



भारत 2023 INDIA

वशुधेव कुटुम्बकम्

ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE

# G20India

A PRESIDENCY OF

# HEALING HARMONY HOPE





भारत 2023 INDIA

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**D**isaster risk reduction is a core development issue of our times. In 2015, when the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) was adopted by 187 nations, a conscious effort was made to ensure that the targets and indicators of the SFDRR are aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since his days as Chief Minister of Gujarat, our Prime Minister has consistently articulated a vision that pursues disaster resilience as an integral part of development. His 10-point agenda, which he outlined after the adoption of the Sendai Framework, guides the country in the implementation of this framework.

Over the last decade, India and many countries across the world have made progress in reducing disaster losses, particularly mortality. For example, over the two decades, India and Bangladesh have been able to reduce the loss of life from cyclones to less than 2%. This is a result of investments in forecasting and warning capabilities, warning dissemination systems, and community-level preparedness.

These successes notwithstanding, progress in disaster risk reduction has been uneven across the world. As highlighted by the recently concluded mid-term review

# Investing in Disaster Resilience for a Sustainable Future



**Dr PK Mishra**

*Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India*



**| 1st Meeting of Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group, Gandhinagar**

of the Sendai Framework (2015-2030), progress against six of the seven targets – barring Target E on plans and strategies – is far from satisfactory. This has important implications for the achievement of at least half of the SDGs. Disaster risk reduction needs to be an integral part of the development strategy of a country if its ambitions for economic growth, prosperity, and sustainable human development are to be realised.

Recognizing the need for pursuing disaster risk reduction with a sense of urgency – not only for the benefit of G20 members but for the entire world – a new G20 Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction was established under the Sherpa track during the Indian presidency.

The Working Group met for the first time in Gandhinagar and agreed on five priorities: working towards global coverage of early warning systems for all hydro-meteorological disasters; investing in disaster and climate-resilient infrastructure; improving national financing frameworks for disaster risk reduction; improving systems and capabilities for post-disaster response and recovery including “build back better”; and application of ecosystem-based approaches to counter the risk of disasters.

The second meeting of the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group was held in Mumbai in May where

officials came together to discuss different dimensions of financing for disaster risk reduction. They delved into challenges in ensuring that the entire spectrum of disaster risk reduction needs – disaster risk mitigation, preparedness, disaster response, and disaster recovery are appropriately financed, and lead to measurable outcomes in the form of reduced disaster risk and losses. In India, we have instituted wide-ranging reforms in this regard, and we stand ready to not only share our experience but also learn from innovations that other countries have brought about.

While we are in the process of preparing for the third and final meeting of the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group, I propose five issues that may be considered during future discussions:

First, we need to enlarge the discussion on financing. This includes exploring innovative financing tools such as reserve funds, dedicated lines of credit, and global resource mobilisation to supplement government budgets that may be constrained due to fiscal positions. Insurance and risk pooling solutions must be an integral part of this discussion. Countries that have a growing focus on capital expenditure require additional resources, capacities, and technologies to ensure that all new infrastructure assets are disaster and climate-resilient.



**| 2nd Meeting of Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group, Mumbai**



### **| G20 Delegates at the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation Headquarters**

Second, with recent technological developments, we must recognise that there is an opportunity to sharply and quickly reduce losses from high-frequency, moderate, or low-impact disaster events such as heatwaves, lightning, local floods, and landslides. It is necessary to devise targeted approaches to reduce losses from such events, as they can yield results over the short to medium term.

Third, we need to promote convergence between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Strengthening analytical and implementation capacities for disaster risk reduction can also support climate change adaptation efforts. For instance, integrating flood management structures into disaster risk reduction strategies aligns with adaptation initiatives. Evaluating adaptation measures based on their potential for disaster risk reduction is essential.

My fourth point reinforces one of the priorities

identified by the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group. Technologies that support early warning should be considered a global public good available to all populations, regardless of their economic strength. Implementing the UN Secretary General's initiative for early warning for all should serve as a guiding principle, and the G20 can lead by establishing an appropriate mechanism to achieve universal early warning.

Finally, adopting a multi-tiered and multi-sectoral approach to disaster risk reduction. Integrating efforts vertically from local to global levels and horizontally across sectors will significantly enhance our preparedness to manage unforeseen risks effectively.

At the Mumbai meeting, the G20 members also deliberated on a three-year roadmap for the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group. This will ensure sustained engagement by the G20 on Disaster Risk Reduction Issues. ■

# Tourism Working Group

## 3rd Meeting

MAY 22-24 | SRINAGAR

**T**he third meeting of the Tourism Working Group was hosted amidst the ethereal valley of Kashmir in Srinagar. As a destination that offers immense potential in the tourism sector, Srinagar was perfectly placed to further high quality discussions from national and international delegates and experts for accelerating the transition of the tourism sector and achieving the targets for 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Under India's G20 Tourism Track, the Tourism Working Group is working on five inter-connected





***“I am sure that the joint efforts of all the G20 members, invitee countries, international organisations will result in the achievement of inclusive and action-oriented decisive guidelines for the tourism industry”***

**G Kishan Reddy**

Union Minister for Culture, Tourism & Development of North Eastern Region



***“The logo and the theme together convey a powerful message of India’s G20 Presidency, which is of striving for just and equitable growth for all in the world”***

**Dr Jitendra Singh**

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology  
Minister of State, PMO



***“It is a platform for global tourism stakeholders to collaborate and shape the future of the industry. As the proud host, we are leading the way in promoting sustainable tourism practices and fostering international cooperation”***

**Ajay Bhatt**

Union Minister of State for Defence & Tourism

priority areas: Green Tourism, Digitalization, Skills, Tourism MSMEs and Destination Management. During the meeting, significant progress was made along the two key deliverables of the Tourism Working Group - GOA Roadmap for tourism as a vehicle for achieving

Sustainable Development Goals and G20 Tourism Ministers’ Declaration. The final versions of these drafts will be placed in the fourth meeting of the Tourism Working Group from June 19-20, 2023 and the Ministerial meeting from June 21-22, 2023 to be hosted in Goa.





### A wholesome Kashmiri experience for the Delegates

The local products of Jammu & Kashmir from One District One Product, gifted as souvenirs to delegates, included Paper Mache Box, Saffron from Pampore, Kahwa cups and Brass Spoon, and Walnuts. The G20 Delegates got a ‘hands-on’ experience through do-it-yourself activities at the Craft Bazaar like papier-mâché, Basholi paintings, willow craft, embroidery, pashmina weaving, and they witnessed the art of making local handicrafts.



***“The majestic peaks, crystal-clear lakes and serene green landscape of Jammu & Kashmir is more than a tourism destination. It is poetry. It’s a land of realisation. It is an energy field vibrating with the ageless Indian cultural values”***

#### Manoj Sinha

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir



***“I am truly grateful for the opportunity to showcase the richness of our rooted culture & mysticism through our films at the G20 Summit. Indian Cinema possesses a unique beauty in its ability to impart valuable life lessons through highly relatable content”***

#### Ram Charan

Actor and Producer



**“The tourism sector plays a critical role in skilling, reskilling and upskilling”**

**Amitabh Kant**  
India’s G20 Sherpa

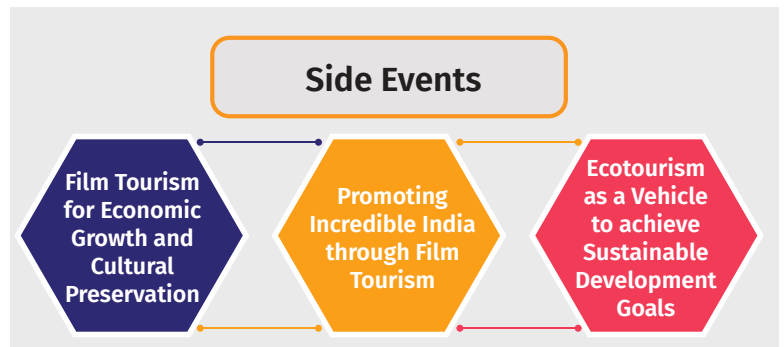


**Union Minister for Tourism Shri G Kishan Reddy along with Union Minister of State (Ind. Charge) Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh launched ‘Travel for LiFE’ programme for mainstreaming sustainability in Indian tourism**

**“The G20 meeting on Tourism will undoubtedly spur a greater number of tourists to visit this important tourist location including tourists from all countries. This will bring cheer to the local traders and craftsmen who depend on tourism”**



**Harsh Vardhan Shringla**  
India’s G20 Chief Coordinator



**Delegates shake a leg with Actor Ram Charan on the Oscar-winning Indian song “Naatu Naatu”**



**| Shikara ride at Dal lake**



**| Visit to Nishat Bagh**



**| G20 Delegates at the Polo Market**



**| Visit to Pari Mahal**

# Jan Bhagidari

Jammu & Kashmir



Model G20 Summit



Cycling Event



Hot Air Balloon



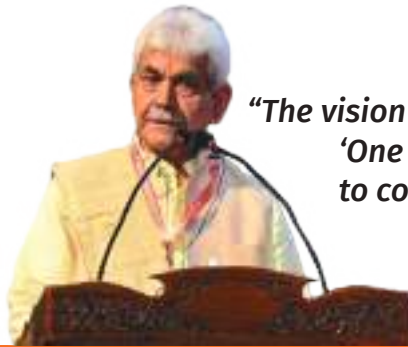
Cleanliness Drive



Walkathon

# Y20 CONSULTATION

MAY 10-11, 2023 | SRINAGAR



*“The vision of India’s G20 Presidency is the vision for the future of humanity. ‘One Earth, One Family, One Future’ is a vision of shared responsibility to courageously tackle the two great challenges of the next 25 years - protecting the climate & promoting sustainable development”*

**Manoj Sinha**

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir

## THEME

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction:

