

180 Days

360°India

G20 SECRETARIAT NEWSLETTER

March 2023



Touching every corner, angle & dimension of India



भारत 2023 INDIA

वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्

ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE

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1st Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting

FEBRUARY 24-25, 2023 | BENGALURU



Shaktikanta Das

*Governor
Reserve Bank of India*

The first meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) under India's G20 Presidency was held in Bengaluru on February 24 and 25, 2023. The meeting was attended by 72 delegations and over 500 foreign delegates. Voices of

the Global South, represented by our invitees - Senegal, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Nigeria, Mauritius, Egypt, and Bangladesh, enriched the discussions.

As a precursor to the FMCBG meeting, breakfast meetings were held by the Finance Minister and Reserve Bank Governor with G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors respectively on the morning of February 24, 2023. The formal meeting began with a video message from the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi drawing attention to global economic challenges including geo-political tensions, global supply chains, inflation, food and energy security, debt distress and erosion of trust in international financial institutions. He emphasised the Presidency's theme of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: One Earth. One Family. One Future' and



"It is up to the custodians of the leading economies and monetary systems of the world to bring back stability, confidence and growth to the global economy"

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India



“The G20 can transform lives around the globe by leveraging the complementary strengths of its members, while respecting country needs and circumstances”

Nirmala Sitharaman

Union Finance Minister



“Together we must resolutely address threats to financial stability, debt distress, climate finance, fractures in global trade and strains on global value chains”

Shaktikanta Das

Governor, Reserve Bank of India

urged the delegations to create an inclusive agenda to restore stability and confidence in multilateralism while revitalising global growth.

During our formal meeting, the priorities which India has identified under its Presidency were set out. These priorities include key global economic policy responses, strengthening multilateral development banks and the global financial safety net, mitigating debt vulnerabilities of countries, mobilising resources for climate action and Sustainable Development Goals, building cities of tomorrow, the Joint Finance and Health Task Force and priorities of the International Tax Agenda.

On financial sector issues, technological innovations in the financial sector have increased efficiency, reduced costs and encouraged financial inclusion. At the same time, several risks including crypto-assets, third party dependencies, cyber-risks and disruptions of the traditional financial architecture have also risen. In the context of these risks, we sought to broaden the G20 dialogue to get a better understanding of the macrofinancial implications of crypto assets, especially for emerging and developing economies (EMDEs), with a

view to discussing a global framework for dealing with these instruments, including the option of prohibition. The discussions also focused on the ability of financial institutions to manage third-party risks emanating from outsourcing arrangements with BigTech and FinTech. We also discussed the need for a framework for enhanced cyber incident reporting. Members supported our emphasis on a globally coordinated approach to managing these risks.

On payments systems, our position was that the recent rise of fast payment systems can help in making cross-border payments faster and cheaper, if interoperability among payments systems can be achieved. Members appreciated the payments system advancements made by India and supported our digital public infrastructure agenda for financial inclusion. Additionally, we agreed to work towards completing the current Financial Inclusion Action Plan (FIAP) and formulating the new FIAP for 2024-26.

Our meeting culminated with the release of the G20 Chair’s Summary and Outcome Document. This is a significant achievement, marking consensus and support



across the membership on all finance track work areas.

Four events on the themes of digital public infrastructure, Crypto Assets, cross-border payments and SME Financing were held on the sidelines of our meeting. ‘UPI One World’ was launched for foreign nationals visiting India, which enables them to experience the convenience of UPI payments at merchant outlets in India that accept QR-code based payments. A ‘Walk the Talk: Policy in Action’ event involved a visit to the Indian Institute of Science

to showcase Indian technology firms. An exhibition was set up near the meeting venue to showcase our payments initiatives including central bank digital currency (e₹), local culture and artefacts.

In the run up to the above meetings, we conducted several Jan Bhagidari events to raise awareness among the public about India’s G20 Presidency. These events received enthusiastic participation and contributed to the overall success of the first FMCBG meeting under India’s G20 Presidency. ■

2nd

Finance & Central Bank Deputies Meeting

FEBRUARY 22, 2023

The First G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting was preceded by the second G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) meeting. The main work streams in the Finance Track of the G20 are global economic outlook and risks, international financial architecture including development finance and global financial safety net, financial inclusion and other financial sector issues, infrastructure development and financing, sustainable finance, global health financing and international taxation.

As the global economy is facing the





“A consensus among the G20 countries on coordinated solutions to key global problems can help the global economy recover from the current slowdown and create new opportunities for growth and prosperity”

“The theme of India’s G20 Presidency reflects the importance that India places on collaborative efforts to address global challenges”

“The Indian Presidency believes that success lies in our ability to anticipate, prevent and prepare for significant risks to come”

Anurag Thakur

Union Minister for I&B and Youth Affairs & Sports



lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, food and energy insecurity, broad-based inflation, heightened debt vulnerabilities, worsening climate change, and geopolitical tensions, the impact of all these crises can set back progress on the world’s key development priorities. The G20 can make a significant contribution to find pragmatic global solutions to these challenges through focused dialogue and deliberations and towards fulfilling this goal, therefore, the G20 Finance Track discussions in 2023 will focus on strengthening Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to meet the shared global challenges of the 21st century, financing ‘cities of tomorrow’, leveraging digital public infrastructure for financial inclusion and productivity gains, and advancing the international taxation agenda, among others. ■

ENERGIES FOR A GREENER, Cleaner World



Amitabh Kant
G20 Sherpa, India



“We are working on mission mode to increase natural gas consumption in our energy mix by 2030”

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India



When Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived at the Parliament wearing a jacket made from recycled plastic bottles gifted to him during India Energy Week, it highlighted India's dedicated political will to make sustainability a practiced, and embodied, tenet of the country's growth story. As one of the fastest growing large economies in the world, with millions migrating from villages to cities every year, India's energy needs are expected to be the highest globally this decade. The key challenge in front of India is to industrialise, without carbonising, and hitting net zero by 2070. However, this is also an opportunity. India, both as G20 President, and as a land of investment opportunity for stakeholders in the energy



sector, provides the nation with significant leverage to make informed, sustainable, growth-oriented choices for its people and the world.

