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1. Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurates Youth-20 Consultation series in Pune (March 11, 2023)

Union Minister for Youth Affairs **Anurag Singh Thakur** inaugurated the **fourth Y20 consultation meeting in Pune** on 11 March.

An overview of the news

- The Y20 Summit presents a unique platform for young minds to share their vision, values and ideas and develop solutions and recommendations that will be presented to the G20 leadership.
- The aim of the summit is for youth to be heard and actively shape the global agenda.
- Active participation of the young minds present at the event will lead to a deeper understanding of the challenges facing society and humanity and ways to solve them at the Y20 discussion platform.

About Youth 20 (Y20)

- Youth 20 (Y20) is the official youth engagement group of the G20.
- It provides a platform for youth to express their vision and views on **G20 priorities.**
- It is a process that brings together young leaders from around the world to discuss and **debate global challenges.**
- The list of policy recommendations is known as a communiqué, which is publicly announced at the Y20 summit and presented to world leaders as part of the official G20 summit.

2. President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated International Dharma-Dhamma Conference in Bhopal (March 3, 2023)

7th International Dharma-Dhamma Conference

President **Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated the **7th International Dharma-Dhamma Conference** at **Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh** on 3 March.

An overview of the news

- The three-day International Dharma-Dhamma conference will conclude on March 5.
- It is being organized by India Foundation in association with Sanchi University of Buddhist-Indic Studies.
- The theme of the conference is 'Eastern Humanism for the New Era'.
- Its aim is to bring together religious, political and thought leaders from Dharma-Dhamma traditions to ponder over building a philosophical framework for the emerging new world order.

- More than 350 scholars from 15 countries are participating in this conference,
- which provides a platform for global views of Dharma-Dhamma.
- Delegates from Bhutan, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Nepal, South Korea, Mauritius, Russia, Spain, France, USA and UK are participating in the conference.

About International Dharma-Dhamma Conference

- It is an annual platform to revive the **dharma-dhamma traditions** and make them relevant in finding solutions and forming policies for the state in the 21st century.
- The Dharma-Dhamma traditions of Hinduism and Buddhism, as well as other religious doctrines of the East, clearly have a holistic and inclusive answer to the challenges of world order.

3. National Conference on Economics of Competition law held in New Delhi (March 3, 2023)

On March 3, the 8th edition of the National Conference on Economics of Competition law was held in New Delhi.

An overview of the news

- This conference has been organized every year by the **Competition Commission of India (CCI) since 2016.**
- **Dr. V Anant Nageswaran**, Chief Economic Advisor of the Finance Ministry, gave the main speech in the inaugural session.
- The conference brings scholars, doctors, academics and experts working in the field of economics of Competition law.
- The conference includes a complete session and two technical sessions.
- The theme of this year's conference is 'Antitust and Regulation: Interface and Synergy'.

The objectives of the conference

- To encourage research and debate on contemporary issues in the field of economics of competition law.
- Develop better understanding of relevant competition issues for the Indian context.
- Consult for enforcement of competition law in India.

Competition Commission of India (CCI)

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is the **chief national competition** regulator in India.
- It was set up under the Competition Act, 2002
- It comes under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs.**
- It promotes healthy market competition and prevents activities that have an adverse effect on competition in India.
- CCI also approves combinations under the act so that two merging entities do not overtake the market.
- Headquarter New Delhi
- Current Chairman Ashok Kumar Gupta

4. Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates SCO's first International Conference on Traditional Medicine (March 2, 2023)

The Union Minister for AYUSH and Ports, Shipping and Waterways, **Sarbananda Sonowal** launched the first B2B Global Conference and Expo on **Traditional Medicine** under the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** in **Guwahati** on 2 March 2023.

An overview of the news:

- Over 150 delegates from 17 SCO (4 virtually) countries and partners attended the opening ceremony.
- Sonowal also inaugurated a four-day expo on traditional medicine in the same premises.
- More than 150 delegates from 17 countries including India are participating in the event.
- It is attended by high-level delegates such as the Health Minister, official representatives and foreign buyers from SCO and partner countries.
- A total of 75 foreign officials and business representatives from 13 countries are participating. Government representatives of China, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan have joined virtually.
- Important sessions like 'Know Your Buyer' and 'B2B Meetings' are also planned to discuss specific product-wise, export and import opportunities and deepen economic partnership with enhanced market access in SCO countries.

