overview of the news

- The meeting will be co-chaired by the **Ministers of External Affairs**, Commerce and Industry and Communications, Electronics and Information Technology from the Indian side.
- India is only the second country after the US with which the European Union (EU) has a TTC, and the two sides agreed to launch the strategic mechanism during the visit of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to India in April 2022.
- The TTC aims to deepen trade and investment ties between India and the European Union, as well as foster greater cooperation on technology and innovation.

About India-EU Trade and Technology Council

• The trade and technology council was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen during Ms Leyen's visit to India in April 2022.

Three Working Groups under the TTC

- 1. A Working Group on Strategic Technologies, Digital Governance and Digital Connectivity
- 2. A Working Group on Green and Clean Energy Technologies
- 3. A Working Group on Trade, Investment and Resilient Value Chains

India-EU Trade relation

- India is the 10th largest trading partner of the European Union, accounting for 2.1% of the total trade in goods.
- The EU is India's third largest trading partner, accounting for €88 billion in goods trade in 2021 or a little over 10% of total Indian trade.
- Trade in services between the two sides reached €30.4 billion in 2020.

About European Union

- The European Union is a group of **27 European countries.**
- The United Kingdom which was the founding member of the European Union has left the organisation.

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- It was founded on 1 November 1993
- · Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium

5. 6th Indian Ocean Conference- 2023 (May 12, 2023)

6th Indian Ocean Conference- 2023

The **6th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC)** is taking place in **Dhaka, Bangladesh** from May 12-13, 2023.

An overview of the news

- The sixth edition of the conference is being organized by the India F oundation in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh and the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies.
- The theme of this year's conference is 'Partnership for Peace, Prosp erity and a Resilient Future'.
- The conference was inaugurated by Bangladesh **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina**.
- According to Bangladesh Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaha ryar Alam, around 150 foreign guests including representatives from D8, SAARC and BIMSTEC will participate in the conference.
- The IOC is expected to provide a forum for discussion on a wide range of issues related to the Indian Ocean including trade, security, climate change and regional connectivity.
- The summit is an important event for Bangladesh, as it showcases t he country's growing role in regional affairs and highlights efforts to promote **peace**, **stability and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region**.

Aim of the conference

• The aim of the conference is to bring together high-level government delegations and think tanks from around 25 countries to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation among countries in the Indi an Ocean region.

About Indian Ocean Conference

- It has been launched by the Delhi-based think tank **India Foundation** along with its partners from **Singapore**, **Sri Lanka and Bangladesh**.
- The aim of the conference is to bring together Heads of States/Governments, Ministers, thought leaders, scholars, diplomats, bureaucrats and practitioners from across the region on a single platform.

6. 'Machines can See' - Summit on Artificial Intelligence held at Dubai (May 4, 2023)

The UAE government launched the 'Machines Can See 2023' summit in Dubai, one of the first international conferences in Artificial Intelligence (AI) across the region.

An overview of the news

- The conference is being held in partnership between **Artificial Intelligence**, **Digital Economy**, and **Remote Work Applications Office and 'Machines Can See' company**.
- The conference aims to bring together experts from around the world to discuss the future of Al and its potential to contribute to the UAE's vision of creating the next Silicon Valley.
- The event was organized in collaboration with the **Dubai Department of Economic** and **Tourism and the Dubai Future Foundation**.
- The summit included presentations and panel discussions from various experts in the field of AI.
- The **UAE** is the only country with a state-level Al programme, which is a testament to its commitment to supporting the progress of Al technology.

What is Artificial Intelligence?

• It is a broad branch of computer science that deals with the creation of smart machines capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence.

7. National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign- 2023 (May 4, 2023)

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign 2023-24 on 3rd May at NASC Complex New Delhi.

An overview of the news

- Agriculture remains the major pulse of the Indian economy and lies at the core of the country's socio-economic development.
- It accounts for about 19 percent of the GDP and about two-thirds of the population is dependent on the agriculture sector.
- India's agriculture sector has been witnessing strong growth with an average **annual growth rate of 4.6 percent** over the past six years.
- As per the Second Advance Estimates (2022-23), the **production of food grains in the country is estimated at 3235 lakh tonnes** which is 79 lakh tonnes more than the production of food grains during 2021-22.

The objective of the conference

• To review and assess the crop performance during the preceding crop seasons.

fix crop-wise targets for the Kharif season in consultation with State Governments.

