

Testwale Current Affairs PDF

Current Affairs search results for tag: national

1. The First G20 Culture Group (CWG) meet to be organised in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh (Feb. 16, 2023)

G20 Culture Group (CWG)

The **Ministry of Culture** is organising the **first G20 Culture Group (CWG) meeting** from 22 to 25 February 2023 in **Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh**.

An overview of the news

- **'Protection and restitution of cultural heritage'** will be the **theme** for the first G20 Culture Group (CWG) meeting.
- An exhibition titled **'Re(ed) Dress: Return of Treasures'** will also be organized on this theme at the **Maharaja Chhatrasal Convention Center in Khajuraho**.
- The second and third meetings under this track will be held at **Bhubaneswar in Odisha and Hampi in Karnataka**.
- India's cultural richness and diversity will be **"prominently showcased"** at the G20 meetings.
- The overarching theme of G20 is **'Vasudev Kutumbakam' - One Earth, One Family, One Future.'**
- India's G20 culture track is based on the idea of **'Culture for LiFE'** as a campaign for eco-conscious lifestyle and sustainable living.
- Mission **LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)** was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year.

Cultural Programmes

- Cultural programs will be organised during the meeting including **Khajuraho Dance Festival**.
- The delegates will also visit the Western Group of Temples, which is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- An ancient city, Khajuraho is known for its **majestic temples and erotic sculptures**.
- The Khajuraho Group of Monuments, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was built between **950-1050 by the Chandela dynasty**.

Guest Countries

- Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and the UAE.

Four priority areas of India's CWG

- Protection and restitution of cultural property
- Harnessing living heritage for a sustainable future
- Promotion of cultural and creative industries
- Creative economy; and leveraging digital technologies for Protection and promotion of culture

2. Cabinet approves signing of the MoU between the India and South Africa for cooperation in Disability Sector (Feb. 16, 2023)

memorandum of understanding (MoU)

The Union Cabinet on 15 February approved the signing of the **memorandum of understanding (MoU) between India and South Africa** for cooperation in the 'disability sector'.

An overview of the news

- It aims to encourage cooperation between the **Department for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and South Africa** through joint initiatives in the disability sector.
- It will strengthen **bilateral relations** between India and South Africa.
- This MoU will benefit a large number of **Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)** in both the countries, especially those who are in need of modern, scientific, durable, low cost aids and assistive devices.

South Africa

- President: **Cyril Ramaphosa**
- Capitals: **Cape Town (Legislative), Pretoria (Executive), Bloemfontein (Judicial)**
- Currency : **Rand**

3. Cabinet approves signing of the MoU between the India and South Africa for cooperation in Disability Sector (Feb. 16, 2023)

memorandum of understanding (MoU)

The Union Cabinet on 15 February approved the signing of the **memorandum of understanding (MoU) between India and South Africa** for cooperation in the 'disability sector'.

An overview of the news

- It aims to encourage cooperation between the **Department for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and South Africa** through joint initiatives in the disability sector.
- It will strengthen **bilateral relations** between India and South Africa.
- This MoU will benefit a large number of **Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)** in both the countries, especially those who are in need of modern, scientific, durable, low cost aids and assistive devices.

South Africa

- President: **Cyril Ramaphosa**
- Capitals: **Cape Town (Legislative), Pretoria (Executive), Bloemfontein (Judicial)**
- Currency : **Rand**

4. India and Fiji sign MoU on visa exemption for holders of diplomatic and official passports (Feb. 16, 2023)

memorandum of understanding (MoU)

India and Fiji signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** on **visa exemption for diplomatic and official passport holders** on 16 February in presence of External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** and Fiji Prime Minister **Sitiveni Rabuka**.

An overview of the news

- Under this agreement, holders of diplomatic and official passports will be able to **enter, transit and stay** in each other's territory without a visa for a **period of 90 days**.
- India and Fiji share close and long-standing relations and the two countries also reviewed bilateral relations.
- India and Fiji have inaugurated the **solarisation of the State House in Suva** and this is the first of a series that India is supporting in the **Pacific Islands**.
- It shows India's commitment towards **climate action**.
- The **Visa Waiver Agreement** will be helpful in encouraging greater travel between the two countries.

