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1. 1st All India Annual State Ministers Conference on Water (Jan. 4, 2023)

1st All India Annual State Ministers Conference on Water

1st All India Annual State Ministers Conference on Water to be held in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh** on 5th & 6th January, 2023.

Important facts

- The Government is deliberating on the preparation of the **Action Plan and Vision Document of India@2047**.
- Water Vision@2047 is part of **PM's India@2047 plan**.
- Thematic sessions will be organised at the conference to focus on water security, water use efficiency, water governance, water infrastructure and water quality.
- Ministers of State for Water Resources, Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) and Irrigation of all States/Union Territories of the country will participate.
- The participants will have to prepare a blueprint of **Water Vision @ 2047** and prepare a road map to overcome the water problems of the country.

Objectives of the conference

- To collect inputs for India@2047 and 5P vision from various water stakeholders of the states as water is a state subject.
- Improving engagement and partnership with states and sharing of initiatives and schemes of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

5 thematic sessions of the conference

- Water Security in Water Deficit, Water Surplus and Hilly Regions
- Water Use Efficiency including Reuse of Waste Water/ Grey Water
- Water Governance
- Climate Change Resilient Water Infrastructure, and
- Water Quality

Union Minister of Jal Shakti - **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**

2. PM to address 108th Indian Science Congress to be held in Nagpur (Jan. 1, 2023)

PM to address 108th Indian Science Congress to be held in Nagpur

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the **108th Indian Science Congress (ISC)** on 3rd January, 2023 through video conferencing. The 108 Indian national Science Congress is being organised by the **Indian Science Congress Association** from 3-7 January 2023 at the **Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University**.

The 107 Indian Science Congress 2022 was held at the University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK Campus, Bangalore, Karnataka in January 2022.

Theme of the 108th Indian Science Congress 2023: Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment”.

The Congress will hold discussions on issues of sustainable development, women empowerment and the role of science & technology in achieving this. A special programme to showcase the contribution of women in science and technology will also be held, which will also witness lectures by renowned women scientists.

Other Programmes at the ISC

Several other programmes will also be organised alongside ISC. **Children’s Science Congress** will also be organised to help stimulate scientific interest and temperament among children. **Farmer’s Science Congress** will provide a platform to improve the bio-economy and attract youth to agriculture.

Tribal Science Congress will also be held, which will also be a platform for scientific display of indigenous ancient knowledge system and practice, along with focusing on the empowerment of tribal women.

Indian Science Congress Association

The Indian Science Congress Association owes its origin to the two British Chemists, Professor J. L. Simonsen and Professor P. S. Mac Mahon. It was set up in **Kolkata** in 1914.

It was their view that scientific research in India would be stimulated if an annual meeting of research workers somewhat on the lines of the British Association for the Advancement of Science could be arranged.

Every year its members meet annually in the first week of January named Indian Science Congress. The first session of the Congress was held in **1914**.

3. Union Home Minister presides over the conference of Lieutenant Governors, Administrators of Union Territories (Dec. 29, 2022)

Union Home Minister presides over the conference of Lieutenant Governors, Administrators of Union Territories

Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** chaired the conference on development works in Union Territories in **New Delhi** on 29 December.

Important facts

- Lieutenant Governors and Administrators of UTs including from **Delhi, Chandigarh, Andaman and Nicobar, Puducherry, Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir** attended the conference.

- The conference reviewed the **economic development, tourism and major schemes** and future roadmap of the Union Territories to ensure their strong growth.
- Chief Secretary **Dr Arun Kumar Mehta** and **Umang Narula**, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh represented Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh UTs respectively.
- The objective of the conference is to ensure the development of the Union Territories in all respects including development works, projects and centrally sponsored schemes, besides ensuring that they (schemes) do not miss the deadline.
- The focus of the conference was on economic development, tourism potential and flagship schemes.
- In another programme, Shah also inaugurated the **Border Security Force's BSF App and BSF Manuals**.

4. UIDAI wins DSCI best Security practices award in the government sector award (Dec. 23, 2022)

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has won the Data Security Council of India's (DSCI) Best Security Practices in Government Sector award.

The award was given to UIDAI during DSCI's three day **Annual Information Security Summit (AISS)** in Gurugram for its significant role in securing national critical Aadhaar infrastructure that provides digital identity based welfare services to residents.

The Annual Information Security Summit (AISS) was organised by [Nasscom](#) -DSCI from 20-22 December in Gurugram. Data Security Council of India is a premier industry body on data protection in India. It was set up by the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM).

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016.