**Making Sustainability a Way of Life**

17 youth delegates from G20 members like Indonesia, Mexico, Turkey, Russia, Japan, Republic of Korea, United States, Brazil and Nigeria participated in the two-day Y20 Consultation at University of Kashmir in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir

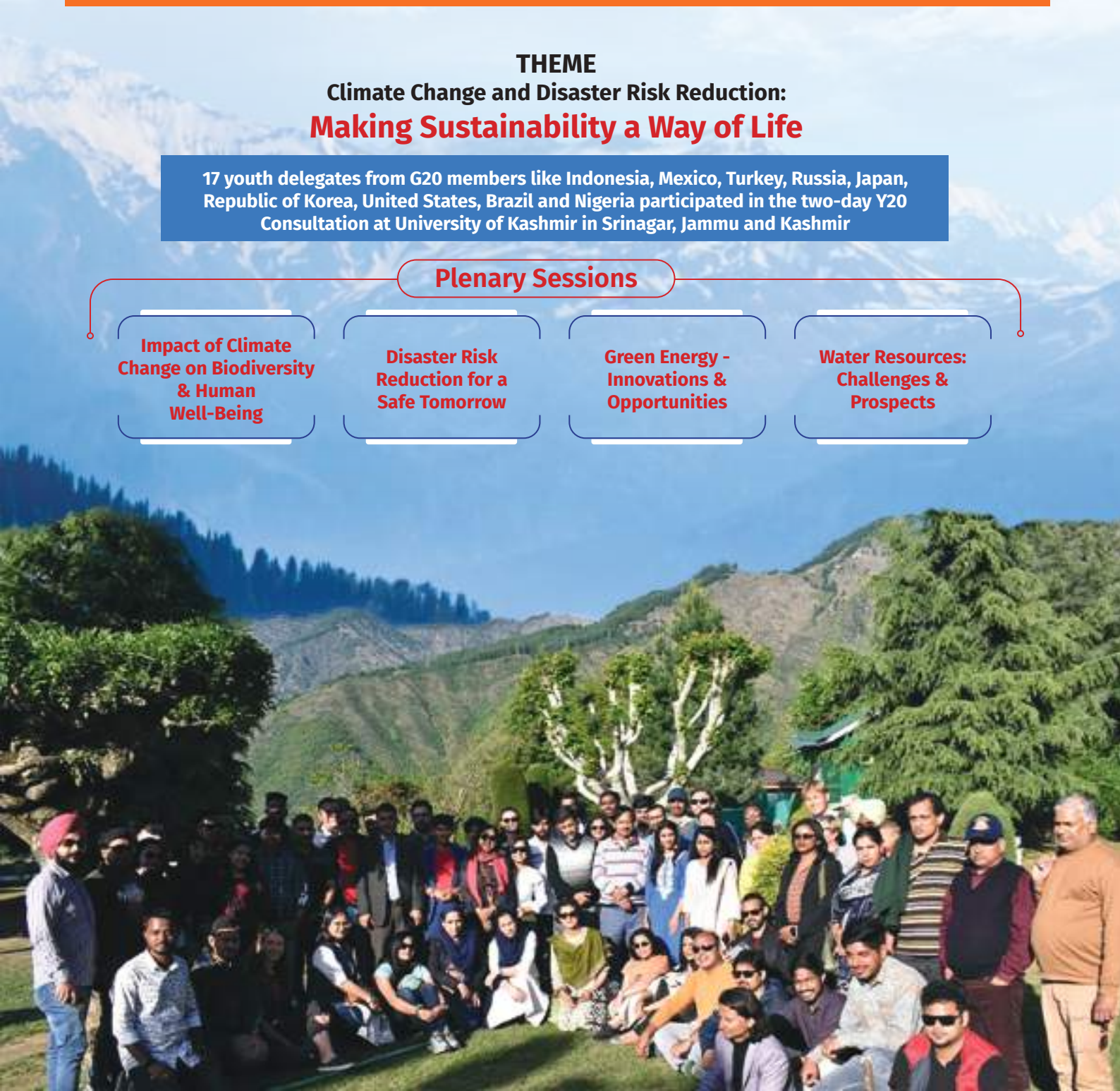
### Plenary Sessions

**Impact of Climate Change on Biodiversity & Human Well-Being**

**Disaster Risk Reduction for a Safe Tomorrow**

**Green Energy - Innovations & Opportunities**

**Water Resources: Challenges & Prospects**



# Towards Inclusive Science Advice for Global Policy Making



**Prof Ajay Kumar Sood**

*Principal Scientific Adviser to the  
Government of India*

In an era marked by complex global challenges, the need for robust evidence-based science advice has become increasingly important. More so has the importance of having an inclusive approach towards the global science advice mechanism. Recognizing this, India's G20 Presidency has conceptualized a dedicated initiative, Chief Science Advisers' Roundtable (G20-CSAR), as one of the flagship initiatives under the Sherpa track. G20 brings together top and emerging scientific powers of the world that produce approximately 85% of global scientific knowledge. It serves as an effective platform to discuss some of the critical issues related to scientific research, technology development and deployment. The Chief Science Advisers and their equivalents are embedded within the highest level of governance and have a prominent role in shaping the policy choices

by providing evidence-driven science advice.

The vision for inclusive science advice is rooted in the belief that the benefits of scientific progress should reach every segment of society, through appropriate policy improvement. Science and Technology (S&T) have the power to bridge gaps, empower communities, and address pressing social challenges such as poverty, healthcare disparities, and climate change. Therefore, it is crucial to ensure that the policy advice provided by the Chief Science Advisers reflects the diverse needs and perspectives of all stakeholders, including women, indigenous communities, and underprivileged sections of society across nations.

The G20-CSAR initiative provides a valuable platform for governments to engage in discussions on critical themes at the policy level. During India's Presidency, G20-CSAR has fixed its collective priorities on themes such as One Health; Open Access to Scholarly Scientific Knowledge; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in Science & Technology. One of the key objectives of this initiative is also to ensure that there is a continuous effort to create robust institutional mechanisms for continuous





and action-oriented Global S&T Policy Dialogue.

It is widely recognized that in the spirit of cooperation and dialogue, Chief Science Advisers, who provide scientific advice to the heads of the states on all major policy matters, have a responsibility to also engage in addressing transboundary issues that impact the global scientific enterprise. G20-CSAR as a platform aims to

foster meaningful dialogue and cooperation. Looking ahead, we can ensure that advancements in science and technology have a broad and inclusive impact. Through these collaborative efforts, we can harness the power of scientific knowledge to effectively address shared challenges, enhance global scientific progress, and foster a more equitable and prosperous future for all. ■

# Science20 Engagement Group Meeting

MAY 01-02, 2023 | **BANGARAM ISLAND, LAKSHADWEEP**

**The Science20 Engagement Group meeting on Universal Holistic Health under India's G20 Presidency took place at the Bangaram Island of Lakshadweep.**



# Energy Transitions Wor

## 3rd Meeting

MAY 15-17, 2023 | **MUMBAI**



**Amitabh Kant**

*India's G20 Sherpa*





# king Group



**E**nergy has been a critical element of G20 since 2009 for a sustainable global economy, and India has assumed its historic G20 Presidency at a time when the world is amid the first global energy crisis, world economy shaken by a global pandemic, tragic conflict in Ukraine and its aftermath of rising energy costs, and declining energy security. The present geopolitical situation just highlights how Energy security has risen to the forefront of countries' agendas, as each looks to secure affordable energy supplies to fuel their economies. At the same time, there is greater recognition that to avoid dangerous climate change, countries need to rapidly accelerate the decarbonisation of our economies, including transforming how we generate and use energy. Hence, energy transition plays a crucial role in achieving the net zero targets and pushing for a clean energy future.

Energy Transition Working Group (ETWG) under India's G20 Presidency recently completed its 3rd meeting successfully in May 2023 at the Jio Convention Centre, Mumbai. The three-day meeting was chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Power & witnessed participation of over 100 delegates from G20 member countries, special invitee countries and International Organisations such as World Bank, ADB, World Economic Forum, UNDP, IEA, OPEC, ISA, IRENA, UNESCAP, UNIDO & UNEP.

The primary agenda of the 3rd ETWG meeting was to conduct detailed discussions on the draft Ministerial Communiqué and constructive deliberations on priority areas, with Member countries presenting their respective viewpoints, on areas like Fuels for Future (Green Hydrogen being the centre of discussion); Universal access to clean, affordable and inclusive energy transition pathways (national priorities playing a pivotal role in bringing a common consensus); Diversified supply chain and critical minerals (shift the dependency from one country to avoid supply chain bottlenecks) etc. On the side-lines, the three-day meeting was well complemented by eight Side Events (Workshop with MDBs with the aim of mobilizing low-cost international finance; Seminar on Biofuels, Off-shore wind



***"G20 nations hold a unique responsibility to lead the way towards a sustainable future"***

**Raosaheb Patil Danve**  
Union Minister of State for  
Railways, Coal and Mines



and Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) for Clean Energy Transition; Event Promoting energy efficiency through LiFE campaign) witnessing participation of various stakeholders – policymakers, multilateral organizations, financial institutions, business organizations and subject matter experts.

The 3rd ETWG meeting and discussions will set the agenda and ground work for 4th ETWG and Ministerial discussion scheduled in July 2023 where Ministers from G20 nations, invited countries & representatives from International Organisations will sit together to finalise the G20 Energy Transitions Communiqué for energy transition and ensure access to clean and affordable energy for all. As we inch closer to the finish line and G20 Leaders' Declaration scheduled in September 2023 at New Delhi, bringing every G20 country at common agreement on Energy Transition will be a behemoth task which will require a lot of hard work for Line Ministries (MoP, MNRE, MoCoal, MoMines, MEA) with continuous discussions and engagements with G20 countries through bilateral

discussions, implementing their soft skill expertise in negotiations and bridging the gap between developed and developing economies by bringing a consensus on national as well as global priorities and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets.