During India's Presidency, the Energy Transitions Working Group (ETWG) is leading discussions on key priorities for developing nations in the context of clean energy transition. First, focus is laid on addressing technology gaps between emerging and developed economies and highlighting the need for low-cost financing in order to advance critical new technologies. Second, G20 members will work together to identify ways to ensure that energy transition pathways are just and suited to each country's potential. In addition, the ETWG is deliberating



“We are continuously making our refining capacity indigenous, modern and upgraded”

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister of India



frameworks to advance energy security and efficiency, accelerate the adoption of alternative energy sources like biofuel and solar power, and diversify supply chains. The first ETWG meeting in Bengaluru in the first week of February concluded successfully with G20 members responding positively to India's proposed priority areas.

Crucial to India's aspirations are technologies in energy storage, and alternative fuels for hard-to-abate sectors. India is in a prime position to become the global leader in the manufacture of renewable batteries and low-

The country has already surpassed its commitment made at COP 21- Paris Summit by meeting 40% of its power capacity from non-fossil fuels ~ nine years ahead of time.

cost green hydrogen, with the latter being critical for achieving net zero through the deep decarbonisation of hard-to-abate sectors. With the launch of E-20 petrol at India Energy Week and a 48 per cent jump in the budget allocated to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), India's commitment to green growth and sustainable development is only strengthening in resolve. The country has already surpassed its commitment made at COP 21- Paris Summit by meeting 40% of its power capacity from non-fossil fuels ~ nine years ahead of time. Further, India is the only G20 country in the top 10 rankings of the Climate Change Performance Index, and is also set to decarbonise its railways by taking it to net-zero by 2030. Electric vehicles (EVs) have also been given a huge push in India, along with increased use of biofuels.

As India scales up its developmental ambitions in the Amrit Kaal, the 1.4 billion strong nation's climate adaptation policies, as seen in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Panchamrit strategy and Mission LiFE, hold immense transformational potential for the entire world. ■

1st Energy Transitions Working Group Meeting

FEBRUARY 05-07, 2023 | BENGALURU

The first G20 Energy Transitions Working Group Meeting held in Bengaluru from February 05-07, 2023 focused on six major priority areas: Energy Transition through Addressing Technology Gaps; Low-cost Financing for Energy Transition; Energy Security and Diversified Supply Chains; Energy Efficiency, Industrial Low Carbon Transitions

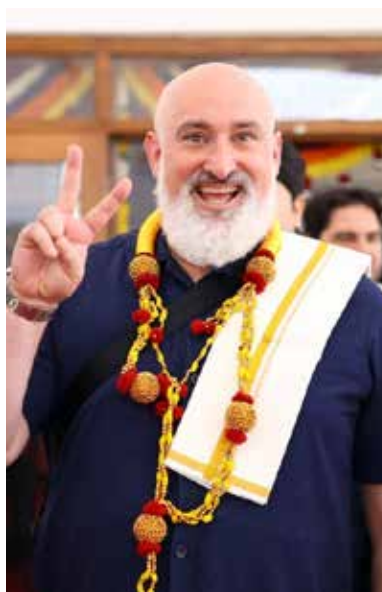


“Our per capita emissions are one-third of the global average and despite that we have already reduced our emissions by 30 per cent”

R.K. Singh

Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy





“Circular economy is an integral part of our culture and lifestyle”

Prahlad Joshi

Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Coal & Mines



and Responsible Consumption; Fuels for Future (3F) and Universal Access to Clean Energy and Just, Affordable, and Inclusive Energy Transition Pathways. More than 150 participants including G20 countries and nine special invitee guest countries participated in the discussions which responded positively to the need for energy

security and diversified supply chains while also sharing the view that the energy transition pathway should be different for each country depending on its energy base and potential. During the ETWG Meeting, Delegates also visited the Infosys Green Buildings Campus and the Pavagada solar plant in Karnataka. ■

1st Tourism Working Group Meeting

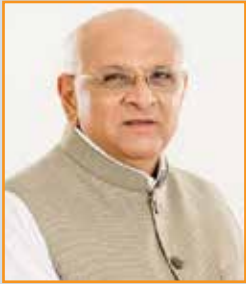
FEBRUARY 07-10, 2023

RANN OF KUTCH

The 1st Tourism Working Group Meeting under India's G20 Presidency was held in Rann of Kutch, Gujarat from February 07-10, 2023. During the meeting, discussions were held on five priority themes identified by the Indian Presidency including: Greening of tourism sector for a sustainable, responsible and resilient tourism sector; Harnessing the power of digitalization to promote competitiveness, inclusion and sustainability in tourism sector; Empowering youth with skills for jobs and entrepreneurship in tourism sector; Nurturing tourism MSMEs / Startups/ private sector to unleash innovation and dynamism in tourism sector; and, Rethinking the strategic management of destinations towards a holistic approach that delivers on the SDGs. All the 5 key priority areas set for the deliberations were endorsed by all G20 Members, Guest Countries and International Organizations.

The inaugural session of the meeting was graced by the Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Bhupendra Patel, Union Minister of Tourism, Culture and DONER Shri G. Kishan Reddy, and the Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry





“Tourism is a mode through which we can feel and experience the heritage and culture that has been passed on to us through our ancestors, thus leading to unity in diversity”

Bhupendra Patel

Chief Minister of Gujarat

“National Digital Tourism Mission (NDTM) is being formulated to ensure the digitalisation of the Tourism sector in Mission Mode”

G Kishan Reddy

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



“Tourism sector in India is a significant economic multiplier and is becoming important for rapid economic growth and employment creation”

Parshottam Rupala

Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying





and Dairying Shri Parshottam Rupala. Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy informed that the Ministry of Tourism is celebrating this year as “Visit India Year 2023” focusing on in-bound travel to India and stated that the tourists can experience boundless cultural heritage, blissful spiritual experiences, bountiful wildlife resources and beautiful natural beauty in India.

The meeting also included two side events, the first one on the theme of Rural Tourism for Community Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation’ which included discussions highlighting the best practices, success stories, prospects, and issues in the field of Rural tourism. The second side event was organised on the theme ‘Promotion of Archaeological Tourism: Discovering shared Cultural Heritage’, during which speakers at the panel discussion shared their views on conservation of archaeological sites and challenges faced at such sites while also highlighting the benefits of promoting archaeological tourism for empowerment and sustainable livelihoods of local communities.