- ensure supply of critical inputs.
- facilitate adoption of innovative technologies with a view to enhance production and productivity of the crops.
- Record production is estimated of rice, maize, gram, pulses, rapeseed and mustard, oilseeds and sugarcane.

National target for 2023-24

- In the conference, a **national target of 3320 lakh tonnes** has been fixed for the total food grain production for the year **2023-24**.
- The **target of pulses production** has been set **at 292.5 lakh tonnes** as against 278.1 lakh tonnes this year.
- Oilseeds production will be increased from 400 to 440 lakh tonnes in 2023-24.
- Shri Anna aims to increase the total production from 159.1 lakh tonnes in 2022-23 to 170.0 lakh tonnes in 2023-24.

8. Science 20 Engagement Group meeting under India's G20 chairmanship begins in Lakshadweep (May 1, 2023)

Science 20 Engagement Group meeting under India's G20 chairmanship begins in Lakshadweep

On 1 May, the Science 20 Engagement Group meeting on Universal Holistic Health began under India's G20 chairmanship in Lakshadweep, Bangaram Island.

An Overview of the News

- The focus of the two-day event is to work towards better agricultural practices, greater access to nutritious food, healthier eating habits and more opportunities for ecologically conscious and sustainable food products.
- The meeting will address the interconnectedness of physical, mental and emotional well-being, recognizing that all aspects of health are equally important.
- The aim of the event is to develop a **holistic approach to health that focuses on promoting wellness and preventing diseases** rather than merely treating them.
- It is an effort to bring together scientists, experts and policy makers from different countries to exchange ideas and knowledge on health related issues.
- The Engagement Group will also explore the role of technology in promoting health and wellness, such as the use of telemedicine and digital health solutions.
- The event is a significant step towards achieving India's vision of universal health coverage and promoting the **Sustainable Development Goals.**

About Lakshadweep

Formation- 1 November 1956

Capital- Kavaratti

Administrator- Praful Khoda Patel

Largest city- Andrott

High Court- Kerala High Court

Bird- Brown Noddy

9. Summit on Farm Machinery Technology (April 28, 2023)

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar on 27th April inaugurated the Summit on Farm Machinery Technology, organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Tractor and Mechanisation Association (TMA) in New Delhi.

An overview of the news

- In his address, Tomar said, there are about **85 percent of small farmers in the country,** who should get the **benefit of technology and machinery.**
- From 2014-15 to 2022-23, an amount of six thousand 120 crore 85 thousand rupees has been released to the states for various activities like training, testing, establishment of CHCs, hi-tech hubs and farm machinery banks.
- Apart from this, 15 lakh 24 thousand lakh agricultural machinery and equipment have been distributed through state governments at subsidized rates, which include tractors, power tillers and automated machinery.
- The summit was attended by stakeholders including original equipment manufacturers, policy planners, suppliers, and product development and design firms.

About Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

- CII is a non-profit and non-governmental organisation.
- The objective of CII is to achieve a conducive environment for the development of industry and civil society in India.
- It was established in 1895.
- It has over 8,000 members from both the public and private sectors.

Headquarter: New Delhi

• President : Sanjiv Bajaj

10. Australia to host third in-person Quad summit (April 26, 2023)

Australia will host the third in-person Quad summit in Sydney on 24 May.

An Overview of the News

- The Quad Summit will be attended by the leaders of the four member countries **US President Joe Biden, Japanese PM Fumio Kishida, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.**
- The Quad summit is a meeting between the leaders of four countries: **the United States, Japan, India, and Australia.**
- The Quad was first established as a strategic dialogue in 2007, but remained dormant for several years until it was revived in 2017.
- The Quad Summit, to be held in **Washington DC in September 2021**, was the **first in-person meeting of the Quad leaders.**
- The agenda of the Quad summit focused on four key areas: COVID-19 vaccine delivery, climate change, critical and emerging technologies and regional security.
- The Quad leaders announced a new initiative to boost COVID-19 vaccine production in India with a target of distributing one billion doses to the Asia-Pacific region by the end of 2022.
- On the subject of climate change, the Quad leaders pledged to work together to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

About Australia

It is a **sovereign country located in the Southern Hemisphere** and is **geographically isolated** from the rest of the world.

Capital - Canberra

Government - federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy

Emperor - Charles III

Governor-General - David Hurley

Prime Minister - **Anthony Albanese**