I truly believe, India under its G20 Presidency shall work tirelessly to bring consensus on Energy Transition priority areas for its people and planet. Also, India can build on its record of energy and climate achievements, ambitious clean energy targets (Renewable, Energy Storage, Green Hydrogen), and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) initiative, to promote a model of green economic development at home and to the world. The G20 Presidency offers India a platform for its leadership, to address the twin energy and climate crises while putting people at the heart of international collaboration as India is striving to achieve its bold vision to transform its energy systems and pathways based on the Hon'ble Prime Minister's goal of net zero emissions by 2070. ■

# Six Months of Action-Oriented Presidency



**Harsh Vardhan Shringla**

*India's G20 Chief Coordinator*

**3** 1st May was a defining moment in India's year-long G20 Presidency. India has crossed the halfway mark of a journey that symbolically began with Indonesian President Joko Widodo handing the gavel to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Bali on November 16, 2022.

Since then, India has been the focus of global attention – with countries looking to the “Mother of Democracy” to find solutions for a multitude of crises bedeviling the world. And, we in India – 1.4 billion Indians – were more than willing to take on the task, readily welcoming the world to join us in the spirit of ‘One Earth, One Family, One Future’.

## Over 120 meetings in 50 cities

The ambitious goal of hosting more than 216 G20 related



*January 2023: Voice of Global South Summit*

meetings in about 60 cities seemed a bit challenging, when India initially took on the G20 Presidency six months ago on December 01, 2022.

To assume the Presidency of one of the most significant multilateral forums in the world and to conduct its meetings at an unprecedented scale was an ambitious goal – especially coming as it did, after the havoc wreaked by the pandemic.

Today, India can say with some satisfaction as we look back over the past 6 months of our G20 Presidency, that we have successfully organized and concluded over 120 meetings with some substantial outcomes.

In this journey, we were encouraged by our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's confident leadership. We were galvanized by his belief that a geographically, linguistically and culturally diverse country such as India has much to offer to the world. India's example of leveraging diversity as strength can potentially show the world a way out of an endless stream



*December 2022: 1st Sherpa Meeting, Udaipur*



February 2023: G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors Meeting, Bengaluru

of challenges that disrupt our endeavors to achieve prosperity today.

### Largest ever gathering of Foreign Ministers

In March 2023, India hosted the largest ever gathering of Foreign Ministers under a G20 Presidency. This was preceded by a meeting of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in February. At both the G20 gatherings, India highlighted problems faced by the Global South and made sure that these found resonance at the global high table for economic issues.

Raising the concerns of the Global South, amplifying

their voice at the G20 meetings was a testimony to India's commitment of an "inclusive" Presidency. At the start of the G20 Foreign Ministers' meet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the gathering included an earnest appeal to all G20 countries to come together and "focus not on what divides us, but on what unites us."

### Consensus on a majority of issues

With productive inputs and suggestions from all participants, both ministerial meetings were able to reach consensus on many seminal issues. The Chair Summary and Outcome Document of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting contained wide-ranging outcomes - from recognising the need for multilateral reforms to calls for greater G20 cooperation with Africa and from Global Skill Mapping reference for better integration of workers to finding ways to counter terrorism and narcotics.

The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting addressed many critical economic issues in its Chair Summary and Outcome Document. On topping up climate finance, the document reaffirmed the commitment made by developed countries to the goal of mobilizing USD 100 billion climate finance per year by 2020 and annually through 2025, to address the needs of developing countries. Additionally, there was a clear recognition of the urgent need to address debt



March 2023: G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, New Delhi

vulnerabilities in low and middle-income countries.

### Becoming the voice of the Global South

During its Presidency, India has strongly promoted the role of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in powering economic growth in the countries of the Global South and making significant strides in areas such as health, education, e-commerce and financial inclusion. To advance this conviction, the Digital Economy Working Group has focused on mobilizing G20 members to finance, design, build and regulate inclusive, inter-operable and secure DPIs.

Today, we hear louder calls from the Global South for reinvigorated multilateralism to make global governance more representative, effective, transparent and accountable. Under India's G20 Presidency, the concerns of the Global South are being highlighted quite strongly as developing countries face significant barriers in realising their developmental goals owing to greater vulnerabilities in the context of climate change, unsustainable debt, and food, fuel, fertilizer insecurity. In his remarks at the India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) Summit in Papua New Guinea, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that "India considers it a responsibility to bring the issues, expectations and aspirations of the Global South to the

attention of the world through the G20 platform".

### Advancing Food Security

With global food security concerns exacerbated by climate change, the 100th meeting under India's G20 Presidency – the Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists – brought India's traditional superfood – millets – in focus with the launch of the "Millets And OtHer Ancient GRains International ReSearch Initiative (MAHARISHI)".

India, the largest producer of millets in the world, has responsibly spearheaded this initiative to facilitate research and collaboration on these climate-resilient and nutritious grains. Being more water-efficient, pest-resistant, heat-tolerant, millets are also less dependent on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, making them good for the environment, people and farmers simultaneously.

### New Initiatives

Resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth is the guiding light for India's G20 Presidency, which has prompted India to initiate a new workstream for Disaster Risk Reduction. According to the World Meteorological Organization, extreme weather events of the last 50 years have cost the world over two million deaths and \$4.3 trillion in economic losses. The key idea behind this workstream



April 2023: Tourism Working Group Meeting, Darjeeling



May 2023: Tourism Working Group Meeting, Srinagar

is that if the lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure remain vulnerable to such shocks, which are only increasing in frequency as well as intensity, then all our efforts to ensure global prosperity can potentially be rendered futile.

To break out of this loop, there is an urgent need to rapidly expand the Global Coverage of Early Warning Systems, make infrastructure systems disaster-resilient and put in place stronger national financial mechanisms. In this context, the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group will aim to achieve the targets identified in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Another unique legacy of our G20 Presidency will be the newly established Engagement Group - Startup20. Startups fuel innovation and economic growth with their immense potential to respond to a rapidly evolving environment. India believes that the innovation and adaptability of startups played a critical role in navigating our way out of the Covid-19 pandemic and they can liberate us from many more contemporary challenges. The twin objectives of the group are to harmonize global startup ecosystems to facilitate their working together while preserving the freedom of national startup ecosystems to grow as they desire. As the third largest startup ecosystem in the world, India

is committed to creating a policy framework which can harness the potential of Startups to script new stories of growth.

### Looking Forward

In the past six months, India has organized more than 120 meetings under its G20 Presidency.

Our overarching aim has been to unite the world on issues of global importance with “a human-centric approach,” as Prime Minister Narendra Modi put it.

Our Presidency is working steadfastly to ensure long-lasting solutions, using technology on a humanity-wide scale and creating avenues for better collaboration to foster research and development.

The emphasis on oneness and unity has been the hallmark of India’s G20 Presidency, as stated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat, where he said “the biggest change can be brought about by collective effort.”

As India embarks on the next crucial six months of its G20 Presidency, starting with many ministerial level meetings this month, we look forward to many more tangible outcomes that will deliver our promise of an “action-oriented” G20 Presidency. ■



# Environment, Climate & Sustainability Working Group

## 3rd Meeting

MAY 21-23, 2023 | MUMBAI



**Leena Nandan**

Secretary, Ministry of Environment,  
Forests & Climate Change

The third meeting of G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) took place in Mumbai from May 21-23, 2023. The three-day meeting was attended by 141 delegates from G20 countries and 10 invitee countries. The representatives of 14 international organisations were also a part of the deliberations.

Each of the previous two meetings were focussed on a specific priority area and were supported by a side event. The 3rd ECSWG focussed on Blue Economy with two side events – Mega Beach Clean Up and the Ocean 20 Dialogue on Day 1 of the meeting.

The purpose of the Mega Beach Clean Up event was to sensitise and raise awareness about the impact of marine waste on the environment and encourage people to take action for preventing the same. The importance

***“Through the beach clean up event, we want to give this message to the whole world that every action of ours should be environment friendly”***

**Eknath Shinde**  
Chief Minister of Maharashtra





**| Beach Clean Up in Australia**

of individual efforts and community participation in mitigating this environmental challenge was highlighted

(LiFE). The beach cleaning was not only a manifestation of sustainable coastal management and ocean economy,



**| Beach Clean Up in Türkiye**

but also was a demonstration of how individual and community actions can have an impact even on marine litter which is caused because of plastic that goes into the oceans due to human activity, and harms the biodiversity of the oceans. It resonates with the call to action under 'Jan Bhagidari', one of our nationally determined objectives to encourage community participation in local governance. So, the cleaning of the beaches is closely connected to the larger issue of marine pollution, which can be addressed by a change in our own behaviour towards the environment.



**| Beach Clean Up in Mauritius**

through this event. The event was aligned with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's call for 'Swachhta' and 'Jan Bhagidari', emphasising the significance of individual actions through the concept of 'Lifestyle for Environment'



**| Hon'ble dignitaries at the Beach Clean Up**

This initiative witnessed participation of 20 countries namely Argentina, Australia, Canada, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, United Kingdom and the United States covering 37 Indian beaches from the coastal states and Union Territories. The event in Juhu attended by the G20 delegates of the 3rd ECSWG meeting showcased the power of collective action in addressing the global issue of marine pollution. Some of the activities undertaken included the pledge wall where the participants pledged to conserve oceans and coasts and committed to take action against ocean pollution. Painting competitions by



**“It is imperative for G20 countries to collectively address the inter-related matters of climate change and biodiversity loss through joint international efforts”**

**Kapil Moreshwar Patil**  
Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj



children to show the effects of marine pollution, marine animal conservation awareness campaigns, and plastic recycling efforts, were some of the other activities.

To give a significant boost to the initiative, the Mega Beach Clean Up activity at Juhu was attended by esteemed personalities. Shri Bhupender Yadav, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), and Labour and Employment took part in the signature event, accompanied by distinguished guests including the Governor of Maharashtra Shri Ramesh Bais; Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Eknath Shinde; Minister of State for Environment Forest and Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey Shri Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Minister of the Government of Maharashtra along with senior officials from both centre and the state government and G20 delegates.