The delegates were treated to a memorable experience in the exquisite Rann of Kutch which gave them an opportunity to attend a Yoga session at sunrise at White Rann and visit the Harappan Site of Dholavira, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where delegates were briefed about the effective and efficient water management at Dholavira. The delegates were also familiarized with the local Kutchi art and traditions. They also enthusiastically joined the folk artists in a dance performance during a cultural evening.

Going forward, the Tourism Working Group will reconvene for three more meetings including one at the Ministerial level, which will take place in Goa. In addition to the four G20 meetings of the G20 Tourism track, three mega events are also planned to promote tourism during the period of India’s G20 Presidency. ■

1st Culture Working Group Meeting

FEBRUARY 23-25, 2023 | KHAJURAHO



Govind Mohan

Secretary, Ministry of Culture

The first Culture Working Group meeting under India's G20 Presidency was held in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh from February 22-25, 2023. The meeting brought together representatives from G20 members, guest nations and international organisations. The Culture Working Group is predicated on 'Culture for LIFE' as a campaign for sustainable living with a focus 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.

A special exhibition titled 'Re(ad)dress: Return of Treasures' was organised to complement the

discussions of the CWG at the Maharaja Chhatrasal Convention Centre in Khajuraho. The exhibition was inaugurated by Hon'ble Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Hon'ble Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs Smt Meenakashi Lekhi.

Re(ad)dress spotlights the stories of 26 repatriated Indian objects and other similar case studies across the globe and their subsequent repatriation. The exhibition engages with the first priority of the CWG and initiates a dialogue about the need, relevance and importance of repatriation and restitution of cultural property. Successful case studies of global cooperation made in the direction of repatriation of cultural property have also been displayed. It has been conceptualised in six pertinent thematic sections: Cultural Heritage, Repatriation and Cultural





Property, Historical Precedents, Conventions and Guiding Principles, Global Cooperation, and Repatriation- Indian Context. The exhibition was jointly organised by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and National Museum Institute (NMI) under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

During the first working session, Indonesia and Brazil delivered their opening remarks as members of the Troika. Following that, UNESCO, as the knowledge partner, highlighted the role of the expected outcomes of the Culture Working Group for anchoring culture in the post-

2030 Agenda. In the second and third Working Group sessions, the G20 member states and guest countries, along with international organisations shared their remarks. The fourth session saw a brief presentation by the Indian Presidency on the working process of the Culture Working Group. Additionally, UNESCO laid out the plan for upcoming thematic webinars centered around the four priority areas. The meeting was successful in garnering support from the G20 membership on the proposed priorities.

Along with sessions and bilateral meetings of the



“Theme of G20, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam– One Earth, One Family, One Future highlights the true spirit of India”

G Kishan Reddy

Union Minister For Culture, Tourism And Development of North Eastern Region



“Culture is the platform to forge bonds between our countries and communities for creating sustainable and inclusive development pathways”

Dr. Virendra Kumar

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment



“Culture working group in G20 acts as a bridge between the countries and this group looks at human endeavour and humanity from the cultural perspective”

Meenakashi Lekhi

Union Minister of State for External Affairs & Culture

Culture Working Group, the G20 delegates also experienced India’s cultural heritage at the 49th edition of the Khajuraho Dance Festival. The Festival included a performance by the troupe of Padma Shri Ramli Ibrahim, against the majestic backdrop of the Western Group of Temples, Khajuraho, a UNESCO World Heritage site. To celebrate the International Year of Millets 2023, the food menu was complimented with some delectable millet-based preparations. The delegates also explored tribal antiques and artworks at Adivart Tribal and Folk Art Museum and visited the Panna Tiger Reserve, which added a unique experience to their visit.

Looking forward, the nations emphasized the importance of measuring progress in combating illicit trafficking of cultural property, monitoring the impact of climate change on cultural heritage, and evaluating the global cultural sector in an integrated manner, including cultural goods and services, cultural employment, tourism, and cultural trade. Our Culture Working Group aims to adopt an inclusive approach throughout its upcoming trajectory.

The Culture Working Group’s second and third meetings are scheduled to take place in the historic cities of Bhubaneswar and Hampi from May 14-17, 2023, and July 15-18, 2023, respectively. This will be followed by the Culture Ministers’ Meeting in Varanasi from August 23-25, 2023. The Culture Working Group under India’s G20 Presidency is dedicated to play a critical role in finding pragmatic and action-oriented solutions for global issues through these meetings. ■



G20 India

Unlocking Northeastern Treasure



Harsh Vardhan Shringla
G20 Chief Coordinator

The third month of India's G20 Presidency has been special in many ways. What has stood out is the fact that three of the seventeen G20 meetings were hosted in cities of North Eastern India, starting with Guwahati in Assam, known as the "Gateway to India's North East". The month of March also began with a meeting in Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, known as the "land of hills".

As we prepare for G20 meetings in over 50 of our cities, we are guided by certain standards in terms of hospitality and experiences that G20 delegates take back with them.

This is made possible by ensuring close coordination with all stakeholders, particularly our states. Since the North East region of India is unique and distinct in its own way, there are various factors that have to be taken into consideration while organising G20 meetings there. It was with this in mind that I visited six of the



On January 28, 2023, Chief Coordinator Harsh Vardhan Shringla discussed opportunities for Mizoram during upcoming G20 India events with Chief Minister Shri Zoramthanga



Team from the G20 Secretariat visits Assam to review the preparations for G20 meetings

in organising G20 meetings.

These visits involved coordination meetings with all concerned, a recce of possible meeting venues, accommodation and excursion sites, a review of existing infrastructure and capacity, etc. The G20 has provided an opportune occasion to review any requirements for capacity upgrades or improvements in infrastructure and urban landscapes that the meetings necessitate. State Governments, with support from the highest levels, were highly enthusiastic and fully cooperative in working closely with us in ensuring the presentation of impeccable and uniquely Indian G20 events in their states.