Republic of Fiji

- It is an archipelago consisting of around **300 islands** in the South Pacific Ocean.
- Capital: Suva
- Currency: **Fijian Dollar**
- President : **Wiliame Katonivere**

Prime Minister: **Sitiveni Rabuka**

5. India and Fiji sign MoU on visa exemption for holders of diplomatic and official passports (Feb. 16, 2023)

memorandum of understanding (MoU)

India and Fiji signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** on **visa exemption for diplomatic and official passport holders** on 16 February in presence of External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** and Fiji Prime Minister **Sitiveni Rabuka**.

An overview of the news

- Under this agreement, holders of diplomatic and official passports will be able to **enter, transit and stay** in each other's territory without a visa for a **period of 90 days**.
- India and Fiji share close and long-standing relations and the two countries also reviewed bilateral relations.
- India and Fiji have inaugurated the **solarisation of the State House in Suva** and this is the first of a series that India is supporting in the **Pacific Islands**.
- It shows India's commitment towards **climate action**.
- The **Visa Waiver Agreement** will be helpful in encouraging greater travel between the two countries.

Republic of Fiji

- It is an archipelago consisting of around **300 islands** in the South Pacific Ocean.
- Capital: Suva
- Currency: **Fijian Dollar**
- President : **Wiliame Katonivere**
- Prime Minister: **Sitiveni Rabuka**

6. India and Spain agreed to cooperate in digital infra, climate action, clean energy (Feb. 16, 2023)

digital infrastructure, climate action, clean energy and sustainable development
Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and his **Spanish counterpart Pedro Sanchez** on February 15 agreed to collaborate on issues such as **digital infrastructure, climate action, clean energy and sustainable development**.

An overview of the news

- They also discussed several bilateral and international issues of **mutual interest**.

- They reviewed bilateral initiatives and expressed satisfaction at the growing cooperation in the **defence, economic and commercial sectors**.
- Sanchez extended full support to India's initiative of chairing the **global bloc G20**.

India-Spain Relations

- Relations between the two countries have been cordial since the establishment of **diplomatic relations in 1956**.
- To give impetus to trade and investment ties, the **India-Spain Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation (JCEC)** was established in **1972**.
- The commission was established under the **Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement** and has met ten times since then.
- Spain is India's **7th largest trading partner** in the European Union.
- **India's exports to Spain** include organic chemicals, textiles, iron and steel products, motor vehicle components, marine products and leather goods.
- Spain is the **15th largest investor** in India.

Bilateral Agreements between India and Spain

- Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation, 1972
- Agreement on Cultural Cooperation, 1982
- Civil Aviation Agreement, 1986
- Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, 1993
- Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement, 1997
- Extradition Treaty, 2002
- MoU on Institutionalisation of Political Dialogue, 2006

7. India and Spain agreed to cooperate in digital infra, climate action, clean energy (Feb. 16, 2023)

digital infrastructure, climate action, clean energy and sustainable development
Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and his **Spanish counterpart Pedro Sanchez** on February 15 agreed to collaborate on issues such as **digital infrastructure, climate action, clean energy and sustainable development**.

An overview of the news

- They also discussed several bilateral and international issues of **mutual interest**.
- They reviewed bilateral initiatives and expressed satisfaction at the growing cooperation in the **defence, economic and commercial sectors**.

Sanchez extended full support to India's initiative of chairing the **global bloc G20**.

India-Spain Relations

- Relations between the two countries have been cordial since the establishment of **diplomatic relations in 1956**.
- To give impetus to trade and investment ties, the **India-Spain Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation (JCEC)** was established in **1972**.
- The commission was established under the **Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement** and has met ten times since then.
- Spain is India's **7th largest trading partner** in the European Union.
- **India's exports to Spain** include organic chemicals, textiles, iron and steel products, motor vehicle components, marine products and leather goods.
- Spain is the **15th largest investor** in India.

