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1. Women and Child Development Ministry to celebrate the 5th Poshan Pakhwada (March 20, 2023)

The **5th Poshan Pakhwada** will be celebrated by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** from **March 20 to April 3, 2023**, with several events across the country.

An overview of the news

- The 5th Poshan Pakhwada is being celebrated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to promote **good eating habits and focus on the value of nutrition through mass movement and public participation.**
- The **theme of Poshan Pakhwada 2023** is -**Nutrition for All: Together Towards a Healthy India.**
- During Poshan Pakhwada, campaigns will be launched to raise awareness and popularize efficient **Anganwadis** with advanced infrastructure and facilities.
- This year, Poshan Pakhwada will concentrate on promoting "**Shree Anna: the mother of all grains**", as a useful tool to combat malnutrition, in light of the declaration of 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

About Poshan Pakhwada

- Poshan Pakhwada is celebrated for **15 days in March.**
- Similarly, the **month of September is known as National Nutrition Month** across the country.
- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** will be the nodal ministry for organizing programs during Poshan Pakhwada.

2. SC asks to file counter-affidavit to plea to protect Western Ghats (March 20, 2023)

SC asks to file counter-affidavit to plea to protect Western Ghats

The Supreme Court on March 18 directed the **Environment Ministry** to **file its counter affidavit on the petition filed by minor M Kavya**, a resident of Nilgiris.

An overview of the news

- The petition sought **judicial intervention to save the Western Ghats from destruction.**
- The petition is pending for the **last two years after the apex court issued notice in 2020.**

About Western Ghats

- The Western Ghats are also known as the **Sahyadri Hills**.
- It is a mountain range that covers an **area of 160,000 km²**.
- The entire range of hills from **Tapi to Kanyakumari is known as the Western Ghats**.
- The Western Ghats is **one of the four global biodiversity hotspots** in India.
- The Western Ghats are made up of a range of mountains in the states of **Kerala, Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka**.
- It is recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- **Anamudi peak in Kerala** is the **highest peak** in the Western Ghats.
- According to UNESCO, the Western Ghats are older than the Himalayas.

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4. Global Conference on Digital Health organised by Government of India in New Delhi (March 20, 2023)

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The Government of India hosted a two-day **Global Conference on Digital Health in New Delhi** and it was chaired by the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**.

An Overview of the News

- **The objective** of the conference is **to reach universal health coverage to the last citizen** by taking advantage of India's chairmanship of G20 and collaboration with WHO **South-East Asia Regional Office**.
- The conference will bring together **global leaders, health policy makers, digital health innovators and influencers, academics and other stakeholders** to address issues to accelerate the implementation of connected digital health initiatives.
- The conference focuses on unlocking the potential to deliver and share digital health solutions in an **ethical, safe, secure, reliable, equitable and sustainable manner**.
- The conference is expected to make a significant contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals related to health and well-being, especially **SDG 3**, which aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for people at all ages.

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**.

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6. 4th Defence Cooperation Dialogue between India and Maldives held in Male (March 20, 2023)

4th Defence Cooperation Dialogue between India and Maldives held in Male

India and Maldives held the **4th Defense Cooperation Dialogue (DCD) in Male** on March 19, 2023.

An overview of the news

- The dialogue was co-chaired by Defence Secretary **Giridhar Aramane** and his Maldivian counterpart, Chief of Defence Force **Major General Abdulla Shamaal**.
- During the talks, the ongoing bilateral defense cooperation activities were reviewed.
- The talks covered existing **bilateral exercises**, with both countries agreeing to increase the complexity of these exercises.

- There is bilateral cooperation between the armed forces of India and Maldives in a number of fields, a positive sign for the future of bilateral relations.

