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1. Quad cyber group meeting to strengthen cyber security cooperation (Feb. 1, 2023)

Quad cyber group meeting to strengthen cyber security cooperation

A meeting of the **Quad Senior Cyber Group** was held in **New Delhi** to strengthen **cyber security cooperation** on 30-31 January.

An overview of the news

- The heads of the Quad Senior Cyber Group, along with their inter-agency delegations, met in **New Delhi** to discuss cyber security cooperation and a collective approach to enhancing resilience.
- During the meeting, participants discussed sharing threat information, identifying and assessing potential risks in supply chains for digitally enabled products and services, and aligning baseline software security requirements.
- The group also discussed cyber **security capacity building** for Quad members and for partners in the **Indo-Pacific region**.
- The meeting discussed how Quad members can prevent cyber incidents and respond to such cyber incidents along with building national and international capabilities for security.

QUAD or Quadrilateral Security Dialogue

- **Quad or Quadrilateral Security Dialogue** is a group of four countries **US, Japan, Australia and India**.
- The concept of QUAD was given by former Japanese Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe in 2007** for maritime cooperation between these countries after the **Indian Ocean Tsunami disaster in 2004**.
- Now the group is mainly seen as a group to counter the Chinese influence in the region.
- The 2022 Quad summit meeting was held in **Japan** and next will be held in **Australia in 2023**.

2. The central panel rejects the inclusion of Muslim dynasties in the exhibitions (Jan. 30, 2023)

An exhibition on **Medieval Indian Dynasties** was organised by the **Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)**, a division of the Union Ministry of Education and featured **50 different dynasties** in the exhibitions. **No Muslim dynasty** was shown in the exhibition.

An overview of the news

- The ICHR, organised the exhibition at **Lalit Kala Akademi** titled '**Glory of Medieval India: Manifestation of the unexplored - Indian dynasties, 8th-18th Centuries.**'
- Minister of State Education **Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh** inaugurated the exhibition.
- Muslim dynasties like **Bahmani and Adil Shahi** were not part of the exhibition.
- On the question why Muslim dynasties are not part of the exhibition, ICHR member secretary **Professor Umesh Ashok Kadam** said that he does not consider Muslim dynasties as Indian dynasties.
- According to Kadam, Muslims came from the **Middle East** and did not have a direct connection with Indian culture.
- Although Islamic dynasties were undoubtedly a part of Indian history, Kadam argued that the past should not be dominated by the **Mughal or Sultanate dynasties.**
- Kadam said, "Islam and Christianity came to India in the medieval period and they uprooted the civilization and destroyed the knowledge system."
- According to the ICHR, the exhibition will soon be shown across the country with the intention of educating people about India's past.
- The exhibits depict **Ahom, Chola, Rathor, Yadav, Kakatiya** and other dynasties, highlighting their founders, capital cities, dates and architecture, art, culture of India.

Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)

- It is an **autonomous body** of the **Central Ministry of Education.**
- It was established under **Societies Registration Act, 1860 in 1972.**
- It aims to bring historians together and provide a platform for exchange of views among them.
- Its other objectives are to promote, accelerate and coordinate research in history.
- It publishes a biannual Journal - **the Indian Historical Review**, and another journal **Itihas** in Hindi.
- Headquarters - **New Delhi**

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4. India's G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant inaugurates India's first Model G-20 Summit (Jan. 30, 2023)

India's G-20 Sherpa **Amitabh Kant** on 30 January inaugurated **India's first Model G-20 Summit** organised by **Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini's Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership.**

An overview of the news

- The two-day model G-20 summit has been organised at the **Uttan campus of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini** near **Mumbai** to celebrate India's chairmanship and to take the idea of G-20 to the youth.
- **Dr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe**, President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Vice Chairman of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini chaired the inaugural ceremony.
- Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership (IIDL) organises **Model International Leaders Meet (MILM)** every year to orient students towards international relations.
- During this two-day conference, students will get into the role of G-20 member countries and discuss various political and social issues in four committees or tracks, namely **Leader Track, Sherpa Track, Civil-20 and Business-20**.
- Discussions ranging from global peace to democratisation of the world economic system will be included in the agenda.
- A total of **150 youth** from across the country will participate in the program and will play the role of delegates representing G-20 countries.
- The best two delegates will be awarded **cash prizes of Rs 15,000 and Rs 10,000**.

5. First International Financial Architecture Working Group Meeting of G20 (Jan. 30, 2023)

The **first International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting** under the G-20 Indian Presidency was inaugurated in **Chandigarh** on 30 January by Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** and Food Processing Industries Minister **Pashupati Kumar Paras**.

An overview of the news

- The deliberations during the two-day meeting were jointly moderated by the **Ministry of Finance and the Reserve Bank of India** along with **France and Korea**, which are co-chairs of the International Financial Architecture Working Group.
- An event titled '**Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs): Opportunities and Challenges**' was also organised during this meeting.
- The first meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors will be held in **Bengaluru** on 24-25 February 2023.
- The theme of India's G-20 chairmanship, "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**" or '**One Earth, One Family, One Future**', underlines the message of equitable development and a shared future for all.

International Financial Architecture Working Group and objectives of meeting

- The International Financial Structure Working Group is one of the important action plans under the G20 finance track.
- It focuses on strengthening the international financial structure.
- It aims to address various challenges faced by vulnerable countries.
- About 100 delegates from G20 members, invited countries and international organisations participated in the two-day meeting.