It was set up on 12 July 2016 by the Government of India, under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.

UIDAI was created to issue Unique Identification numbers (UID), Aadhaar, to all **residents of India**. It issues a **12 digit biometric Aadhaar number** to the residents of India after satisfying the verification process laid down by the Authority.

Chief Executive officer (CEO): **Dr Saurabh Garg**

5. India-Indonesia Investment and Business Forum meeting held in Port Blair (Dec. 21, 2022)

A meeting of the Joint Task Force Committee of "India-[Indonesia](#) Investment and Business Forum" to identify new areas of cooperation, develop infrastructure, tourism, trade and connectivity to enhance business relations was held in **Port Blair**, Andaman and Nicobar on 20 December 2022.

This is the second meeting of the Task Force Committee. The first meeting was held in the Indonesian Capital of **Jakarta** on November 25, 2019.

Indonesia's **Sabang port in Aceh** is around 90 nautical miles from Andaman and Nicobar Islands. India is keen to expand trade and tourism with Indonesia.

The meeting with Indonesian delegates was attended by Andaman and Nicobar Lieutenant Governor **D K Joshi**, Director for South and Central Asian Affairs of the Indonesian government, Jatmiko Heru Prasetyo.

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Indonesia in 2018, he called for a Joint Task Force Committee from both sides to boost bilateral investments.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs Indonesia is the **second largest trading partner of India** amongst the ASEAN (Association of SouthEast Asian Nations). Singapore is the largest trading partner of India amongst ASEAN countries.

India is one of the **largest buyers** of coal and crude palm oil from Indonesia and imports minerals, rubber, pulp & paper and hydrocarbons reserves. India exports refined petroleum products, commercial vehicles, telecommunication equipment, bovine meat, animal feed, agriculture products, steel and plastics to Indonesia.

6. UAE to host the 13th WTO Ministerial Meeting in 2024 (Dec. 20, 2022)

UAE to host the 13th WTO Ministerial Meeting in 2024

The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** will host the 13th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial meeting in February 2024. The African country of Cameroon had also expressed its willingness to host the 13th WTO ministerial meeting.

The WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from June 12 to June 17. It was originally meant to be held in Kazakhstan in 2020, but was postponed due to the covid pandemic.

The **World Trade Organisation** was set up on 1 January 1995 replacing the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT). Its main purpose is to promote rule based trading systems in the world and to settle trade related disputes between the member countries.

The Ministerial Conference is the topmost decision-making body of the WTO and usually meets **every two years**.

It brings together all members of the WTO and takes decisions on all matters under any of the multilateral trade agreements.

The headquarters of WTO is in **Geneva**, Switzerland. There are 164 member countries .

Director General of WTO : **Dr Ngozi -Okonjo-Iweala of Nigeria**

WTO Ministerial Meeting

| Number | Place | Date |
|----------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| First | Singapore | 9 to 13 December 1996. |
| second | Geneva, Switzerland | May 18 and 20, 1998 |
| Third | Seattle, United States of America | November 30 and December 3, 1999, |
| Fourth | Doha, Qatar | 9-14 November 2001 |
| Fifth | Cancun, Mexico | September 10 to 14, 2003 |
| Sixth | Hong Kong | December 13 to December 18, 2005, |
| Seventh | Geneva, Switzerland | 30th November to 2nd December 2009, |
| Eight | Geneva, Switzerland | December 15 to 17, 2011 |
| Ninth | Bali, Indonesia | 3rd to 7th December 2013 |
| Tenth | Nairobi, Kenya | December 15 to 19, 2015 |
| Eleventh | Buenos Aires, Argentina | December 10 to December 13, 2017 |
| Twelfth | Geneva, Switzerland | June 12 to June 17, 2022 |

7. Gujarat CM unveils Urban G20 logo, website and social media handle (Dec. 19, 2022)

Gujarat CM unveils Urban G20 logo, website and social media handle

Chief Minister of Gujarat **Bhupendra Patel** unveiled the logo, website and social media handles of the Urban-20 conference in Gandhinagar on 19 December 2022. The ceremony was attended virtually by the Union Minister for Urban Development and Urban Housing Hardeep Singh Puri.

Urban 20

The UNESCO heritage city **Ahmedabad** will host the Urban 20 meetings as part of G 20 meetings between Februarys to July 2023.

In July 2023, the U20 mayor's summit will be held in Ahmedabad to discuss urban development issues.

The Urban 20 will provide a platform for the G20 cities to facilitate discussions on important issues of urban development including climate change, social inclusion, sustainable mobility, affordable housing, and financing of urban infrastructure to propose collective solutions.