**| Delegates at Juhu Beach for Beach Clean Up**

The dignitaries along with volunteers and delegates engaged in beach clean-up activity. The beach selfie point garnered significant attention, offering a picturesque backdrop for capturing memorable moments. The stall showcasing recycled items made from plastic served as a noteworthy attraction. The stall displayed benches, car dustbins and various other products crafted from recycled plastic. The renowned sand artist, Sudarsan Pattnaik, skilfully crafted a captivating sand art installation on the beach aligning it perfectly with the event's theme. The



**| Sand Art at Juhu Beach**

artwork prominently featured the G20 logo alongside Prakriti, the mascot for LiFE, symbolising the importance of sustainable living. The event showcased a collection of paintings created by approximately 5900 school students from across the country. These young artists participated in an art competition centred around the theme of coastal and marine pollution, of which 100 paintings were thoughtfully selected and displayed at the venue.

With an enthusiastic turnout of nearly 16,000 volunteers from across the country, the Mega Beach Clean Up demonstrated the power of individual actions in making a tangible difference. The second side event of the day, the Ocean 20 Dialogue emerged as a valuable platform for knowledge sharing and served as a guiding light towards a sustainable and climate-resilient Blue Economy. International experts, innovators, policy makers and industry leaders came together to engage in fruitful discussions on various crucial aspects, building on the preparatory work being done under India's G20 Presidency. The three pillars of Ocean 20 Dialogue, emerging science & technology, and innovation driven solutions, addressing challenges associated with effective policy and governance, and establishing finance mechanisms to support national and regional Blue Economy initiatives were discussed. Challenges such as



**| Panel discussion at Ocean 20 Dialogue**

investor confidence and standardized measurements also came up for discussion along with the need for adaptive policies and private sector's involvement. Strategies including coordination, stakeholder engagement, and marine spatial planning were highlighted. Financial institutions were recognized as key players in establishing Blue Finance Mechanisms, with innovative measures attracting private sector investments and the importance of transparency and reporting sustainability was the emphasis. Overall, these sessions underscored the importance of science, technology, policy coherence, stakeholder participation, and financial mechanisms in advancing the Blue Economy agenda. The sessions also provided further backing to the proposed outcome documents like the G20 High Level Principles for a Sustainable and Climate Resilient Blue Economy.

The second day kickstarted with an inaugural address by Shri Kapil M Patil, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj, who applauded the Working Group on the tremendous success of the Mega Beach Clean Up event and appreciated the hard work done by the ECSWG in the area of climate change and environment issues.

The focus of the 3rd ECSWG was to steer the discussions around the Communique with an outcome-driven approach, with deliberations tuned towards achieving consensus amongst the G20 countries.



#### | Day 2 of the meeting

The delegates reiterated their commitment to work together to protect the environment and discussed the ways for a climate resilient economy.

To encourage an inclusive approach to collaborate with different working groups, the ECSWG during the 3rd meeting invited the members of the Energy Transition Working Group (ETWG) to make a presentation on the transition towards use of clean energy, a much-needed climate solution at present. The presentation by the Energy Transitions Working Group highlighted progress on key



#### | LiFE stall at Gateway of India

priority areas and deliverables. The emerging consensus across focus areas were discussed as cross-cutting issues with the Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group. The ECSWG emphasised the intent to work in close coordination with other working groups to ensure integration and provide holistic solutions to tackle environmental degradation and climate change.

The delegates at the 3rd Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group meeting witnessed a captivating cultural programme and 'Samvad' over dinner at The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai on the second day of the meeting. A dance performance highlighting the classical dance forms of India and another highlighting a sound and light show was organised at the Gateway of India. G20 delegates got a chance to see the Gateway of India, Marine Drive, Flora Fountain and Chhatrapati



#### | Delegates interact with the artists at the gala dinner

Shivaji Terminus, which is an architecturally beautiful railway station and a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The 3rd ECSWG meeting ended on a discussion mode with respect to the Communique, to be further deliberated upon and refined in the virtual meetings scheduled over the next few weeks, as a run up to the 4th and the final ECSWG meeting, to be held in Chennai from July 26th - 27th, 2023 culminating in the Ministerial meet on July 28th, 2023. ■

# Accelerating Innovation

## The Case and Importance of Global R&D Collaboration in Healthcare, Pharma & Med-Tech Sector



**S. Aparna**

Secretary,  
Department of Pharmaceuticals

The 21st century has been marred by multiple outbreaks of epidemics and pandemics including Ebola, Nipah virus, H1N1, Avian Influenza, Japanese encephalitis, Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS CoV), Chikungunya, Dengue, and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) causing disruption on social & economic fronts globally. These disease outbreaks highlighted the fragility of global supply chains along with the challenges of inequitable access, availability, and affordability of quality Medical Countermeasures [Vaccines, Therapeutics and Diagnostics (VTDs)] across the world, but more particularly in low-and middle-income countries (LMICs). The rapid spread of the virus across borders demonstrated that a localized approach is insufficient in combating a highly contagious and rapidly evolving pathogen. As the world grappled with the devastating consequences of health emergencies, it became clear that accelerating innovation through research and development (R&D) collaboration is paramount. By harnessing the collective knowledge, resources, and expertise of nations, we can strengthen pandemic prevention and preparedness, leading to more effective responses and safeguarding global health.

Global R&D collaboration is essential to understand the pathogen, develop effective diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines, and devise strategies for managing future health emergencies.

### Need for Global R&D Collaboration

Innovation in healthcare, pharmaceuticals, and medical technology has been instrumental in improving human health and saving lives. However, the pace of progress can be hindered by challenges such as resource constraints, regulatory hurdles, and complex research processes. To overcome these obstacles and unlock the full potential of innovation, global collaboration in research and



**DoP-FIND Co-branded Event held on 16<sup>TH</sup> April in Goa before 2<sup>ND</sup> HWG Meeting**  
 FIND and Unitaidd co-hosted a high-level meeting to strengthen cooperation and enable sustainable development and manufacturing of effective, quality and affordable diagnostic countermeasures

development (R&D) is essential.

Collaboration in R&D is crucial not only for developing robust surveillance systems, forecasting models, and early warning mechanisms to detect and respond to emerging pathogens promptly but also for fostering cooperation among nations, sharing knowledge and resources, and leveraging diverse expertise. Through this we can accelerate innovation in critical sectors of VTDs, leading to ground-breaking advancements and improved healthcare outcomes worldwide.



*Department of Pharmaceuticals in partnership with Indian National Science Academy organised a S20 Webinar on “An Integrated Approach to Combat Neo-Infections: A Way Forward, through Vaccines, Diagnostics and Therapeutics”*

Despite numerous challenges during the pandemic, it was effectively demonstrated that collaborative models, such as ACT Accelerator, Oxford-AstraZeneca collaboration, can help in accelerating timelines to provide end-to-end solutions for R&D, technology, manufacturing, distribution, and for enhancing prevention, preparedness, and response to health emergencies. The state of the global healthcare ecosystem necessitates to think beyond physical boundaries and reinforce coordination and support to combat emerging diseases. By establishing collaborative networks and sharing expertise in vaccine development, anti-viral therapies, and advanced manufacturing capabilities, nations can rapidly respond to future health emergencies, minimizing their impact on lives and livelihoods. Furthermore, collaboration fosters innovation in digital health technologies, remote monitoring, and telemedicine, which have proven to be invaluable for strengthening global health architecture. By harnessing these technologies and sharing knowledge about their implementation, countries can strengthen their healthcare systems and ensure continuous access to care, even in times of crisis.

### India’s efforts to enhance global R&D collaboration

India’s G20 Presidency calls for ‘One Earth, One Family,

One Future’. During various meetings under the Health Working Group (HWG) the focus has been on the Global medical countermeasures (MCMs) platform and VTDs, R&D and Manufacturing Networks. This is a continuation of the agenda from Indonesia’s G20 Presidency, initiated by Italy during its G20 Presidency.

Under second priority of the Health Working Group - Strengthening cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector with focus on access to and availability of safe, effective, quality and affordable medical countermeasures such as vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, the Department of Pharmaceuticals has taken various initiatives including organising webinars with industry and academic stakeholders under B20, S20 initiatives, respectively and cobranded events seeking outcome-oriented actions to foster & support an ecosystem of innovation across the country. These sessions echoed a strong sentiment and need for collaboration in R&D across verticals like vaccines, therapeutics & diagnostics, to build strong industry-academia linkages for end-to-end research collaboration. India, known as the ‘pharmacy of the world’, supports the idea of streamlining all R&D initiatives in a structured and cohesive manner under a global R&D network to foster an environment of enhanced collaboration for effective preparedness for health emergencies and make the world a better place for all.