About Defense Cooperation Dialogue (DCD)

- The Defense Cooperation Dialogue is the **highest institutionalized interactive mechanism** between the two countries.
- The Dialogue is one of **India's policy-level frameworks** that aim to strengthen long-standing and mutually beneficial bilateral defence ties.
- The first Defense Cooperation Dialogue was **held in 2016 and the second in 2019.**
- **Since 1988**, defense and security have been a major area of cooperation between India and Maldives.
- **In 2016**, the two countries signed a **comprehensive action plan to strengthen defense partnership.**

About Maldives

- It is also called **Maldives Islands**, an independent island country in the **north-central Indian Ocean.**
- It extends more than **510 miles (820 km)** from north to south and 80 miles (130 km) from east to west.
- Basis of economy -**fisheries, tourism**
- Industries - **handicraft or cottage including the making of coir** (coconut-husk fibre) and coir products, fish canning, and boatbuilding.
- Capital -**Male**
- President -**Ibrahim Mohamed Solih**
- Official Language - **Dhivehi (Maldivian)**
- Official Religion - **Islam**
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8. Nagpur hosts preparatory meeting for Civil 20 under India's G20 Presidency (March 20, 2023)

Nagpur hosts preparatory meeting for Civil 20 under India's G20 Presidency

The **C-20 is an engagement group working under the G-20 Secretariat** that provides a platform for civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations to air their concerns and brainstorm on various issues.

An Overview of the News

- The two-day meeting was inaugurated at **Radisson Blu Hotel in Nagpur** under the **chairmanship of Mata Amritanandamayi** and in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis**.
- In the Inception meeting, **14 different topics prepared for C-20 were discussed**.
- Union Transport Minister **Nitin Gadkari** participated in the closing ceremony of the meeting on 21 March.

About C20

- **Civil 20 (C20)** is an engagement group of the G20 representing **civil society organisations (CSOs)**.
- C20 **aims to promote policies** that promote social and economic justice, human rights and environmental sustainability.
- Key issues that the C20 focuses on include **poverty alleviation, gender equality, climate change and global health**.
- The C20 organises an annual summit that brings together CSO representatives from around the world to discuss key policy issues and present their recommendations to the G20 leaders.

About the G20

- **The G20 is an international forum** consisting of **19 countries and the European Union**, with a focus on promoting international financial stability, sustainable economic growth and global cooperation on key issues.
- Originally established in **1999 as a forum** for finance ministers and central bank governors, the G20 became a leaders' summit in 2008, with annual meetings to discuss a wide range of major global issues of state and government. participate in.
- The mission of the G20 is to focus on issues such as **trade, investment, financial regulation, employment, energy, climate change, and global health**.

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10. Sagar Parikrama Phase-IV begin in Karnataka (March 19, 2023)

The fourth phase of Sagar Parikrama began on March 18 covering three coastal districts of Karnataka.

The **fourth phase of Sagar Parikrama** began on March 18 covering **three coastal districts of Karnataka.**

An overview of the news

- According to the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**, the fourth phase of the **Sagar Parikrama program** took place from March 18-19.
- It covered three districts **Uttara Kannada, Udupi and Dakshina Kannada** districts of Karnataka.
- Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying **Purushottam Rupala** and concerned state ministers and stakeholders were present at the event.
- During the event, progressive fishermen were awarded certificates/acknowledgements related to **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**, KCC and State Scheme.

Sagar Parikrama Phase-I

- It was started on March 5, 2022 from **Mandvi, Gujarat to Okha-Dwarka**, and concluded at Porbandar on 6 March covering 3 locations.
- The programme was a huge success, with more than 5,000 people physically attending the event.

Sagar Parikrama Phase-II

- It was held on September 23-25 2022 and covered seven locations.

Sagar Parikrama Phase-III

- **Phase-III** was held on February 18-21 2023 and covered coastal districts of **Gujarat and Maharashtra.**

About Sagar Parikrama

- It is a maritime evolutionary journey tour to be organized in all coastal states/UTs through sea route to show solidarity with all fishermen, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders.
- It aims to address the issues of fishermen and other stakeholders and facilitate their economic upliftment through various fisheries schemes and programs like **PMMSY.**