In all my visits, I travelled the route that G20 delegates would need to take. During my visit to Sikkim in December 2022, I travelled by road from Pakyong Airport to Raniphool and Rumtek situated on National Highway-10 leading from Rangpo to Gangtok and Chintan Bhavan. I could notice that necessary repairs, cleaning, painting and face lifting of roads, official buildings and premises falling on the roadside were being speedily carried out. Similarly, I undertook the road journey from Dimapur Airport to Kohima in Nagaland and visited the Kohima World War II Memorial- one of the proposed excursion sites for G20 delegates to visit in Nagaland.

In Assam, Nagaland, Sikkim and Mizoram, the condition of airports was assessed resulting in fast-tracking of various works at the airports in Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Imphal, Bagdogra and Aizawl in the run up to G20 meetings at those locations. After visiting Mizoram, capacity upgrades of Mizoram State University were also proactively undertaken with the support of the Union



Team from G20 Secretariat at the Rumtek Monastery in Sikkim



Team from G20 Secretariat at the Legislative Assembly, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh

Ministry of Education. A comprehensive inspection of medical facilities of G20 meeting venues was carried out in order to ensure adequate facilities for delegates, another non-negotiable factor for the G20 Secretariat. To facilitate the travel of G20 delegates, a simplified and convenient visa and entry policy has been formulated.

States in the North East are extending their best hospitality for the visiting G20 delegates. It is a huge opportunity for these states to exhibit their core strengths, and therefore, they have identified special themes for the G20 meetings. For example, Sikkim will project its organic farming, Mizoram is showcasing its thriving bamboo production, Nagaland has identified export potentials in its red chilli, turmeric and ginger, and for Assam it is tea.

The 1st Sustainable Finance Working Group Meeting in Guwahati opened the treasure trove of the North East for the delegates as they witnessed a splendid display of the rich culture and heritage of Assam in the Brahmaputra's sandbar island. The second



G20 Chief Coordinator Harsh Vardhan Shringla welcomed by Chief Minister of Assam Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma



G20 Chief Coordinator meets Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Shri Pema Khandu



G20 Chief Coordinator discusses preparations for meetings with Chief Minister of Manipur Shri N. Biren Singh



G20 Chief Coordinator and his team meet Chief Minister of Nagaland Shri Neiphiu Rio

meeting Youth20 Inception in Guwahati - saw energetic participation of young people of different nationalities. A special treat for G20 delegates was a visit arranged by the Government of Assam to the Kaziranga National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

G20 meetings provide a unique opportunity to increase tourist inflows into the North East and harness its business potential. Four of the G20 meetings in the North East are business-related under a very important Engagement Group, Business20 or B20. The most recent of the three events held in North Eastern India was the B20 Conference in Aizawl, Mizoram. Delegates at the B20 meeting had a treat as they were taken to the 'Chapchar Kut' or spring festival, celebrated with great fervor and gaiety.

With enhanced digital outreach in India today supplemented by increased interest in sustainable handloom and handicrafts, the scope to promote local products from these states has also increased manifold. The meeting in Imphal was beneficial for the state of Manipur as several countries pledged to

invest in Manipur's development story. Following the Business20 meeting, Manipur's Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh referred to potential investments from the USA, Argentina, Bangladesh and Peru. While a US company expressed interest in the tourism sector, Argentina sought to invest in strengthening the football infrastructure and sourcing skilled human resources from Manipur and other states of North Eastern India.

Sikkim is the next destination for G20 India in the northeastern part of the country, which is all set to welcome the delegates for a StartUp20 meeting & B20 conference. The startup culture of the state makes it the perfect destination for a Startup20 meeting, a new G20 engagement group initiated under India's presidency.

Such international events that bring the delegates from all over the world to these hidden gems of India will enhance international exposure and create new capacities for holding more such events in the near future while providing a global stage to the products, services, local artisans, and technologies from our North East. ■

ENGAGEMENT GROUPS

Y20 India Inception meeting

FEBRUARY 06-08, 2023 | GUWAHATI

The Youth20 (Y20) Inception Meeting 2023 under G20 was held in Guwahati to reach out to youth and consult with them for their ideas for a better tomorrow. In the run-up to the event, 10,000 youth in around 36 colleges of Assam participated in the Seminar, debate, workshops, and quiz competitions on Y20. Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Anurag Singh Thakur held a 'Youth dialogue' with Y20 delegates followed by the launch of white paper on various themes of Y20 on February 08, 2023.



“Innovation, entrepreneurship and problem solving will be the cornerstone for youth led development anywhere in the world”

“Youth is the engine which drives the nation towards success”

Anurag Thakur

Union Minister for I&B and Youth Affairs & Sports

ENGAGEMENT GROUPS

B20 India Conference

FEBRUARY 17-19, 2023 | IMPHAL

The first of the four B20 conferences scheduled in North East states of India, was held in Imphal, Manipur from February 17-19, 2023. The three-day meeting discussed 'Opportunities for Multilateral Business Partnership in ICT, Medical Tourism, Healthcare and Handlooms' in which over 100 delegates from 23 countries participated. The event aimed to showcase the potential that the northeast region offers for global and local investors, as well as highlight opportunities for multilateral business partnerships in industry sectors where the northeastern states have core strengths.



On Day 2, the Delegates went on an excursion to Loktak Lake, one of the largest freshwater lakes in South Asia



Delegates visited the historic Kangla Fort



Delegates enjoy the traditional folk dance of Manipur



"Northeast will be India's new engine of growth"

N. Biren Singh
Chief Minister, Manipur



"Northeastern regions have diverse potential to propel Atmanirbhar Bharat"

Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh
Union Minister of State for External Affairs & Education



"Efforts have been made to improve infrastructure in the Northeast region including interstate, intrastate, and cross-borders"

Som Parkash
Union Minister of State for Commerce & Industry

ENGAGEMENT GROUPS

Urban20 Inception meeting

FEBRUARY 09-10, 2023



Urban20 (U20), an Engagement Group under the G20, brings together city sherpas, mayors and representatives from cities in G20 countries, to collectively deliberate key urban challenges and inform the G20 negotiations. The inception meeting of the sixth U20 cycle is the City Sherpa meeting, which was held on February 09, 2023 in Ahmedabad, the chair city for U20.



