Digital Ministers Meeting

Why in news?

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Germany convened the first-ever G20 “digital ministers” meeting.

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What is the significance?

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- Cyber-attacks cost the global economy nearly $450 billion.
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- So the G20 digital ministers meeting is a step in the right direction to give this issue the political visibility it needs.
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- It indicates how the future of connected societies and economies is now firmly at the top of the global agenda.
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- The meeting resulted in the creation of a working group on the digital economy to articulate rules of operation for businesses, governments and users transacting on the Internet.
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- The larger mandate of this working group is the creation of a strategy for securing the global digital economy.
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- G20 should assess whether cybersecurity is a business objective or a means towards the larger goal of promoting digital access and financial inclusion.
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- It should also articulate policies for the digital economy that can be emulated in developing countries outside the G20.
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- A T20 task force comprising think tanks and academia was constituted to offer recommendations that would strengthen digital economies and manage the “digitalization” of traditional sectors.
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- G20-wide “digital skills upliftment strategy” that can improve labour participation and competitive capacities for women and marginalized

communities.
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Why India should be concerned?

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- India is affected by the weaknesses in digital payments systems, global and domestic.
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- It is tackling the twin challenge of Internet adoption and expansive digitalization.
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- So it should contribute to the working group’s findings, as its digital economy is qualitatively and quantitatively different from those of the advanced industrialized nations.
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