### Pillars of the Global R&D Network



Collaboration between regional research networks and centers of excellence can play a vital role in addressing VTD R&D challenges, as no single organization or resource possesses all the required knowledge and expertise. This approach ensures sustainable solutions by leveraging diverse capabilities and fostering collective problem-solving. ■

# Development Working Group

## 3rd Meeting

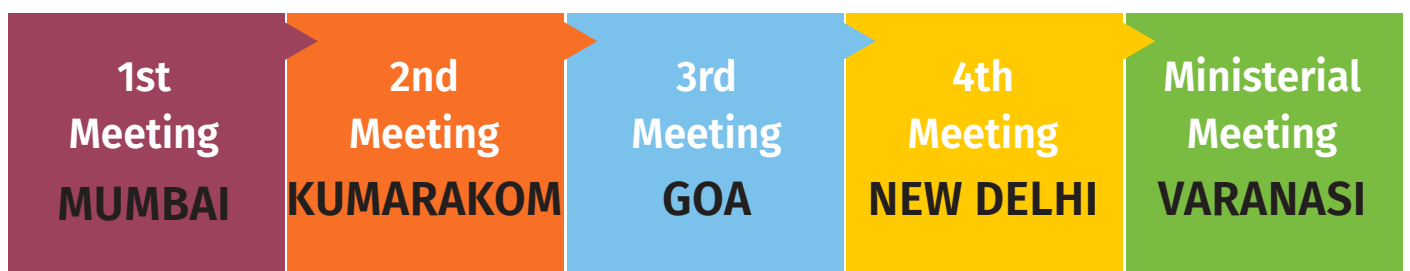
APRIL 09-11, 2023 | GOA

The 3rd Development Working Group Meeting was held in the vibrant state of Goa. Over 80 delegates from G20 members, 9 invitee countries, and various international and regional organizations participated. The meeting was inaugurated by the Secretary (Economic Relations) of the Ministry of External Affairs Shri Dammu Ravi. The meeting was chaired by India's DWG Co-Chairs – Ministry of External Affairs Joint Secretaries Mr K Nagaraj Naidu and Ms Eenam Gambhir.

The three-day meeting witnessed extensive deliberations on various development priorities proposed by India along with the G20 Action Plan to Accelerate Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, and the G20 High-level Principles on Lifestyle for Environment. These discussions are essential in providing the necessary political thrust and momentum to the efforts on achieving the 2030 Agenda. ■



### Development Working Group



# RIIG CONFERENCE

MAY 18, 2023 | DIU



**Mesmerizing and stunning sand art, “the exhibition of G20**

**countries sculpted at Diu”, resonating the G20 summit theme truly of One Earth, One Family, One Future**

**Praful K Patel**

*Administrator of Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu*

## Scientific Challenges and Opportunities for a Sustainable Blue Economy

The tranquil Diu overlooking the Arabian sea hosted the Research Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) Conference with a focus on ‘Scientific Challenges and Opportunities for a Sustainable Blue Economy’. There were discussions along key sub-themes like Blue Economy Sectors and Opportunities, Marine Pollution, Coastal and Marine Ecosystems and Biodiversity, Observations, Data and Information Services, Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, Deep-Sea Exploration, New and Renewable Offshore Energy, and Blue Economy Policies and Strategies.

RIIG is a new initiative of the G20 Forum,



initiated during the Indonesian Presidency in 2022. During India's G20 Presidency, the RIIG initiative is working under the main theme of "Research and Innovation for Equitable Society". At the conference, India presented the first draft of the Research Ministers declaration that will be adopted at the Research Ministers meeting in Mumbai on July 05, 2023. ■



Exhibition of India's journey to G20



The G20 countries and International Organisations, which participated in the conference are Brazil, Indonesia, Australia, Japan, Italy, France, Germany, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, European Union, Spain, Singapore, Norway and International Solar Alliance.



# G20: United against Fugitive Economic Offenders



**Rahul Singh**

Additional Secretary DoPT,  
Chair of G20 ACWG

At the Buenos Aires G20 Summit in 2018, Honourable Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi put forth the Nine Point Agenda for Action against Fugitive Economic Offences and Asset Recovery. India called for strong and active cooperation across G20 countries in legal processes and mechanisms to deny safe haven to all fugitive economic offenders, effective implementation of international commitments, establishment of international cooperation for timely and comprehensive exchange of information, formulation of a standard definition of fugitive economic offenders, development of a set of commonly agreed and standardized procedures for dealing with fugitive economic offenders by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), setting up of a common platform for sharing experiences and best practices and initiation of work on locating properties of economic offenders who have a tax debt in the country of their residence for its recovery. The basis of India's strong agenda towards combating corruption and focussing on return of economic offenders and asset recovery is its own domestic legal framework on Fugitive Economic Offenders through the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act 2018 and a strong will of the political leadership to achieve practical and effective results regarding enhancement of international cooperation in Corruption and Economic Crimes, Offenders and Recovery of Stolen Assets.

Through the Nine Point Agenda, India drew the attention of the world towards the trend of an individual or a group of individuals committing grave economic offences and fleeing from the jurisdiction of courts in their countries, thereby jeopardizing the criminal proceedings against them. These Fugitive Economic Offenders often take refuge in safe havens abroad and escape punitive legal action. The processes for extradition of the accused, and tracing, attaching and repatriating the proceeds of such crime are long-drawn and involve complex legal procedures.

This makes the return of fugitive economic offenders and recovery of their illicit assets more challenging.

The impact of economic offences such as money laundering, banking fraud and tax evasion on national and global economies is serious. These crimes pose a major threat to financial and fiscal sustainability of a country. There are several cases of economic offences that involve deliberate corporate debt overhang and default in repayment of bank loans. The magnitude of these offences has the potential of undermining the resilience of the banking sector and draining public resources. Large sums of money that get diverted further aggravate tax liabilities and debt sustainability, while acts of tax evasion compromise the fairness and integrity of tax systems. The ultimate victim of such crimes is the common man who must bear the brunt of flaws in domestic and international frameworks for action against corruption and economic crimes, and the recovery of stolen assets.



***“We need to cooperate with each other for the effective implementation of the international commitments that we have towards each other and see the formulation of a standard definition of fugitive economic offender”***

**Dr Jitendra Singh**

Union Minister of State  
(Independent Charge)  
Science & Technology  
Minister of State, PMO

G20 leaders recognized the importance of the issue and committed to explore the links between corruption and other economic crimes and ways to tackle them, including through cooperation on the return of persons sought for such offences and stolen assets. In 2019, G20 countries affirmed to continue practical cooperation to fight corruption and deny safe haven to persons sought for corruption and their proceeds. In the 2020 G20 Anti-Corruption Working



Group (ACWG) meetings, India along with international organisations like OECD, UNODC, FATF and World Bank and fellow G20 countries, finalised a Scoping paper and a G20 Action paper on International Cooperation dealing with Economic Crimes, Offenders and Recovery of Stolen Assets; and G20 Action Paper on International Cooperation on Corruption and Economic Crimes, Offenders and Recovery of Stolen Assets. In 2021, India as co-chair of G20 ACWG played a key role along with other G20 countries and International Organizations in presenting the five think pieces related to Asset Recovery, Information Sharing, Law Enforcement Cooperation, Technology and Denial of Safe Haven. These efforts have led to the subject of International Cooperation dealing with Economic Crimes, Offenders and Recovery of Stolen Assets being identified as a substantive priority for future work of G20 ACWG, and hence becoming a part of Action Plan for G20 ACWG for 2022-24.

Despite the existence of international legal frameworks and mechanisms against Fugitive Economic Offenders, there is a need for further strengthening of international cooperation. It is imperative that all countries adhere to the gamut of applicable international obligations relevant to economic crimes. Appropriate mechanisms ought to be available within domestic legal systems to overcome the obstacles that may arise, for example, out of bank secrecy laws. The objective is to send a strong signal that corruption in any form is unacceptable and that G20 members deny safe haven to all those who engage in such behaviour, irrespective of their country of origin. G20 countries should provide maximum assistance to each other and reduce the compliance



***“This event signifies the collective resolve to confront the challenges and complexities that arise when gender intersects with corruption. Confident that by working together, we can pave the way for a more inclusive, just, and equitable society”***

### **Meenakashi Lekhi**

*Union Minister of State for External Affairs & Culture*

related formalities for cooperation regarding fugitive economic offenders, including by modifying dual criminality requirements. Legal proceedings for extradition in corruption matters should be expedited by increasing mutual understanding and reappraising evidentiary threshold requirements.

With the larger aim of applying a whole-of-government approach and ensuring cross-agency cooperation, robust mechanisms should be developed for proactive formal and informal information sharing both within and between relevant authorities of the countries for combating different forms of economic crimes. Capacity building and allocation of sufficient resources should be available to enable authorities in detecting, auditing, investigating and disrupting economic crimes through international cooperation. Tax information ought to be utilized in the



detection of economic crimes as well as embezzlement, money-laundering and asset recovery cases.

During its chairmanship of the G20 ACWG in 2023, India is proposing highest-level commitments regarding Strengthening Asset Recovery Mechanisms related to Corruption and Economic Crimes, Improving Information Sharing for Action against Corruption and Economic Crimes, and Strengthening Law Enforcement Cooperation for Action against Economic Crimes including Offences against Corruption. G20 countries should make it a priority in their anti-corruption strategies and strengthen the legal framework to deter economic crimes and deny safe haven to the economic offenders. Our efforts will surely help in building consensus among both emerging and advanced economies to join hands and stand united against fugitive economic offenders. ■



**“India is committed to international cooperation in combating corruption and promoting transparency”**

**Ajay Bhatt**  
Union Minister of State for Defence & Tourism

# Anti-Corruption Working Group

## 2nd Meeting

MAY 25-27, 2023 | RISHIKESH



# Culture Working Group

## 2nd Meeting

MAY 14-17, 2023 | BHUBANESWAR



**Lily Pandeya**

Joint Secretary, G20,  
Ministry of Culture

## Embracing Diversity and Fostering Inclusivity

India assumed the G20 Presidency on December 1, 2022, enunciating the theme of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'. India's G20 theme spotlights LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), with its associated environmentally sustainable and responsible choices, both at the level of individual lifestyles as well as national development. The Culture Working Group is predicated on 'Culture for LiFE' as an initiative for environmentally conscious lifestyle and a concerted action towards sustainability. The Culture Working Group has been working towards achieving consensus and strengthening cooperation on four key priority areas - Protection and Restitution of Cultural Property, Harnessing Living Heritage for a Sustainable Future, Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries and Creative Economy, and Leveraging Digital Technologies for Protection and Promotion of Culture.

The 2nd meeting of the Culture Working Group under India's G20 presidency was organised from May 14-17, 2023 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, with the participation of representatives from G20 members, guest nations, and several international organisations. Building upon the 1st meeting of the Culture Working Group held in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh, and the four expert-driven Global Thematic Webinars in March-April, the 2nd meeting of Culture Working Group took forward the discussion on the four priorities to establish the framework for future cooperation and joint initiatives.