“Cities do not just create economic opportunities for people but also become social, economic, and cultural centres in countries”

Bhupendra Patel
Chief Minister of Gujarat



“U20 Engagement Group will demonstrate that policies and practices adopted by cities indeed have powerful implications on global agendas of development”

Hardeep S Puri
Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs and Petroleum & Natural Gas



“Successful cities are fundamental to a successful nation. Urbanisation is an instrument of growth, job creation & elimination of poverty”

Amitabh Kant
G20 Sherpa, India

ENGAGEMENT GROUPS

W20 Inception meeting

W20 INCEPTION MEETING
27-28 February 2023, Aurangabad



FEBRUARY 27-28, 2023 | CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJI NAGAR



“We need to build a global voice for climate finance and what better way to build that voice than to make it a female agenda”

Smriti Zubin Irani
Union Minister for Women & Child Development



“Developing potential of women as leaders is a very critical long term investment for global prosperity”

Amitabh Kant
G20 Sherpa, India



“Women have always played a crucial role from Indian mythology to the freedom struggle, be it goddess Parvati or Jhansi ki Rani”

Dr Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad
Union Minister of State for Finance

G20 Empower Inception Meeting

FEBRUARY 11-12, 2023 | AGRA

“If you want to get your future right, if you want to be future-ready, make sure that women are at the centre of the discourse”

Smriti Zubin Irani
Union Minister for Women & Child Development



“India’s G20 Presidency will be inclusive, decisive, outcome-oriented, action-oriented and nobody can achieve this more than women of the world”

Amitabh Kant
G20 Sherpa, India



RIIG Inception Meeting

FEBRUARY 08-09, 2023 | KOLKATA

The inception meeting of the Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG), an important part of India's science engagements, was held in Kolkata on February 8-9, 2023, bringing together scientists & administrators from different areas together to discuss research and innovation for an equitable society. The RIIG aims to address the challenges of achieving socio-economic equity through research and innovation.

During the meeting, Dr N Kalaiselvi, DG, CSIR and Secretary DSIR briefly introduced the participants with the priority area "Materials for Sustainable Energy". While sharing the Indian government's support to Green Energy initiative she mentioned energy generation, energy conversion and energy storage as the focus of the initiative. Within this framework the emphasis was on hydrogen generation. Mentioning the importance of developing sustainable technologies and manufacturing of sustainable energy appliances, she stressed that as a global community, the G20 requires huge expansion of manufacturing of renewable energy appliances, they need to augment manufacturing by 10 to 15 times. To achieve this goal she emphasized the key role of 4M, i.e., Mining, Minerals, Metals, and Materials. Dr. Kalaiselvi highlighted the need of partnership among G20 countries in the areas of energy generation, conversion and storage, particularly on production of green hydrogen and green ammonia, end-to-end production of energy storage devices, and supply chain management. ■



INDIA'S G20 = PEOPLE'S G20



Muktesh K. Pardeshi

Special Secretary, G20 Operations

As India enters the fourth month of its G20 Presidency, we must highlight that our priority is not limited to just bringing out global as well as national policy transformations through the various Ministerial, Working and Engagement Group Meetings. Equally important is the engagement of our people through citizen-centric initiatives and events, in order to make common people more aware of the G20, and the significance of this huge responsibility for India.

While the meetings calendar has been busy for the Indian Presidency since we took up the G20 Presidency in December 2022, we have ensured that our citizens also remain engaged through citizen-centric events. The G20 has participated at events such as the Manipur Sangai Festival 2022 in Imphal, International Sand Art Festival 2022 at Konark, Odisha, the Hornbill Festival 2022 in Nagaland, as well as the International Kite Festival 2023 in Gujarat.

Several initiatives have also helped create more awareness among India's young population, the decision-makers of the future. With the vision of engaging students from 75 Universities, the 'University Connect' initiative was launched in collaboration with RIS. In the past three months, University Connect has been organised across institutions such as IIT Madras and IIM Calcutta. We have also been organising several Model G20 simulations across schools and colleges.

The setting up of the G20 Pavilion at National Book Trust's New Delhi World



Book Fair has also been an exciting endeavour to further engage and invigorate youth participation in the G20 processes. The Pavilion showcases books from the various G20 member countries, along with interactive events for visitors, including a 'Know Your G20' Quiz, hosted on the MyGov portal. It also takes visitors on 'India's G20 Journey' through a vibrant and informative exhibit. Young readers have found Introduction to Group of Twenty, a brochure on India's Presidency very interesting.

Download link:

https://www.g20.org/content/dam/gtwenty/gtwenty_new/document/G20%20Brochure.pdf





Another event to celebrate the diversity of India and the G20 countries was the G20 International Food Festival, organised at the Delhi Talkatora Stadium with the theme, 'Taste the World'. Citizens from every age group participated at the Festival, and appreciated how events like these are important to bring Indians closer to the kind of work our country is doing at a global level. People also enjoyed the way this Festival celebrated the International Year of Millets, with a range of culinary variations of millets and millet products being showcased.



Beyond India's rich diversity in food, India's cultural heritage was showcased at the 36th Surajkund International Crafts Mela in Faridabad. Artists from different parts of India and from more than 40 countries showcased their work at the fair. Local Indian artisans got a chance to display their craft to the Ambassadors of the G20 members who made a special visit to the fair on 16th February, 2023.



Outreach was also carried out at events such as AMRITPEX 2023, the National Philately Exhibition, as well as at the sixth edition of the The Radio Festival, both held in New Delhi.

India's G20 Presidency has been envisioned as one that focuses on ensuring that the citizens feel a part of hosting the world's economic powers in India, an extension of the theme of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam". As G20 meetings are being held across India, continuing the processes through the jan bhagidari, engagements such as these keep our citizens at the centre of everything as the country moves forward with its Presidency. ■

Model G20 Meeting

FEBRUARY 17, 2023



Nagaraj Naidu Kakanur

Joint Secretary, G20

Inspired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision to make India's G20 presidency a people's movement, the first official "Model G20 Meeting" was organized at the G20 Secretariat in New Delhi on February 17, 2023. The day-long event was organized along with the United Nations India Country Office and the G20 Engagement Group – Youth 20 (Y20), to give high school students of select schools in the Delhi NCR area exposure to the G20 format of meeting. The simulation exercise saw students representing G20 members, invited guest countries and international organizations deliberate on the theme, "Youth for LiFE".