5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Raisina Dialogue (March 2, 2023)

Raisina Dialogue

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the eighth edition of the **Raisina Dialogue** on Geopolitics and Geostrategy in **New Delhi** on 2 March.

An overview of the news:

- The Raisina Dialogue has been organised jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Observer Research Foundation (ORF, established in 1990). This dialogue will be organised from 2 to 4 March 2023.
- The theme of the eighth edition of the Raisina Dialogue is "Provocation, Uncertainty, Turbulence: Lighthouse in the Tempest."
- Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has been invited as the chief guest in the inaugural session of the three-day event.
- This year's edition assumes special significance in the backdrop of India's G20 Presidency. The dialogue will have over 2500 participants in person and the proceedings will reach millions across various digital platforms.
- During the last eight years, Raisina Dialogue has grown steadily to establish itself as one of the leading global conferences on international affairs.
- Representatives of more than a hundred countries will participate in this dialogue program (Raisina Dialogue 2023), including ministers, former heads of state and government, military commanders, heads of industry, technology leaders, academicians, journalists, strategic affairs experts and experts. experts are involved.
- In this dialogue program in February 2023, it was in the limelight due to the refusal of the Foreign Minister of Iran to participate in this conference.

Raisina Dialogue:

- It was started in the year 2016.
- Its main objective is to explore possibilities and opportunities for Asian integration as well as better integration of Asia with the rest of the world.
- The headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs of India is located in Raisina Hill (South Block), New Delhi, hence it is known as Raisina Dialogue.

6. Second Business-20 program organised in Aizawl between March 1-3 (March 1, 2023)

Aizawl is hosting the **second** of the **four Business-20 (B20)** India events scheduled in the Northeast from March 1-3, 2023.

An Overview of the news:

• B20 is the official G20 dialogue forum for the global business community.

- As one of the G20's most notable cooperation groups, the B20 represents the G20
- business community and consolidates the views of global business leaders on global economic and trade governance.
- The B20 provides concrete policy suggestions to each rotating presidency to promote economic growth and development.
- During the B20 summit, the B20 sends its final recommendations to the G20 Presidency.
- The B20 event, scheduled from March 1-3, 2023, will highlight the opportunities for multilateral business partnerships that state delegations can present in urban planning, infrastructure, bamboo, startups, skill development, nursing and paramedics.
- Around 500 participants comprising ministers, senior government officials, diplomats and representatives of the business community will participate in the event.
- On March 3, the last day of the summit, **Chapchar Kut,** a spring festival of Mizoram, will be performed before the delegations at AR Ground to conclude the B20 summit in Aizawl.

7. Two day meeting of Women-20 Inception in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (March 1, 2023)

The Women-20 (W20) Inception meeting was held at **Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar** (**Aurangabad**), Maharashtra to discuss the improvement in the status and condition of women across the world during India's G20 Presidency from February 27-28, 2023. Which was inaugurated by Union Minister of Women and Child Development and Minority Affairs **Smriti Zubin Irani**.

An Overview of the news:

- The main theme of the W20 meeting is 'The pursuit of gender equality, equity and dignity for women-led development'.
- The main objective of the meeting is to promote gender equality and economic empowerment of women.
- The **five priority areas of the W20** under India's G20 Presidency are:
 - Enhancing participation of women in entrepreneurship sector
 - grassroots women leadership
 - bridging the gender digital divide
 - education and skill development and women as change makers and
 - Taking climate resilience action for girls.
- In the W20 Inception Meet to be held in India, these five issues were discussed to increase the participation of women in all fields. Apart from this, gender related issues were discussed during the meeting.

Three meeting of Women-20:

 A total of three meetings of the W20 Inception are being held in India during the G20 Presidency.

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- The first meeting was held from February 27-28, 2023 at Aurangabad, Maharashtra.
- The second meeting will be held in Jaipur, Rajasthan on 13-14 April and
- The third meeting will be held on June 15-16 at Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu on the sidelines of the W20 summit.

Women-20 Conference:

- Under Women-20, G20 aims to promote gender equality and economic empowerment of women in the world.
- It was established in 2015 during the presidency of Turkey.
- It aims to ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed into G20 discussions and translated into the G20 Leaders' Declaration in the form of policies and commitments.
- The President of the W20 is **Dr. Sandhya Purecha, President of the Sangeet Natak Akademi** during India's G20 Presidency.

