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G20 in Miami: The 21st Summit under the US Presidency and the South Africa Row



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Why in News

The 2026 G20 Summit - the group's 21st leaders' meeting - is scheduled for 14 and 15 December 2026 in Miami, Florida, USA. The United States holds the presidency, and the venue is the Trump National Doral resort in Miami's Doral area. The summit is in focus because the US has announced that South Africa, a full member, will not be invited - a first in G20 history.

Introduction: what is the G20

G20 (Group of Twenty): The forum of major advanced and emerging economies - 19 countries, the European Union and the African Union (a full member since 2023). It covers a large share of the world economy. It has no permanent secretariat; the presidency rotates annually among members, and along with the leaders' summit run the Sherpa track (official-level talks) and the Finance track (finance ministers/central banks). India held its presidency in 2023.

Main Body: the 2026 hosting

- **Dates and venue:** 14-15 December 2026; Trump National Doral, Miami (Florida) - a property of US President Donald Trump, whose selection was announced in 2025.
- **Edition:** The 21st G20 Summit; the 20th summit in 2025 was held in Johannesburg (South Africa), which the US boycotted.
- **Shape of the agenda:** The US presidency is framed around 'economic growth, innovation and partnerships', presented in connection with America's 250th anniversary.
- **Guest countries:** In keeping with the host's tradition, several non-member countries (such as Poland, Qatar, the UAE, Vietnam and others) have been invited; the African Union and the European Union are listed as members.

The South Africa dispute

In November 2025, President Trump announced that South Africa would not be invited to the 2026 summit - citing the treatment of Afrikaners and the dispute over the handover of the presidency at the closing of the Johannesburg summit. South Africa called it a 'punitive' step. Note - it is South Africa (a full member country) that has been excluded; the African Union remains on the membership list - do not confuse the two.

Exam relevance

For Prelims: The 21st summit, the Miami/Doral venue, the 14-15 December dates, the US presidency, the African Union's membership (2023) and India's 2023 presidency are direct question areas.

For Mains: Member exclusion raising questions over multilateralism in forums like the G20; leadership continuity for India (the troika experience) - GS-II analysis.

Way Forward

Sherpa and finance-track meetings ahead of the summit will shape the agenda. It remains to be seen how feasible a consensus declaration will be amid the South Africa dispute; the role of members, including India, will matter in preserving the forum's credibility.

Prelims Practice Questions

Q1. With reference to the G20 Summit 2026, consider the following statements:
Statement 1: It is the 21st G20 Summit, hosted by the United States
Statement 2: The summit is scheduled for 14-15 December 2026 in Miami
Statement 3: The African Union has not been allowed to participate in this summit as a full member

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer and Explanation

Correct answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: the 2026 summit is the 21st and the US is the host. Statement 2 is correct: the summit is scheduled for 14-15 December 2026 in Miami (Trump National Doral). Statement 3 is incorrect: the invitation dispute concerns South Africa; the African Union remains on the members list.

Q2. Where was the 2025 (20th) G20 Summit held?

(a) Miami, USA

(b) Johannesburg, South Africa

(c) New Delhi, India

(d) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Answer and Explanation

Correct answer: (b) Johannesburg, South Africa

Explanation: The 2025 summit was held in Johannesburg, which the US boycotted; the 2023 summit was in New Delhi and the 2024 summit in Rio de Janeiro.

Mains Practice Question

What questions does the US decision not to invite a full member raise about the nature of forums like the G20? State the implications for India. (GS-II; 250 words)

Answer Outline:

Introduction: Introduce the Miami summit of 14-15 December 2026 and the decision not to invite South Africa.

Main Body: The limits and potential misuse of host discretion in the G20's consensus-based, informal structure; the effect on multilateralism and regional representation (the AU's 2023 admission); implications for India - the legacy of its 2023 presidency, the role of the Global South and the defence of inclusive forums.

Conclusion: Conclude that the forum's credibility lies in inclusiveness; India can champion balance and rules-based conduct.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Short answer: The 21st G20 Summit is scheduled for 14-15 December 2026 in Miami (Trump National Doral) under the US presidency; it is in dispute over the announcement that full member South Africa will not be invited.

Q: Who are the members of the G20?

19 countries, the European Union and the African Union (since 2023); the AU was made a full member during India's presidency.

Q: What is the dispute with South Africa?

In November 2025, the US announced that South Africa would not be invited to the 2026 summit - citing the treatment of Afrikaners and the presidency-handover dispute; South Africa called it 'punitive'.

Q: When did India hold the G20 presidency?

In 2023; it was at the New Delhi summit that the African Union became a full member.

Sources

- G20 Miami 2026 (official US presidency website) - Leaders' Summit: Miami, Florida: https://g20.org/
- Wikipedia - 2026 G20 Miami summit (reference table): https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_G20_Miami_summit
- Reuters - Trump says South Africa won't get 2026 G20 invite, South Africa calls it punitive (26 November 2025): https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/trump-says-south-africa-wont-receive-invitation-g20-2026-2025-11-26/

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