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1. W-20 International meeting begins in Rajasthan's Jaipur (April 13, 2023)

120 women leaders from 18 G20 countries.

The second Women 20 (W20) international meeting was held on **13 April in Jaipur, Rajasthan** and the meeting was attended by **120 women leaders from 18 G20 countries.**

An Overview of the News

- The purpose of this meeting is **to address the issues of gender inequality and promote economic empowerment of women globally.**
- The Women-20 is **an official G20 engagement group**, and the meeting focuses on the theme of **"Women-led development: Leveraging the untapped potential of women to accelerate an inclusive and sustainable future"**.
- W20 was **established in 2015 under the Turkish Presidency** with the primary objective of **women empowerment, advocacy of women's rights and creating a common platform for them to voice their opinion.**
- The agenda of the **two-day meeting** focuses on **five key priorities: women entrepreneurship, grassroots women leadership, bridging the gender digital divide, education and skill development and climate change.**

About the G20

- It is an international forum of the world's leading economies **established in 1999.**
- Its primary objective is **to promote international financial stability and sustainable economic growth.**
- The G20 serves as a forum to discuss and coordinate policies related to a wide range of economic and financial issues such as **trade, investment, employment, energy and climate change.**

About Rajasthan

- It is a state located in northwestern India and it is the largest state of India by area.
- Chief Minister - **Ashok Gehlot**
- Capital - **Jaipur (Executive Branch)**
- Governor - **Kalraj Mishra**

2. International Conference on Defence Finance and Economics (April 12, 2023)

International Conference on Defense Finance and Economics in New Delhi

Defense Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the three-day **International Conference on Defense Finance and Economics in New Delhi** on April 12, 2023.

An overview of the news

- The conference is organized by the **Ministry of Defence**.
- It will provide a platform to eminent policy makers, academicians and government officials from home and abroad to share their insights and experiences on defense finance and economics in the context of emerging security challenges and policies globally.
- Delegates from **USA, UK, Japan, Australia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Kenya** are participating in the conference.

Objective of the Conference

- To promote **dialogue and cooperation among the participants and contribute to the defense preparedness** of the country with optimum financial resources and effective implementation of the defense budget.
- Participating in **global discussions on defense finance and economics and proposing a sustainable roadmap on the subject**.
- To disseminate the best practices, experiences and expertise of various countries and align processes in the Indian context with international standards.

The topics of discussion

- **Current challenges and opportunities in the areas of Defence Finance and Economics**, such as how to allocate and use resources efficiently & effectively.
- Different models and practices of finance and economics related to **Defence Acquisition around the world**.
- **Latest developments and innovations in Defence Research and Development**.
- Best practices on managing human resources in Defence, including issues related to pay, pensions and welfare of Defence Personnel and the role & functions of oversight mechanisms within defence ecosystems.

3. Second meeting of G20 Development Working Group held in Kumarakom (April 8, 2023)

G20 Development Working Group

The second meeting of the **G20 Development Working Group** was held in **Kumarakom, Kerala** on 7 April and in this meeting the delegates emphasised the **importance of digital technologies to achieve the 2030 Agenda and bridge the digital divide**.

An Overview of the News

- The formal proceedings were inaugurated by **Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs**.

- The session focused on "**Transformative Change through Data for Development**".
- Presentations were made by experts from the International Telecommunications Union, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the United Nations Office of the Special Envoy on Technology.
- Another session on "**Transformative Change**" discussed the role of women in accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and stressed the need for women's empowerment and leadership.
- The session on "**Just Green Development**" highlighted the importance of balancing the green transition with social and development dimensions.

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State Health Minister of Kerala - **Veena George**

Chairperson of G20 Empower - **Dr. Sangita Reddy**

4. 2nd G20 Empower meeting of Ministry of Women and Child Development begins in Thiruvananthapuram (April 4, 2023)

2nd G20 Empower meeting of Ministry of Women and Child Development begins in Thiruvananthapuram

The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has launched the **2nd G20 Empower meeting** in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala** under the theme "**Women Empowerment: Win-win for Equality and Economy**".

An Overview of the News

- The meeting includes various side events that address important issues related to **women's safety, health, wages and insurance**.
- Issues such as **women empowerment, women entrepreneurship, leadership development and economic prosperity** through women's participation in non-traditional sectors will be discussed in the meeting.
- G20 Empower 2023, under the chairmanship of India, aims to promote India's women-led development agenda.

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State Health Minister of Kerala - **Veena George**

Chairperson of G20 Empower - **Dr. Sangita Reddy**

Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development - **Munjpara Mahendrabhai**

5. 5th International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (April 4, 2023)

5th International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

The Prime Minister, **Narendra Modi** on 4 April addressed the **5th International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2023** via a video message.

An overview of the news

- He called upon the world for an **integrated approach to deal with the impact of disasters**.
- The PM pointed out that in a few years, more than **40 countries have become part of the CDRI**.
- The summit is becoming an important forum for both advanced economies and developing economies, large and small countries.
- CDRI's **theme** for this year's conference is '**Delivering Resilient and Inclusive Infrastructure**'.
- Last year, the **Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund** was announced and this **50 million-dollar fund** has generated immense interest among developing countries.

About Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

- **India officially launched the CDRI on 23 September 2019 at the 2019 United Nations Climate Action Summit in New York**.
- It is an international coalition of countries, United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks, the private sector and academic institutions.

- Its aim is to **promote disaster-resilient infrastructure.**
- Headquarters: **New Delhi, India (Interim Secretariat)**
- Founder countries - **India, Australia, Bhutan, Fiji, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Rwanda, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom. (13 countries).**

6. PM Modi addresses joint commanders' conference in Bhopal (April 1, 2023)

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** attended the **Joint Commanders' conference** of the **three services** which is being held at **Kushabhau Thackeray International Convention Center in Bhopal.**

An overview of the news

- The theme of the conference is '**Ready, Resurgent, Relevant**'.
- Commanders of the three services and senior officials of the **Ministry of Defense** are participating in the conference.
- The focus of the conference is to advance the **theater command structure for national security**, enhance coordination among the three services and work together in the future.
- Apart from this, the strategy of security forces in the event of war, self-reliance in defense matters and defense ecosystem are also being discussed in the conference.
- The conference was attended by top commanders of the three services including **CDS General Anil Chauhan**, Army Chief General **Manoj Pandey**, Air Chief Marshal **VR Chaudhary** and Navy Chief **Admiral R Hari Kumar.**

7. First G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group meeting begins in Gujarat (March 30, 2023)

First G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group meeting begins in Gujarat

The **first G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group meeting** was held under **India's G20 chairmanship in Gandhinagar, Gujarat**, India from 30 March.

An Overview of the News

- The meeting was inaugurated by **Dr PK Mishra**, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and **Devsingh Chauhan**, Minister of State for Communications.
- Five priority areas have been identified for the meeting, including **an early warning system for all, resilient infrastructure and reform of the national system for financing disaster risk reduction.**

- The meeting serves as a call to the **global community to come together and work towards** a stronger future against the devastation caused by disasters.
- Around **100 delegates from G20 member states**, invited countries and nine international organisations participated in the three-day event.
- Two side programs have been planned on "**Early Warning System**" and "**Disaster Resilient Infrastructure**".
- The event also provides an opportunity to the delegates to experience the cultural heritage of Gujarat.

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Member Secretary of National Disaster Management Authority - **Kamal Kishore**

8. Second Agriculture Deputies Meeting of AWG held in Chandigarh (March 29, 2023)

second agriculture representative meeting of the Agriculture Working Group (AWG)

The **second agriculture representative meeting of the Agriculture Working Group (AWG)** is being held in **Chandigarh from 29 to 31 March 2023**.

An overview of the news

- Along with India, **19 member states and representatives of 10 invited countries and 10 international organizations** are also participating in this meeting.
- The meeting is an important platform for the member countries to come together and discuss ways to ensure **sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition**.
- **AMIS Quick Response Forum** was organized on the first day of the meeting.
- It is an important initiative to **understand and address the food market situation and identify the need for capacity building**.
- The initiative of this Forum will **pave a way for future progress**.

- The second and third days of the second meeting of agricultural representatives will
- focus on drafting the member country communique, which will address the needs and problems of the **four thematic areas**.
 - These include **food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture with a climate smart approach, inclusive agriculture, value chain and food systems and digitization for agricultural transformation**.

9. First meeting of G20 trade and investment working group begins (March 28, 2023)

first meeting of the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group began in Mumbai

On 28 March the **first meeting of the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group** began in **Mumbai** and the conference was inaugurated by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry **Piyush Goyal**.

An Overview of the News

- The primary objective of India's G20 Presidency is to develop a common understanding of the challenges associated with accelerating **global trade and investment and to identify opportunities to achieve human-centred outcomes**.
- The three-day meeting was attended by over **100 delegates from G20 member states**, invited countries, regional groupings and international organisations.
- The meeting will focus on the **role of banks, financial institutions, development finance institutions and export credit agencies** in bridging the trade finance gap.
- Experience zones on **spices, millets, tea and coffee** will be set up and an exhibition on textiles will be displayed during the meeting at the conference venue.

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10. First joint conference of army chiefs of India and African countries held in Pune (March 28, 2023)

first joint conference of army chiefs of India and African countries was held in Pune

The **first joint conference of army chiefs of India and African countries** was held in **Pune** on 28 March.

An overview of the news

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** attended the **conference as the chief guest**. Army Chief **General Manoj Pandey** was also present.
- This is the **first ever conference of the army chiefs** of these countries.
- **Army chiefs of 10 countries** were present in this conference along with **31 representatives of African countries**.
- A defense exhibition will be organized under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign** and the aim of the exhibition is to target African countries as a market for defense products.

About African continent

- It is the **second largest continent (after Asia)**, covering about **one-fifth of the total land surface of Earth**.
- It is bounded by the **Atlantic Ocean in the west, the Mediterranean Sea in the north, the Red Sea and Indian Ocean in the east, and the Atlantic and Indian Oceans in the south**.
- The **island of Madagascar**, off the coast of Africa, is **one of the largest islands in the world**.
- The African continent has a **population of over one billion**, with a combined **GDP of \$2.5 trillion**, making it a huge potential market.
- Africa is a resource-rich continent rich in crude oil, gas, pulses and lentils, leather, gold and other metals, all of which are lacking in substantial quantities in India.