Bilateral Agreements between India and Spain

- Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation, 1972
- Agreement on Cultural Cooperation, 1982
- Civil Aviation Agreement, 1986
- Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, 1993
- Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement, 1997
- Extradition Treaty, 2002
- MoU on Institutionalisation of Political Dialogue, 2006

8. Cabinet approves establishment of Agricultural Credit Societies (Feb. 15, 2023)

Agricultural Credit Societies

In order to strengthen the **cooperative sector**, the Union Cabinet on 15 February approved the **setting up of a new Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS)** in two lakh panchayats in the next five years.

An overview of the news

- According to the government, **25 different facilities** will be made available through the Primary Agricultural Credit Society.
- **Dairy and fisheries** will also be linked to agricultural cooperatives.
- In the next 5 years, a target has been set to establish **2 lakh multipurpose packs, dairy, fisheries cooperatives**.

- The scheme will be implemented with convergence of **various schemes**.
- The scheme will be implemented with convergence of various schemes by leveraging the **'Whole of Government' approach**.

Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS)

- These are grassroots level cooperative credit institutions that provide short-term and medium-term agricultural loans to farmers for various agricultural and agricultural activities.
- It works at the **gram Panchayat and village level**.
- The first Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS) was **set up in 1904**.
- PACS are registered under the **Co-operative Societies Act and regulated by RBI**.

Objectives of PACS

- Raise capital for the purpose of making loans
- Supporting members' essential activities
- Collect deposits from members with the goal of improving their savings habit
- Arrange for the supply and development of improved breeds of livestock to the members
- Supply agricultural inputs and services to members at reasonable prices

9. Cabinet approves Centrally Sponsored Scheme- “Vibrant Villages Programme” for the Financial Years 2022-23 to 2025-26 (Feb. 15, 2023)

Vibrant Villages Programme

The Union Cabinet on 15 February approved the Centrally Sponsored Scheme- “**Vibrant Villages Programme**” (VVP) for the **Financial Years 2022-23 to 2025-26** with financial allocation of **Rs 4800 Crore**.

An overview of the news

- This will help encourage people to stay in their native places in border areas.
- This will stop migration from villages and improve border security.
- Funds will be provided under the scheme for development of essential infrastructure and creation of livelihood opportunities in 19 districts and 46 border blocks, 4 states and 1 union territory along the northern land border of the country.
- In the first phase, 663 villages will be included in the programme.
- The District Administration will prepare a **Vibrant Village Action Plan** with the help of **Gram Panchayats**.
- **100 percent** saturation of Central and State schemes will be ensured.

About Vibrant Villages Programme

- This program was announced in the budget **speech 2022**.
- It aims to improve infrastructure in villages along **India's border with China**.
- Under the programme, states such as **Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh** will improve infrastructure and build residential and tourism hubs.
- The **focus areas of the programme** are livelihood, road connectivity, housing, rural infrastructure, renewable energy, television and broadband connections.

10. Cabinet approves signing of MoU between India and Chile for cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors (Feb. 15, 2023)

The **Union Cabinet** chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the signing of **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between the **Government of India and the Government of Chile** on 15 February for **cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors**.

An overview of the news

- This MoU provides for cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors.
- Under the MoU, a **Chile-India Agricultural Working Group** will be set up.
- This group will be responsible for supervision, review and evaluation of the implementation of the MoU as well as for establishing frequent communication and coordination.
- The meetings of the Agriculture Working Group will be held once a year, alternately in **Chile and India**.
- The MoU shall come into force upon its signature and shall remain in force **for a period of five years from the date of execution**.
- Thereafter it will be automatically renewed for a period of **5 years**.

The main areas of cooperation

- Agricultural Policies for the Development of Modern Agriculture
- Organic agriculture to facilitate bilateral trade of organic products
- To promote exchange of policies aimed at developing organic production
- Promotion of innovation in agriculture sector between Indian institutions and Chilean institutions
- Cooperation in Science and Innovation to Address Common Challenges