Key issues of discussion

- Ways to enhance the stability and cohesion of the international financial architecture and solutions to the global challenges of the 21st century.
- Discussion on finding ways to maximise aid to poor and vulnerable countries.
- Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDC): Opportunities and Challenges

6. PM Modi releases special Rs 75 coin to mark 75 successful years of NCC (Jan. 30, 2023)

PM Modi releases special Rs 75 coin to mark 75 successful years of NCC

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on 28 January released a **special day cover** and a commemorative **specially minted coin of Rs 75 denomination** on the occasion of 75 successful years of the **National Cadet Corps (NCC)**.

An overview of the news

- NCC rally was organised on the occasion of 75 years commemoration at **Cariappa Maidan, Delhi** on 28th January.
- 196 officers and cadets from 19 foreign countries participated in the rally.
- On this occasion, PM Modi addressed the annual NCC Rally at Cariappa Parade Ground in Delhi.
- At the event, PM Modi released a **specially minted coin of Rs 75 denomination** to commemorate 75 successful years of NCC.

National Cadet Corps (NCC)

- The NCC was formed in **1948** on the recommendation of **H N Kunzru Committee-1946** under **National Cadet Corps Act, 1948**.
- NCC is the **largest uniformed youth organisation in the world**.
- It is a **voluntary organisation** in which cadets are recruited from high schools, colleges and universities across India.

- It is a **tri-services organisation**, comprising the **Army, Navy and Air Force**,
- engaged in grooming the youth into disciplined and patriotic citizens.
- The motto of NCC is "**Unity and Discipline**".
- The **Defence Ministry** deals with NCC at the National level and the **Education Ministry** deals with NCC in all States.
- NCC cadets have been instrumental in spreading awareness about various government initiatives like '**Swachhta Abhiyan**', '**Mega Pollution Fortnight**', '**Digital Literacy**', '**International Yoga Day**', '**Tree Plantation**' and Covid-19 Vaccination.
- Headquarters - **New Delhi**
- Director General - **Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh**

7. Presidential election in the Czech Republic (Jan. 29, 2023)

In the Czech Republic, **retired army general Petr Pavel won the presidential election, defeating billionaire businesswoman Andrej Babis**.

An overview of the news

- Retired general **Petr Pavel will replace controversial incumbent President Milos Zeman**.
- During the election, General Pavel got 58.2 percent of the votes while Andrzej Babis got 42.8 percent.
- General Powell has been Chairman of the Military Committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**.
- General Powell has been an outspoken supporter of the European Union and NATO.
- Pavel has repeatedly expressed his support for providing military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine during the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

About Czech Republic

- It is a landlocked country in Central Europe.
- Prime Minister - Petr Fiala
- Capital - Prague**
- Currency - Czech koruna.

8. UN General Assembly president to visit India from Jan 29-31 (Jan. 28, 2023)

UN General Assembly president to visit India from Jan 29-31

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) President **Saba Korosi** will visit **India** from January 29-31 to discuss multilateral and regional issues.

An overview of the news

- Korosi, **Hungarian diplomat** who served as his **country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations**, is visiting India at the invitation of External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar**.
- He became the President of the **77th session of the United Nations General Assembly** in September 2022.
- Besides holding talks with Jaishankar on key multilateral and regional issues of mutual interest, Korosi will hold talks with senior officials of **NITI Aayog and India's G20 Presidency team**.
- On January 30, Korosi will deliver a public speech at the **Indian Council of World Affairs** on the topic "**Solidarity, Sustainability and Solutions through Science at the United Nations**".
- He will also attend the "**Beating the Retreat**" ceremony on January 29 and pay floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat on January 30 on the occasion of Martyrs' Day.
- On January 31, Korosi will travel to Bengaluru, which will include an interaction with scientists from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and a field visit to an IISc-led water conservation project.

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

- It is the United Nation's chief policy-making and representative organ and was **created in 1945**.
- It is one of the **six principal organs** of the United Nations (UN).
- It serves as the main deliberative, policy making and representative organ of the United Nations.
- Its powers, structure, functions and procedures are set out in **Chapter IV of the United Nations Charter**.
- Its main functions are to prepare the budget of the United Nations, appoint non-permanent members to the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General of the United Nations, receive reports from other parts of the United Nations system, and make recommendations through resolutions.

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10. Govt renames Delhi's Mughal Gardens as 'Amrit Udyan' (Jan. 28, 2023)

Govt renames Delhi's Mughal Gardens as 'Amrit Udyan'

The **Central government** on 28 January renamed the **Mughal Gardens** in New Delhi's **Rashtrapati Bhavan** as '**Amrit Udyan**'.

An overview of the news

- In keeping with the theme of '**Amrit Mahotsav**' to commemorate 75 years of India's independence, the Union Government has renamed the Mughal Gardens as Amrit Udyan.
- On the occasion of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', the President of India has given a common name to Rashtrapati Bhavan Gardens as Amrit Udyan.
- The Central Government had last year renamed Delhi's iconic **Rajpath** as "**Kartavya Path**".
- Rashtrapati Bhavan has a rich variety of gardens. Basically, they include **East Lawn, Central Lawn, Long Garden and Circular Garden**.
- This time the gardens (Herbal Garden, Bonsai Garden, Central Lawn, Long Garden and Circular Garden) will remain open for about two months.
- The gardens will open for the general public on **January 31, 2023** and will remain open till March 26, 2023, except on Mondays.

About Mughal Gardens

- The Mughal Gardens were designed by **Edwin Lutyens** in **1917**, and the first saplings were planted in **1928-1929**.
- Like the Rashtrapati Bhavan building, which has two different styles of architecture, **Indian and Western**.
- Lutyens brought together two different horticultural traditions, the **Mughal style and the English flower garden**, for the gardens.
- More gardens namely **Herbal-I, Herbal-II, Tactile Garden, Bonsai Garden and Arogya Vanam** were developed during the tenure of former Presidents Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and Ram Nath Kovind.