India's G20 Culture Working Group in collaboration with UNESCO as the knowledge partner organised four Global Thematic Webinars. These webinars fostered an inclusive dialogue and facilitated an in-depth discussion from an expert-driven perspective on providing action-oriented recommendations on the four key priority areas which articulate some of the most pressing challenges faced by the culture sector today. A wide range of national policy mechanisms, frameworks and conceptual approaches were presented by the countries on each priority. These enriching and collaborative dialogues delved into best practices, addressed gaps and challenges and proposed actions that guided the 2nd meeting of the Culture Working Group, and paved the way for the next 2 meetings.

The meeting consisted of 4 sessions on each of the priority areas along with the opening and closing sessions. These sessions, spread over two days, entailed statements by G20 members, guest nations, international organisations and engagement groups on potential recommendations. On the inaugural day,

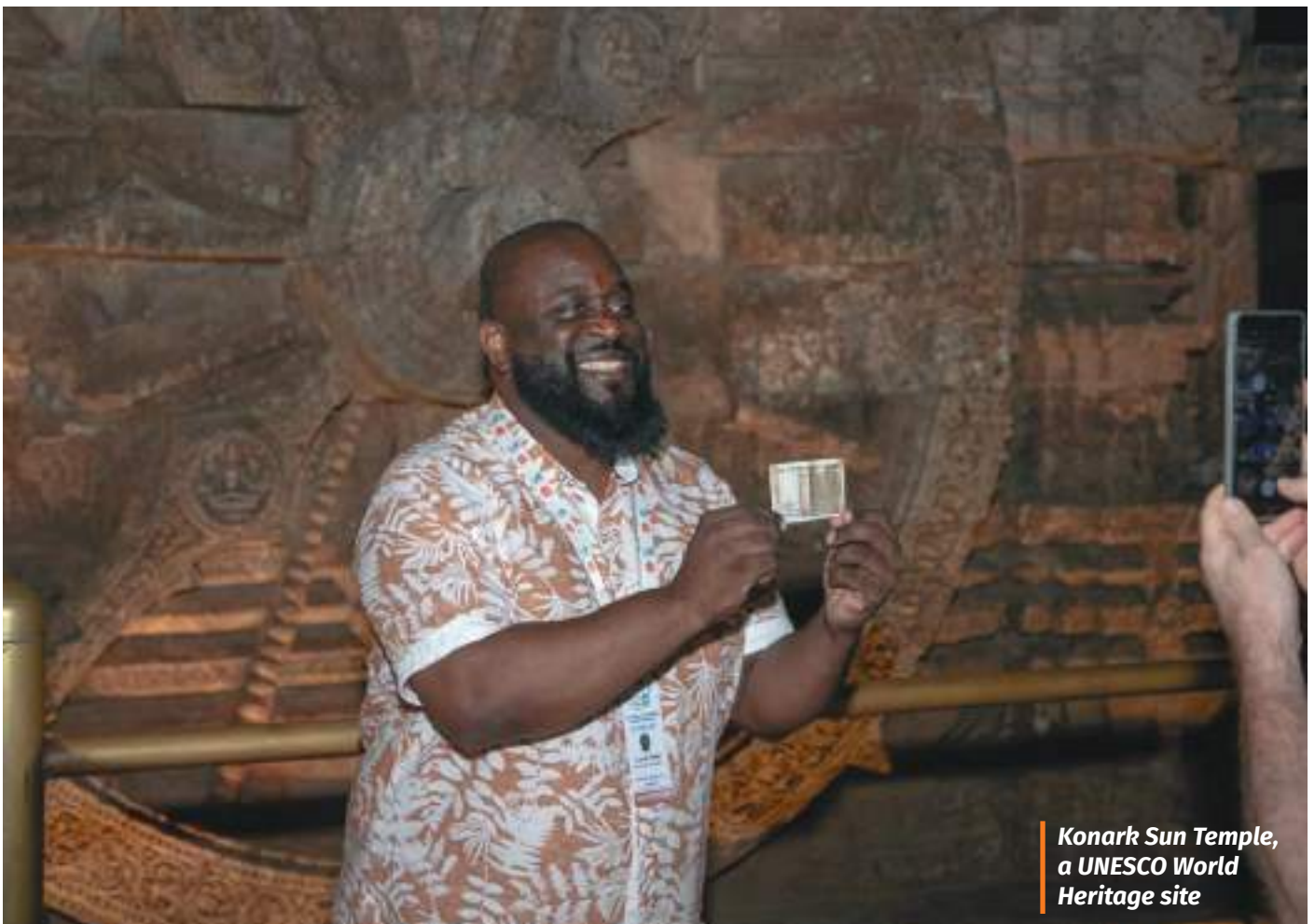


***“Culture plays an important role in global policy making, as it leads to more inclusive and sustainable solutions to address contemporary challenges”***

**G Kishan Reddy**

*Union Minister For Culture, Tourism & Development Of North Eastern Region*

two sessions were held which focused on Priority 1 (Protection and Restitution of Cultural Property) and Priority 2 (Harnessing Living Heritage for a Sustainable Future) respectively. The second day of the meeting began with a technical session on shaping action-oriented outcomes for Priority 3 (Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries and Creative Economy) followed by Priority 4 (Leveraging Digital Technologies for the Protection and Promotion of Culture). At the end of the



**Konark Sun Temple,  
a UNESCO World  
Heritage site**



**“Culture is the key to maintain relations among countries and communities, increasing understanding and creation of a permanent**

**and inclusive future”**

**Nityanand Rai**

Minister of State for Home Affairs



**| Gandhi Peace Centre, Bhubaneswar**

session, Hon’ble Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs Ms Meenakshi Lekhi addressed the delegates and dignitaries drawing attention to the importance of creativity, collaboration, and innovation as a harbinger of sustainability.

An exhibition titled ‘Sustain: The Craft Idiom’ was organised in Kala Bhoomi - Odisha Craft Museum during the meeting. The theme of the exhibition was reflective of the second priority of the Culture Working Group (CWG) - ‘Harnessing Living Heritage for a Sustainable Future.’ This specially curated cultural exhibition was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik; Hon’ble Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER Shri G. Kishan Reddy; and Hon’ble Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Nityanand Rai.

The exhibition presented varied expressions of India’s age-old living heritage and indigenous knowledge



**| Kala Bhoomi Odisha Crafts Museum**

systems that have sustained individuals, communities, and societies in shaping their beliefs, values, and traditions since time immemorial. ‘Sustain - The Craft Idiom’ showcased Akshara, Stambh and demonstrations by master artisans and teachers. Over 35 crafts and various languages and scripts of India through objects and live teaching demonstrations were presented during the exhibition. Foremost, the goal of ‘Sustain’ was to create awareness amongst visitors, professionals and policy makers about our living heritage practices, the mindful utilisation of natural resources, and the harmonious coexistence between humankind and nature.

The expression ‘Culture Unites All’ was formulated during the 1st meeting of the Culture Working Group at Khajuraho to highlight India’s unwavering belief in multilateralism based on peaceful coexistence among diverse cultures and communities. Delegates from the G20 members, guest countries and international organisations came together on a shared platform and scribed ‘Culture Unites All’ in their respective native languages on a canvas - an expression of a united voice and a shared ambition.

‘Culture Unites All’ was launched as a campaign during the 2nd Culture Working Group meeting in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Encapsulating the essence of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’, the message of ‘Culture Unites All’ embodies a holistic vision for a collective sustainable future and universal well-being. For this campaign, Shri Sudarshan Pattnaik, Padma Shri awardee created a sand art installation at the Puri Beach on May 14, 2023. This installation was inaugurated by Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Hon’ble Union Minister of Culture, Tourism and DoNER and Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon’ble Minister of State



**“Culture is one way of engagement which can bring everyone together”**

**Meenakashi Lekhi**

Union Minister of State for External Affairs & Culture



**| Sand sculpture at Puri beach**



**| Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves, Bhubaneswar**



for Culture and Parliamentary Affairs.

Along with discussions and bilateral meetings, the delegates also participated in specially curated cultural experiences during their visit to Odisha. The delegates witnessed remarkable performances of Odissi, Sambalpuri, and Singari dance, and Buddhist martial arts organised by the State Government. With the conclusion of the sessions, the delegates were taken for a visit to the Konark Sun Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site, located in the Puri district of Odisha and viewed the historic Gotipua dance of Odisha against the backdrop of this architectural marvel. An excursion to the Udayagiri and Khandagiri caves in Bhubaneswar was also organised.

Building upon the deliberations and discussions of the 2nd meeting of the Culture Working Group, the nations emphasised on the importance of preserving heritage, supporting cultural entrepreneurship and cultural digitalisation. The expected outcomes that India aims to achieve through this Culture Working Group include mainstreaming traditional knowledge systems and living heritage practices spanning diverse areas of socio-economic development; devising instruments, mechanisms and building conceptual studies for in-depth analysis to determine the role of culture in achieving sustainable development goals by integrating culture in the overall policy framework of G20 members. It’s inspiring to note the efforts made by various countries in implementing national policies and strategies related to the integration of cultural heritage. It is through these crucial meetings that the Culture Working Group aspires for more meaningful tangible outcomes, building on the expertise and best practices across the G20 membership.

The 3rd meeting of the Culture Working Group is set to convene in Hampi from July 9-12, 2023, which will be succeeded by the Culture Ministers’ Meeting scheduled to take place in Varanasi from August 23-25, 2023. ■

# Think20 India Bridging the Ingenuity Gap



**Samir Saran**

President  
Observer Research Foundation,  
Chair, Think20 Secretariat

India assumed its G20 Presidency in the midst of global flux. Post-pandemic recovery efforts were uncertain and uneven; the Ukraine crisis had resulted in supply-chain bottlenecks and consequent global stagflation; and the perennial onslaught of the “elephant in the room”—global warming and climate change—had only exacerbated the challenges.