True to the spirit of India's G20 theme, 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', the "Model G20 Meeting" saw participation of students from 12 nationalities including 10 G20 countries from 8 schools in Delhi NCR, viz., British School, Kendriya Vidyalaya R.K. Puram, Lycée Français International de Delhi, Modern School, Pathways World



School, Russian Embassy School, Ryan International School Vasant Kunj and Springdales School.

India's G20 Presidency recognizes that youth can be a positive force for development when provided with the knowledge and opportunities they need to thrive. The world is home to 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10 to 24 – the largest generation of youth in history. As youth are increasingly demanding more just, equitable and progressive opportunities and solutions in their societies, the need to address the multifaceted challenges faced by young people (such as access to education, health, employment and gender equality) have become more pressing than ever.

The universal nature of the 2030 Agenda entails that youth should be considered across all SDG goals and targets. Youth are specifically mentioned in four areas: youth employment, adolescent girls, education, and sports for peace. Moreover, young people are recognized as agents of change, entrusted with fulfilling their own potential and ensuring a world fit for future generations.



While all the Sustainable Development Goals are critical to youth development, the realization of targets in areas of education and employment are underlined by the latest edition of the World Youth Report as fundamental to overall youth development.

The meeting was inaugurated by India's G20 Sherpa Shri Amitabh Kant and United Nations India Resident Coordinator Mr. Shombi Sharp. Amb. Nagaraj Naidu, Joint Secretary (G20) welcomed the participants and briefed them about G20 and the procedure to be followed for the event. Amb. Naidu said that, "young people are increasingly aware of the challenges and risks presented by the climate crisis and of the opportunity to achieve sustainable development brought by a solution to climate change. Young people's unprecedented mobilization around the world shows the massive power they possess to hold decision-makers accountable."

Addressing the gathering, Sherpa welcomed the initiative of international students coming together for a "Model G20 Meeting" and deliberating on critical global issues such as combating climate change. Sherpa highlighted the critical role that global youth could play in climate action through the LiFE initiative and stated that, "today's Model G20 is all about young students with an inquisitive mind using their energy, dynamism and vitality to shape the world of tomorrow". Sherpa requested students to deliberate on how they can become agents of LiFE and added that exposure to multilateral negotiations will be a great learning experience for all the students as they will have to overcome the challenge of the divergent national positions that would be taken, and arrive at a consensus document where no single delegation is left out.

Mr. Sharp expressed happiness over the diverse group of participants and stated that the theme of India's G20

Presidency strongly resonates with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He highlighted the complexities of international multilateral processes like the G20 and conveyed his best wishes to all the participants. He added that India was uniquely positioned to bring other countries across divides together during its G20 Presidency.

The theme for the Model G20 event - "Youth for LiFE" was identified by the G20 Secretariat to leverage the strength of Youth in Climate Action through the LiFE initiative, which is an overarching priority of India's G20 Presidency. The idea of LiFE was introduced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow. The idea promotes an environmentally conscious lifestyle that focuses on 'mindful and deliberate utilization' instead of 'mindless and wasteful consumption'. LiFE plans to create and nurture a global network of individuals, namely 'Pro-Planet People' (P3), who will have a shared commitment to adopt and promote environment-friendly lifestyles. The "Model G20" aims to expand the P3 community in India and abroad.

At the end of the simulation exercise, the participating youth adopted an outcome document titled, "Guiding Principles for Youth-led Mission LiFE". The Chair of the G20 Youth Engagement Group (Youth 20) was presented with the outcome document adopted by students for consideration at the official Y20 meeting.

The G20 Secretariat along with the United Nations India Country Office gave certificates and medals to all the participants and special awards to the Best Speakers, the Best Delegation, and the Best Consensus Builders. The G20 Secretariat organized the Model G20 event as a part of its Jan Bhagidhari outreach. ■



1st Environment & Climate Sustainability Working Group Meeting

FEBRUARY 09-11, 2023 | BENGALURU



Nameeta Prasad

Joint Secretary
Ministry of Environment,
Forests and Climate Change

The Environment, Climate & Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) held its first meeting in Bengaluru, Karnataka from February 09-11, 2023. The meeting focused on environment and climate action and included deliberations among the 142 participants from G20 countries, invitee countries, and international organisations. The meeting aimed to address the interconnected issues of climate change and biodiversity loss and to pursue sustainable growth. The theme of India's G20 Presidency, 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or 'One Earth, One Family, One Future,' was the guiding tone for the ECSWG and was highlighted in its priorities. The three key priorities identified for the ECSWG meetings



are: Arresting Land Degradation, Accelerating Ecosystem Restoration and Enriching Biodiversity; Promoting a Sustainable and Climate Resilient Blue Economy; and Encouraging Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy.

The 1st ECSWG began with a side event on accelerating eco-restoration for the priority landscapes identified under India's G20 Presidency, viz., forest-fire impacted areas and mining affected areas. This was followed by technical sessions during the next two days on the three priority areas and a discussion on the potential building blocks for the Communique.

Shri Chandra Prakash Goyal, Director General Forests and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), opened the side event by emphasizing the role of G20 in creating tangible impact through collective leadership. The side event introduced best practices on conservation and preservation of ecosystems across both sub-themes, with an emphasis on adaptive management for eco-restoration. Presentations were made by the G20/Invited countries on the best practices undertaken by them for restoration of forest fire affected areas and restoration of mining affected

areas. The side event was followed by a thematic site visit to Kalkere Arboretum and Bannerghatta National Park to showcase the state's models for the restoration of forest eco-systems. At Kalkere Arboretum, a Natural Laboratory, the delegates witnessed best practices in land restoration and saw how improvement in climate has enabled plant species to survive in the semi-dry areas which could otherwise survive only in evergreen areas. The Bannerghatta National Park and Butterfly Park are examples of conservation and enriched biodiversity with balanced ecology that resonate with the identified priorities.

