



47th G7 Summit

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Why in News

The **United Kingdom** has invited Indian Prime Minister as a guest to attend the 47th **G7 summit** that is scheduled to be held in **June 2021**.

Key Points

- **Other Guest Countries:**

Apart from India, **Australia and South Korea** are also invited to participate in the proceedings of the summit as “**guest countries**”.

- **UK, India & G7:**

The UK was the first **P5 member** to support a permanent **UN Security Council seat for India** and the first G7 member to invite India to a **G7 Summit in 2005**.

- The proposed summit will be the **first in-person G-7 summit in almost two years**.

- **Objective:**

Unite leading democracies to help the world **build back better** from the coronavirus and create a **greener, more prosperous future**.

Group of Seven (G-7)



- **About:**
 - It is an intergovernmental organisation that was formed in **1975**.
 - The bloc **meets annually to discuss issues of common interest like global economic governance, international security and energy policy**.
 - The G-7 does not have a formal constitution or a fixed headquarters. The decisions taken by leaders during annual summits are non-binding.
- **Members:**
 - G-7 is a bloc of **industrialized democracies i.e. France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Japan, the United States, and Canada**.
 - The G7 was known as the 'G8' for several years after the original seven were joined by **Russia in 1997**.
 - The Group returned to being called G7 after Russia was expelled as a member in 2014 following the latter's annexation of the **Crimea region of Ukraine**
- **Summit Participation:**
 - Summits are held annually and hosted on a rotation basis by the group's members.
 - The groundwork for the summit, including matters to be discussed and follow-up meetings, is **done by the "sherpas"**, who are generally personal representatives or members of diplomatic staff such as ambassadors.
 - The leaders of important international organizations like **European Union, IMF, World Bank and the United Nations** are also invited.

- **Challenges and Concerns:**
 - **Policies:**
 - Internally the G7 has a number of disagreements, e.g. clash of the USA with other members over taxes on imports and action on climate change.
 - The organisation has also been **criticised for not reflecting the current state of global politics or economics.**
 - **Not Representative:**
 - There are no G7 members from Africa, Latin America or the southern hemisphere.
 - It is also facing a challenge from fast-growing emerging economies, like **India and Brazil are not members of the G7.**
 - However, G-20 was formed in 1999, in response to a felt need to bring more countries on board to address global economic concerns.
- **India and G-7**
 - **Previous Participation:**
 - The participation of India at the **45th summit in Biarritz, France, in August 2019** is a reflection of deepening strategic partnership and recognition of India as a major economic power.
 - India was also invited for the 2020 summit **hosted by the USA** which could not take place due to the **pandemic.**
 - Previously India had attended the G-8 summit (it became G-7 from G-8 with the expulsion of Russia in 2014) five times between **2005 and 2009.**
 - **Important Platform for Deliberations:**

India's ability to **safeguard its core sovereign concerns** such as trade, Kashmir issue and India's relations with Russia and Iran can be discussed with G7 members.
 - **Taking on Global Stage:**

India raised issues on **climate change** and at meetings which **signaled India's growing willingness to lead on issues** that are points of contention for countries like China and the USA.
 - **Significance of India at G7:**

As current president of **Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS)** and G20 president in 2023, India will play a **key role driving in multilateral cooperation helping to build back better** around the world.

Source:TH