8. World Sustainable Development Summit (Feb. 28, 2023)

The **22nd World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)** was held on 22-24 February 2023 in **New Delhi.** It is primarily the flagship annual event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).

An overview of the news:

- Theme: "Mainstreaming Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience for Collective Action".
- The Summit is TERI's annual flagship multistakeholder event and is the only independently convened event of such scale in the Global South that brings together world leaders, thinkers, scientists, industry and government representatives to work towards long-term solutions for the planet's health.
- Other highlights at WSDS 2023 included high-level sessions on COP28, Women's Leadership, CEO Forum, Youth Plenary and G20 Leadership.

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

- TERI is an independent think-tank, multi-dimensional organisation, with expertise in research, policy, consultancy and implementation.
- Established in 1974.
- Headquarter New Delhi.
- It was formerly known as the **Tata Energy Research Institute**. It was later renamed The Energy and Resources Institute in 2003.

Sustainable Development:

• The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that **by 2030** all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

9. International Conference on Trade and Marketing of Coconut Products at Hyderabad (Feb. 28, 2023)

The Coconut Development Board in association with the **International Coconut Community (ICC)** organised a two-day **International Conference on Trade and Marketing of Coconut Products** with the participation of world stakeholders from February 27 to 28, 2023 at **Hyderabad**, Telangana.

An Overview of the news:

- The theme of the conference is "Global Coconut Industry Cruising to the Pinnacle".
- The objective of the program is to disseminate knowledge on coconut industry and innovative industry practices on market potential and work towards realising the potential opportunities of the sector.
- This hybrid mode conference was organised with the participation of representatives from national and international organisations, policy makers, entrepreneurs, exporters and other stakeholders of the industry.

Coconut production in India:

According to Dr. Vijayalakshmi Nadendla, CEO of the Coconut Development Board, India is currently the largest coconut producer with a 30.93% share in global production and ranks second in terms of productivity - 9,346 nuts per hectare after Vietnam at 10,547 nuts per hectare. According to 2020 ICC data, India is the world's largest coconut producer with a 30.93% share in global production, followed by Indonesia and the Philippines.

The production of coconut in the country during 2020-21 stood at 21207 million nuts, which was 34 per cent of the global production.

- With the increase in coconut production, India has been exporting coconut oil to
- Malaysia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka since April 2017, whereas till March 2017, India used to import coconut oil.
- Now for the first time India is also exporting desiccated coconut in large quantities to America and other European countries.
- In India, coconut is cultivated in states including **West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka, Odisha, Goa, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.**
- World Coconut Day 2 September

10. 18th World Security Congress (Feb. 20, 2023)

The **18th World Security Congress** is being organised by the **International Union of Railways (UIC)** and **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** from 21 to 23 February in **Jaipur.**

An overview of the news

- The 18th edition of this Congress is focused on the theme of "Railway Safety Strategy: Responses and Vision for the Future".
- It will be attended by concerned officials from UIC, partner international organisations, Indian Railways, RPF and senior police officers from India besides security heads from railway organisations across the globe.
- The Congress is divided into 4 sessions, which include the topics "Safety of critical assets and goods", "Human safety approaches", "Best railway safety equipment and practices around the world" and "Vision 2030".
- Earlier, in **2006 and 2015**, RPF India successfully organized and hosted the International UIC World Security Congress in New Delhi.
- RPF Director General Sanjay Chander IPS has taken over as the Chairman of the International UIC Security Forum from July 2022 to July 2024.

About International Union of Railways (UIC)

- The **Union Internationale des Chemins de Fer (UIC**) or International Union of Railways (UIC) is headquartered in **Paris, France.**
- It is a professional association which has been in **existence since 1922.**
- It represents the railway sector and promotes rail transport around the world.
- UIC serves on the mission of promoting interoperability and standardisation of rail transport, increasing cooperation and sharing of best practices, supporting members in new business and new areas of activities and proposing improved technical and environmental performance of rail transport.

About Railway Protection Force of India

- This is a prime **security and Law Enforcement Agency** in the field of Railway Security in India.
- It was **formed in 1957** for better protection of railway property.
- It has proven itself with the additional roles of passenger safety and passenger convenience and protection of railway property.
- Director General of RPF Sanjay Chander