On the next day, in his inaugural address, Hon'ble Minister Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, laid stress on the need for adopting an inclusive agenda to tackle Climate Change and Biodiversity loss. The importance of prioritizing Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) and aligning the three priorities

of the ECSWG with Mission LiFE was highlighted. Ms. Leena Nandan, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and Chair ECSWG G20 India Presidency, explained that the three priorities identified were based on the work of past Presidencies and also took into account pressing global climate and environment issues faced across all countries. Under the discussions on the first priority area- Biodiversity and Land Degradation, the focus was on promoting landscape approaches for ecosystem restoration and building on existing initiatives such as the G20 Land Initiative via an action-oriented framework for Land Degradation. Discussions focused on achieving the G20 voluntary target of 50% reduction in degraded land by 2040, eco-restoration of habitats via species-based conservation, global best practices for restoration of mining affected areas, restoration of forest fire impacted areas and alignment of biodiversity conservation and





“India is demonstrating that economy and ecology are not at odds with each other, but in fact, fundamentally intertwined”

Hardeep Singh Puri

Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs & Petroleum and Natural Gas

enrichment efforts with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, 2022. The G20 countries also emphasized the importance of accelerating action on eco-restoration of degraded landscapes and collaboration and sharing of best practices, technology, and innovation and highlighting the importance of implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity framework 2022 adopted in COP-15.

Resonating with Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision for Circular Economy, the India Presidency proposed four key initiatives: G20 knowledge exchange on Circularity in the Steel sector; Extended Producer Responsibility; Circular Bioeconomy transition; and, the formation of Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy (RECE) Industry Coalition. Presentations were made on each of the proposed initiatives by India's G20 Presidency. Delegates expressed support for the formation of a G20 RECE Industry Coalition aimed at fostering global partnerships among key industries for enhancing technological cooperation, exchange of ideas and mobilizing de-risked finance. Many countries emphasized the role of bioeconomy and importance given by India's G20 Presidency to mainstreaming of circular bioeconomy through the development of knowledge exchange.

The technical sessions on Blue Economy focused on promoting a sustainable and climate-resilient





blue economy, which will be followed by a beach cleaning activity scheduled on May 21 highlighting the importance of the action on marine litter and community participation. The G20 countries agreed to work towards enabling international finance through voluntary global contributions and Multilateral Development Banks. Presentations emphasized the importance of action on the reduction of marine litter, protection of mangroves, seagrass, salt marshes, and marine spatial planning as focus areas of India's G20 Presidency. The discussions focused on issues including marine litter, conservation and enhancement of coastal and marine ecosystems, and marine spatial planning. Delegates expressed support for action on sustainable use of ocean resources, prevention of pollution and littering, and protection and enhancement of biodiversity.

Seven bilateral meetings took place between Secretary MoEFCC and countries like Indonesia, Germany, France, Singapore, USA, Brazil wherein priorities of ECSWG under India's G20 Presidency were discussed.

The Development Working Group was invited to present on the Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) and the Green Development Pact, which highlighted the interlinkages of ECSWG priorities with other working groups. The LiFE principles, which are still under development, were showcased, and the intent of the working groups to collaborate closely was emphasized. Some examples of sustainable lifestyle practices championed by India including energy saving, water-saving and plastic reduction were appreciated by the G20 countries. The nine high level principles on LiFE were presented and

applauded by the delegates. The countries agreed that the crux of LiFE approach is to address demand, supply, and policy changes. Member countries agreed that LiFE initiative should be a collective responsibility of all in altering lifestyle choices and enable consistent citizen involvement to bring about the transition.

To raise awareness about the environment and climate initiatives and discussions, an integrated communications strategy was implemented, which included both traditional and new age media, beginning with pre-event media briefings in Delhi, followed by Bengaluru, setting the tone for ECSWG. The Secretary MoEFCC and other senior experts held media briefings during the three-day event, and there were exclusive media interactions with Doordarshan, media visits for the technical site visit, and end-of-day press releases. The social media handles (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram) were strategically used before and during the meeting to increase visibility.

On arrival in India, international delegates were welcomed with traditional hospitality at the airport. The "Millets Corner" which contained millet specialities was also a big hit. The gala dinner comprised a specially curated menu to provide a taste of traditional cuisines from India. A cultural program showcasing India's diverse cultural tradition in music and dance forms was also organized.

The 1st ECSWG meeting in Bengaluru provided India with the opportunity to lead the world in its discussion on sustainable and inclusive growth and set the momentum for the 2nd ECSWG meeting which is scheduled for March 27-29, 2023, in Gandhinagar. ■

1st Digital Economy Working Group Meeting

FEBRUARY 13-15, 2023 | LUCKNOW



Sushil Pal

*Joint Secretary, MeitY &
G20 Focal for DEWG*

The first meeting of the G20 Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG) under India's Presidency was held from February 13-15, 2023 in the beautiful city of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The meeting saw participation from 75 delegates representing 17 G20 Member Countries, 7 Guest Countries, and 5 International Organizations. The meeting was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Electronics & IT, Communications and Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Yogi Adityanath in the august presence of Union Minister for Heavy Industries Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey and Union Minister of State for Electronics & IT, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar. Thus, the 1st DEWG meeting was one of the most well-represented events of the Sherpa track so far, with over 450 attendees including state and





“In the spirit of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’, Digital economy will help the world become a prosperous one family”

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister,
Uttar Pradesh



“UPI has reached a scale where on an annual basis \$1.5 trillion worth transactions are done and the average settlement time is 2 seconds”

Ashwini Vaishnaw
Union Minister
for Electronics
& Information
Technology



“Technology allows benefits, subsidies, government programmes to reach Indian citizens without any leakage, without any intermediation, without any delay, and with absolute clarity”

Rajeev Chandrasekhar
Union Minister of
State for Electronics &
Technology



“Digital technology has been the bedrock of economic transformation in G20 countries”

Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey
Union Minister for
Heavy Industries



“We should use the G20 to spread the digital public infrastructure to other parts of the world”

Amitabh Kant
G20 Sherpa, India

central government officials, global experts, industry professionals, entrepreneurs, delegates and more.