While unveiling the logo and the theme, PM Modi posited the country as an architect for a forward-looking and result-oriented agenda for the world and the G20 as an exemplar of change, a vision for sustainability and growth, and a platform engaging with all that matters to the global south. Prime Minister’s vision, of drawing on India’s age-old ethic of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, strongly reiterated that inclusiveness and global cooperation would undergird India’s G20 Presidency.

A framework of 4Ds delineates India’s identification of its priorities as President—the promotion of decarbonisation, digitalisation, equitable development, and the de-escalation of conflict. This approach is reflected across the thematic areas of Think20 (T20) India—the G20’s official Engagement Group for think tanks—which is often referred to as the “ideas bank” of the G20. The exchange of perspectives among high-level experts, research institutions, and academics that the T20 facilitates lends analytical depth and rigor to the G20’s deliberations. The T20, thus, institutionalised what Thomas Homer-Dixon calls “ingenuity” or the “production of ideas”, and helps bridge “the ingenuity gap”, i.e. the critical gap between the demand for actionable, innovative ideas to solve complex challenges and the actual production of those ideas.



The 4Ds are closely oriented towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As such, these framing ideas or principles are reflected across the T20’s seven Task Forces, which deal with ‘Macroeconomics, Trade, and Livelihoods’; ‘Our Common Digital Future’; ‘LiFE, Resilience, and Values for Well-being’; ‘Clean Energy and Green Transitions’; ‘Reassessing the Global Financial Order’; ‘Accelerating SDGs’; and ‘Reformed Multilateralism’.

### Constitution of Think20 Task Forces



The T20 Mid-Year Conference took place in Mumbai on 10-12 May 2023. Three hundred attendees and Task Force members from across the G20 countries deliberated on the seven selected themes and took stock of the T20’s achievements thus far and the road ahead. Two particular elements of T20 India’s research and engagements stand out—its focus on mainstreaming gender and promoting gender equality, and its efforts to ensure that the African continent is an integral part of all conversations. India, being the second of four successive emerging economies to lead the G20 (Indonesia, India, Brazil, and South Africa will have been G20 Presidents between 2022 and 2025), has not only been a prominent voice of the Global South but has specifically put forth the unique developmental imperatives of the African landmass.

A key activity at the Mid-Year Conference was to finalise the Task Force Statements, which are vision documents about the Task Forces’ areas of engagement. The T20 Communiqué, a summary of recommendations to feed into the G20 process, is being drafted based on these statements and will be launched at the Think20 India Summit in Mysuru in August 2023. Moreover, as the term of the Indian T20 crosses its mid-point, it has already hosted over 50 events across the country and beyond and published over 125 Policy Briefs (PBs) with many

more in the pipeline. These briefs are the outcome of processing raw ideas and producing them as actionable inputs.



The ethos of ‘Jan Bhagidari’ (or broad-based civic participation in governance) has underpinned the Indian Presidency’s efforts to take the G20 and its ideas to constituencies such as the youth, women, businesses, and civil society. Recognising the youth and women as essential partners in development and growth, the Mumbai Conference engaged actively with these target groups, and over 100 students from schools, colleges, and universities across Mumbai and Pune took part in the event.



**Think20 Publications**



**Think20 Convenings**



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# Trade & Investment Working Group

## 2nd Meeting

MAY 23-25, 2023 | BENGALURU



**The 2nd meeting of the Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) concluded in Bengaluru with a collaborative roadmap to make global trade inclusive and progressive**

The 2nd Meeting of G20 TIWG was held in Bengaluru, Karnataka from May 23-25, 2023. Over 75 delegates from G20 member countries, invitee countries, regional groupings and international organizations were present in India's Silicon Valley to discuss the 5th Priority Issue under India's G20 Presidency, WTO Reforms, and to continue the discussions from the 1st Meeting of TIWG meeting held in Mumbai from March 28-30, 2023.

On May 23, the first day of TIWG, a seminar on Technology and Trade was organized. The first panel discussed how technology is reshaping trade and the second panel discussed the transformative tools that can be utilized to revolutionize manufacturing and trade. Nearly 200 delegates and representatives from the technology sector and business community engaged on issues lying at the intersection of trade and technology.

The seminar was followed by a guided city tour organized for the G20 delegates. It covered architectural landmarks, including Bangalore Palace, Vidhan Soudha, Mahatma Gandhi Statue, Government Museum, the Museum of Art & Photography, and the Garden City's favourite Cubbon Park. The same evening, delegates enjoyed a cultural programme along with the gala dinner.





On May 24, the 2nd Meeting of TIWG was inaugurated by the Minister of State (MoS) for Commerce and Industry Smt. Anupriya Patel. While delivering the keynote address, she opined that WTO Reforms are of utmost importance since WTO forms the backbone of the multilateral trading system. Shri Som Parkash, MoS for Commerce and Industry, who was also present during the inaugural ceremony added that in recent years, India has made significant progress in facilitating ease of doing business.

Continuing the discussions from the 1st TIWG meeting held in Mumbai, five technical sessions were also organized in Bengaluru. These included, High-Level Principles for Digitalization of Trade Documents, Action Plan to Create Meta Information Portal for MSMEs, Framework for Mapping GVCs, Compendium of Best Practices on Mutual Recognition Agreements, and G20 Regulatory Dialogue.

### High-Level Principles on Digitalization of Trade Documents

The G20 members, invitee countries and international organizations broadly agreed on some of the benefits that included cost reduction, increased efficiency and improved transparency. Several member countries also extended their support for framing principles to accelerate transition towards paperless trade.

### Action Plan to Create Meta Information Portal for MSMEs

G20 members collectively recognized the challenges faced by MSMEs across member countries with respect to access to information. Many countries supported India's proposal for developing an Action Plan to address this challenge. There was also a broad consensus that G20 offers a remarkable opportunity to integrate MSMEs in global trade by addressing information asymmetry faced by them.

### Generic Framework for Mapping GVCs

India's G20 Presidency noted the concerns expressed by some members regarding the technical challenges and data security issues. Delegates agreed that G20 offers a meaningful platform for making Global Value Chains (GVCs) resilient during disruptions and future pandemics.



***“We have witnessed a remarkable transformation through embracing open markets and global integration. This has also been driven by a robust entrepreneurial spirit and steadfast government support”***

**Som Parkash**

Union Minister of State for Commerce & Industry



***“The G20 Regulatory Dialogue will enable informal dialogues on exchanging good regulatory practices among countries, and will infuse transparency, predictability in framing and application of regulations”***

**Anupriya Patel**

Union Minister of State for Commerce & Industry



**Compendium of Best Practices on Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs)**

Some members expressed that the compendium on MRAs should be extended to broader service areas and called for greater cooperation. The deliberations highlighted that a compendium on MRAs can be beneficial for the sensitization of professional bodies in various countries towards the ongoing development in MRAs.

**G20 Regulatory Dialogue**

Member countries acknowledged the benefits of having a regular dialogue and exchange of information on regulations that impact various areas of trade and

investment. India’s G20 Presidency also assured that all the efforts would be made to make this dialogue focused on the most critical regulatory challenges that impact the international trade and investment ecosystem.

Chair of the Meeting, Shri Sunil Barthwal, Secretary, Department of Commerce said that the purpose of this working group meeting is to collaboratively work towards transparent, inclusive and development-oriented reforms that safeguard the interests of all members, particularly those of developing and least developed countries.

The 3rd Meeting of TIWG will take place in Kevadia, Gujarat from July 10-12, 2023. ■

# COMING UP | JUNE 2023

## Development Working Group

### 4th Meeting | June 06-09, 2023

The 4th meeting of the Development Working Group will take place in New Delhi. During the 3rd DWG meeting G20 delegates held detailed discussions on the G20 Action Plan to Accelerate Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and the G20 High-level Principles on Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) that will provide the necessary political thrust and momentum to the efforts on achieving the 2030 Agenda.



New Delhi



Varanasi

## Development Ministers Meeting

### June 11-13, 2023

Located on the banks of Ganga river in the south-eastern part of Uttar Pradesh, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, Varanasi is all set to host the Development Ministers Meeting. The focus will be various development priorities under India's G20 presidency that will provide the necessary political thrust and momentum to the efforts on achieving the 2030 Agenda.

## Tourism Working Group

### 4th Meeting | June 19-20, 2023

The 4th meeting of the Tourism Working Group is set to take place in Goa. Under India's G20 Tourism Track, the Tourism Working Group is working on five inter-connected priority areas, which are Green Tourism; Digitalization; Skills; MSMEs; Destination Management. These priorities are key building blocks for accelerating the transition of the tourism sector and achieving the targets for 2030 SDGs.



Goa

## Tourism Ministers Meeting

### June 21-22, 2023

After the 4th meeting, Goa, a kaleidoscopic blend of Indian and Portuguese cultures will be hosting the Ministerial Meeting as well. During the Tourism Ministerial Meeting, a Ministerial Level Communique, and the Goa Roadmap for Tourism as a vehicle for achieving SDGs are the planned deliverables.

## Education Working Group

### 4th Meeting | June 20-21, 2023

Maharashtra's Pune is all set to welcome G20 delegates for the 4th Education Working Group Meeting. The 3rd meeting in April concluded in Bhubaneswar with a commitment to ensure the betterment of learners with respect to skilling, upskilling and reskilling. The upcoming meeting will focus on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, a crucial component of National Education Policy 2020.



Pune

## Education Ministers Meeting

### June 22, 2023

The Education Working Group was established in 2018 to focus on strengthening learning outcomes and equitable access through technological tools, digitalization, universal quality education, financing, partnerships for education, and international cooperation. The recommendations from the working group meetings will feed into the drafting of the declaration to be presented at the Education Ministers meeting.