Indian Presidency of G 20

India officially assumed the Presidency of G20 on 1 December 2022 from Indonesia. The summit meeting of the Head of the States and the leaders of the G20 is scheduled to be held in September 2023 in New Delhi.

To prepare for the summit meeting a series of meetings is to be held by India.

The first meeting was the G-20 Sherpa meeting held in Udaipur in the first week of December 2022.

G-20

The G-20 was founded back in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis.

The Group of Twenty (G-20) comprises 19 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkiye, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and the European Union.

The G-20 members represent around 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.

8. Latvia host Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) summit at Riga (Dec. 19, 2022)

Latvia host Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) summit at Riga

Latvia hosted the 3rd summit meeting of **the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF)** on 19 December 2022 in **Riga**. The summit meeting has been convened on the Initiative of the Prime Minister of Latvia **Krišjānis Kariņš**, with the support of the United Kingdom.

The JEF was founded in 2015 after the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit meeting in Wales in 2014. It comprises Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The JEF has been set up to prepare a high readiness force which can respond to crises in the High North and Northern Europe (caused by Russian aggression).

The summit meeting of the JFF was held virtually on 25 February 2022 after the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. The second Summit was hosted by the United Kingdom in London on 15 March 2022.

The third summit was dominated by the aggressive war of Russia in Ukraine and consequent changes in the security climate in the North Atlantic, Baltic Sea and the High North regions. They agreed to provide further assistance to Ukraine in its fight with the Russians.

Latvia

Latvia lies in North Eastern Europe and is one of the three Baltic countries. The other Baltic countries are Lithuania and Estonia.

It is called Baltic country as it lies along the Baltic Sea.

Latvia was occupied by the Soviet Union and it became Independent after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Capital: Riga

Currency: Euro

Prime Minister: **Krisjanis Kariņš**

9. 7th Petrochemical Conclave held in New Delhi (Dec. 17, 2022)

7th Petrochemical Conclave held in New Delhi

The Government of Indian Maharatna Company **Indian Oil Corporation** limited organised the 7th Petrochemical Conclave in **New Delhi** on 17 December 2022.

The conclave was attended by the Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas **Hardeep Singh Puri**, Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas **Rameshwar Teli** and various experts from the petrochemical fields.

The Conclave aims to provide a comprehensive platform for varied Petrochemical stakeholders to deliberate on the opportunities and challenges with the sector and brainstorm on the impacts of forces like energy transition, Crude Oil to Chemicals, Industry 4.0, emerging Green pathways, and Circular economy.

Theme of the conclave: India's Petchem Future -Sustainable and Atmanirbhar

10. PM to attend Golden Jubilee Celebrations of North Eastern Council in Shillong (Dec. 17, 2022)

PM to attend Golden Jubilee Celebrations

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will attend the **golden jubilee celebrations** of the **[North Eastern Council \(NEC\)](#)** in **Shillong** on 18 December 2022.

Important facts

- He will address an official meeting of the NEC as well as a public meeting on this occasion.
- The official meeting of the Council will be held at the **State Convention Centre Auditorium** while the public meeting will be organised at the **Polo Grounds in Shillong**.

- Union Home Minister, Minister for Development of North Eastern Region, Governors and Chief Ministers of North Eastern States, Union Ministers dealing with North Eastern Region, local MPs and MLAs and nominated members of NEC will also attend the function.
- During this, the Prime Minister will inaugurate **various important projects of the North Eastern region** including the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong, NEC projects and Meghalaya state projects and lay the foundation stone for some other projects.
- The “**GOLDEN FOOTPRINTS**”, a commemorative volume chronicling NEC’s contribution towards the development of the North Eastern Region over the last fifty years, will also be released during the Golden Jubilee event.

About North Eastern Council

- It is the **nodal agency** for the economic and social development of the North Eastern Region.
- It consists of the eight States of **Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.**
- It was constituted under the **North Eastern Council Act in 1971.**
- The Council comprises Governors and Chief Ministers of constituent States and three members nominated by the President.
- The Union Cabinet, in June 2018, approved the proposal of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) to nominate the **Union Home Minister as the ex-officio Chairman** of the North Eastern Council (NEC).
- The Cabinet also approved that the Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of DoNER will act as the **Vice-Chairman** of the Council.
- It discusses any matter in which some or all the States represented on the Council have a common interest and advises the Central Government and the respective State Governments as to the action to be taken on any such matter.
- The headquarters - **Shillong**