Geneva

## Employment Working Group

### 3rd Meeting

May 31-June 02, 2023

The city of Geneva in Switzerland, surrounded by the serene Alps and Jura mountains, with a view of dramatic Mont Blanc, will be hosting the 3rd meeting of the EWG. The 2nd meeting of EWG focused on the three priority areas viz, addressing Global Skill Gaps, Gig & Platform Economy, Social Protection, and Sustainable Financing of Social Security. Deliberations on Draft Ministerial Communique will be the key focus during the 3rd meeting.



Hyderabad

## Health Working Group

### 3rd Meeting

June 04-06, 2023

The healthcare hub of the country, Hyderabad will be hosting the 3rd Health Working Group Meeting under the Sherpa track. The 2nd meeting focussed on three key priorities i.e., Health Emergencies Prevention, Preparedness and Response, Strengthening Cooperation in Pharmaceutical Sector with a focus on Access & Availability to safe, effective, quality & Affordable Medical Countermeasures and Digital Health Innovations and Solutions to Aid Universal Health Coverage and Improve Healthcare Service Delivery.



Goa

## International Financial Architecture Working Group

### 3rd Meeting

June 05-07, 2023

The International Financial Architecture Working Group is one of the most significant workstreams under the G20 Finance Track. Goa, also known as the Pearl of the East, is all set to welcome the G20 delegates for this crucial meeting of the International Financial Architecture Working Group. During the last meeting, members discussed issues related to the sustainability of sovereign debt & ways to limit their increase and the ongoing work by Multinational Development Banks.



Hyderabad

## 3rd Agriculture Deputies Meeting & Agriculture Ministers Meeting

June 15-17, 2023

The 3rd Agriculture Deputies meeting followed by the Agriculture Ministers meeting will take place in the city of Pearls, Hyderabad. During the first two meetings G20 delegates discussed 4 key themes identified by the Agriculture Working Group under India's G20 Presidency i.e., food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture with climate smart approach, inclusive agricultural value chains and food systems, and digitalization for agricultural transformation.



Kochi

## Framework Working Group

### 3rd Meeting

June 12-14, 2023

The G20 delegates travelled to Bengaluru and Chennai for the first 2 meetings under the Framework Working Group. Kochi, the 'Queen of Arabian Sea', is getting ready to welcome the delegates for the 3rd meeting. Macroeconomic consequences of food and energy insecurity and climate change & transition pathways are some of the key issues under this group.

## Digital Economy Working Group

### 3rd Meeting

June 12-14, 2023

The month of June is quite busy for the city of Pune famous for its beautiful and eye-catching architecture. A number of G20 meetings are lined up in this 2nd largest city of Maharashtra starting with the 3rd Digital Economy Working Group meeting under the Sherpa track. The 2nd DEWG meeting focused on six critical areas: Agri-tech, Health-tech, Ed-tech, Fin-tech, Secured Digital Infrastructure, and Circular Economy. Along with this, deliberations on the critical role of Digital Skilling in shaping Digital Transformation and creating the Future Ready Workforce were held.



Pune

## Sustainable Finance Working Group

### 3rd Meeting

June 19-21, 2023

The town of Mahabalipuram, known for its temples and monuments built by the Pallava dynasty in the 7th and 8th centuries, will be hosting the 3rd Sustainable Finance Working Group Meeting. The previous 2 meetings focussed on 3 priorities viz, Mechanisms for mobilization of timely and adequate resources for climate finance, Enabling finance for the Sustainable Development Goals, and Capacity building of the ecosystem for financing toward sustainable development.



Mahabalipuram

## Joint Health-Finance Task Force

### 3rd Meeting

June 22, 2023

The 1st Joint Finance and Health Task Force (JFHTF) meeting under India's G20 Presidency was held in virtual mode on December 20, 2022. During this meeting, the members expressed their commitment to the Task Force's mandate of contributing to strengthening global health architecture for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response and working with the Secretariat and the Co-Chairs on achieving the deliverables for 2023. The 2nd meeting provided a platform for participating member countries to focus on improving global cooperation to tackle the ongoing health crisis.



Virtual

## The Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion

### 3rd Meeting

June 24-26, 2023

The Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) is an inclusive platform for all G20 countries, interested non-G20 countries, and relevant stakeholders to carry forward work on financial inclusion, including the implementation of the Financial Inclusion Action Plan. 2 meetings have been held so far with a focus on "Leveraging Digital Public Infrastructure for Financial Inclusion and Productivity Gains" as well as on the new Financial Inclusion Action Plan (FIAP) (2023-26).



Bali

## Infrastructure Working Group

### 3rd Meeting

June 26-28, 2023

Situated in the northern state of Uttarakhand, the city of Rishikesh will be hosting the 3rd Infrastructure Working Group meeting. The delegates during the 2nd meeting deliberated on various aspects of infrastructure investments, including developing infrastructure as an asset class, promoting quality infrastructure investment, and identifying innovative instruments for mobilizing financial resources for infrastructure investment. The outcomes of these meetings will feed into the G20 Finance Track priorities and promote Infrastructure Development.



Rishikesh

Media Coverage

Success of G20 meet in Srinagar will boost tourism

By N K SINGH

The final G20 Tourism Minister Group Meeting held in Srinagar was 'very successful' and this will contribute to boosting tourism in Jammu and Kashmir and help in 'steering our team' in the search of visitors in future, a top official said on Friday.



Addressing reporters here, Union Tourism Secretary Arvind Singh also said that during the TWG meet held from May 23-24, G20 member countries, United Nations and International organisations gave inputs and feedback on the G20 Roadmap for tourism as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development goals and G20 Tourism Ministers Declaration.

A meeting of World Spring Golf Council, on the banks of the Dal Lake. Also, if the G20 meeting held in Srinagar will boost tourism in Jammu and Kashmir, Singh said, tourism in general will get a fillip from it, and this tourism in turn will get propelled which will boost into overall growth of tourism in the region. He shared this in 2022. Singh and Kaur's register a record total of 148 crore tourists, out of whom 38 lakh had visited the Kashmir valley, adding that the number is expected to cross the two crore mark for the year 2023. These are domestic tourism figures, but foreign tourists arrivals is also expected to grow after the devastating impact on the sector by the COVID-19 pandemic.

FM reviews progress on Finance Track deliverables under India's G20 presidency

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday reviewed the progress on Finance Track deliverables for 2023 under India's G20 presidency. This is the first G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting (FM23) scheduled for July 17-19 in Gwalior, Odisha.

During the interaction, FM provided guidance on the ongoing work in various Finance Track deliverables and underscored the importance of adhering to the perspective of developing countries in creating the global economic system roadmap. A prepared for Finance Track deliverables will be shared with the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in Gwalior.

During the review, FM apprised progress of G20 deliverables on the macro-economic impact of India's Finance Track deliverables. Under the theme of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', the Finance minister provided guidance for G20 track deliverables to facilitate coordinated action for shared global prosperity.

2nd G20 anti-corruption working group meeting begins in Rishikesh

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE NARENDRA NAGAR, MAY 20

THE SECOND meeting of the G20 anti-corruption working group under India's presidency began at Narendra Nagar in Uttarakhand on Thursday with around 90 representatives of member countries in attendance.



A G20 delegate interacts with Sushri Bhagwati Saraswati and Union minister Ajay Bhatt in Rishikesh on Wednesday.

Addressing the media, Union Minister of State for Defence and Tourism Ajay Bhatt said that in the next two days, there will be a lot of discussions, and the ideas that will come out after brainstorming will guide the world.

Credit to Digital Banks



Amitabh Kant

India's digital sector has been a global benchmark for growth, with over 200 start-ups raising \$80 billion in funding. The digital ecosystem has become a key driver of economic growth, with digital banks leading the way. The next challenge is to ensure that digital banks are not just a niche market but a mainstream financial service provider. This requires a focus on regulatory framework, consumer protection, and financial inclusion. Digital banks have the potential to revolutionize the way we interact with money, but they also face significant challenges. The regulatory framework needs to be robust and clear, and consumer protection must be a top priority. Financial inclusion is also a key goal, as digital banks have the potential to reach underserved populations. The government and regulators must work together to create an environment that fosters innovation while protecting consumers. Digital banks are not just a trend; they are a permanent feature of the financial landscape. The challenge is to ensure they are used to the benefit of all.

While India has achieved robust macro-economic growth, the digital ecosystem has become a key driver of economic growth, with digital banks leading the way. The next challenge is to ensure that digital banks are not just a niche market but a mainstream financial service provider. This requires a focus on regulatory framework, consumer protection, and financial inclusion. Digital banks have the potential to revolutionize the way we interact with money, but they also face significant challenges. The regulatory framework needs to be robust and clear, and consumer protection must be a top priority. Financial inclusion is also a key goal, as digital banks have the potential to reach underserved populations. The government and regulators must work together to create an environment that fosters innovation while protecting consumers. Digital banks are not just a trend; they are a permanent feature of the financial landscape. The challenge is to ensure they are used to the benefit of all.

G7 endorses India's G20 theme of 'One Earth-One Family-One Future'



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G20's healing touch

By N K SINGH

India's G20 presidency aims to bring Global South and North together in health.

India's G20 presidency aims to bring Global South and North together in health. The theme of the G20 presidency is 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', which translates to 'The World is One Family'. This theme is a reflection of India's ancient wisdom and its commitment to global harmony. The G20 presidency is an opportunity for India to showcase its leadership and its vision for a more equitable and sustainable world. The focus is on addressing the challenges of the 21st century, such as climate change, digital transformation, and global health. India's G20 presidency is a testament to its growing influence on the world stage and its commitment to global cooperation.

Marine, NSG commandos deployed in Valley for G20 meets

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'जी-२०' काश्मीर बैठक - मर्यादित यश

'जी-२०' काश्मीर बैठक - मर्यादित यश. The G20 summit in Kashmir is expected to have a limited impact on the region's development.

G20 B'loru meet discusses digitisation of trade papers

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