The G20 Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG) brings together the G20 countries, along with guest countries, international organizations, and other stakeholders, to discuss issues related to the digital economy. The DEWG under India’s G20 Presidency will promote the development of the digital economy as a driver of economic growth, innovation, job creation, and social development. As per the vision of our Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India’s G20 Digital priorities are centered on inclusivity, openness, ambition, decisiveness, and action orientation. Our target during the Presidency is to achieve tangible outcomes, and thus, the Digital Economy Working Group is committed to creating deliverables that act as kinetic enablers for sustainable and inclusive development in the digital economy.

India’s approach to the global digital economy is inspired

by the philosophy of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”- the world is one family. In the digital realm, this principle encourages G20 members to prioritize the development of open solutions, protocols, standards, principles, and other such initiatives that are safe, secure, and universally accessible to all. With this vision in mind, India’s three priority areas for the DEWG are – Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), Cybersecurity, and Digital Skilling.

Prior to the meeting, several events were held across Lucknow to raise awareness about the G20 Presidency in 2023 and its theme “VasudhaivaKutumbakam” or “One Earth-One Family-One Future”. These events included a G20 Walkathon, a G20 painting competition and a G20 Yog Pradarshan. These Shikhar Sammelan events saw enthusiastic participation from residents of Lucknow, students, volunteers, artists, state government officials, and representatives from national and local print as well as electronic media. The Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) also launched the ‘Stay Safe Online’ campaign to

raise awareness among citizens of all ages about cyber risks and how to protect oneself online. Further, the 'G20 Digital Innovation Alliance' was launched to support and recognize innovative digital technologies developed by startups from G20 countries and beyond, and to showcase cutting-edge digital solutions at the G20-DIA Summit in Bengaluru.

Ahead of the 1st meeting of G20 DEWG, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Yogi Adityanath launched the Digital India mobile van in Lucknow on Feb 5 to raise awareness about various initiatives under the Digital India Programme. The mobile van offered citizens a unique opportunity to have a first-hand experience of the power of technology. The digital mobile van travelled to over 75 destinations and provided an interactive and immersive experience to about 120,000 persons by the end of the first DEWG meeting. The immersive van will tour various other cities in the country as well, enlightening citizens about G20 DEWG and Digital India's key initiatives.

Multiple side events were also organized during the

first G20 DEWG meeting which attracted a broad range of participants, including senior government officials, global experts, entrepreneurs, and multilateral organizations. Leveraging the G20 platform, the side events facilitated discussions on various topics such as Digital Public Infrastructure & Identity Systems, Cyber Security Solutions for MSMEs, DPIs for SDGs, Digital Initiatives by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, and the Use of Geospatial Technologies in the Digital Economy.

The second day of the DEWG meeting began with Secretary MeitY's address to the Working Group which described the three priority areas upon which the DEWG will deliberate under India's G20 Presidency. This was followed by a keynote address from India's G20 Sherpa, Shri Amitabh Kant on the significance of the DEWG and the potential of DPIs. Under the 1st Priority discussions, it was commonly agreed that there is a need for convergence in efforts for creating a common framework for Digital Public Infrastructure. G20 members also expressed excitement to contribute their DPI experiences, learnings, and resources towards a Global





DPI Repository (GDIPR). The 2nd priority discussions saw G20 members welcome the proposal for the creation of a toolkit for cyber education and awareness and acknowledged the need for cooperation to ensure a safe and resilient cyberspace. The 3rd Priority discussions focused on furthering the work done under Indonesia's Presidency by developing a toolkit that would help countries design upskilling and reskilling programmes pertaining to digital skills.

The delegates welcomed India's proposed 2023 Digital Economy Agenda, and its relevance was well noted by everyone. The members appreciated the Presidency's vision to introduce Digital Public Infrastructure as a new priority area and our commitment to further advance the work by past presidencies on Digital Skilling. The resounding support received from all member countries, guest countries and international organizations demonstrates their endorsement of India's priorities.

During the afternoon of 14th February, the participants embarked on an excursion to Bara Imambara, a historic monument that is widely considered an architectural masterpiece. The site was a perfect backdrop for the participants to unwind and enjoy the local culture and traditions. The day ended on a high note with the sound, light and dance shows, creating a magical and memorable atmosphere for all. A state dinner was hosted by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath, which offered an experience of relishing Indian delicacies to the delegates.

The insights uncovered through interventions by delegates would further strengthen the end deliverables of each of the priority areas. The G20 DEWG discussions in Lucknow paved the way for subsequent working group meetings during the year for further discussing the digital economy agenda and curated a memorable and unique experience of India for the delegates. ■

1st Employment Working Group Meeting

FEBRUARY 02-05, 2023 | JODHPUR



Rupesh Kumar Thakur

Joint Secretary
Ministry of Labour & Employment

The 1st Employment Working Group (EWG) meeting under the Indian G20 Presidency was held from February 02-05, 2023 in Jodhpur. The meeting was attended by 77 delegates from G20 member countries, guest countries and several international organisations.

The EWG meeting aims at inclusive and sustained economic growth and decent work for all. The objective of shared economic prosperity reflects the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', the overarching theme of India's G20 Presidency. The Ministry of Labour and Employment leading the EWG has selected three priority themes that address critical labour issues across the G20 nations — Addressing Global Skills Gaps, Gig & Platform Economy & Social Protection and Sustainable Financing

of Social Security.

The inaugural session saw the ministerial address by

Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. Following this, sessions were planned for each of the three priority areas. Each session had two parts. The first part had presentations by international organisations such as ILO, OECD, ISSA and World Bank. This was followed by sharing of insights by the Indian knowledge partners, viz., Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), NITI Aayog and Employee Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). The second part had interventions from member countries on each





“Efforts have been made by many countries in terms of providing economic stimulus and support for workers, but the employment and social security sectors are still facing challenges”

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
Union Minister of Jal Shakti

priority area.

On the sidelines of the meeting, a panel discussion on the topic ‘Exploring Strategies for Global Skills and Qualifications Harmonization and Developing a Framework for Common Skill Taxonomies’ was organised. The Panel was chaired and moderated by Secretary, MSDE, Atul Kumar Tiwari. The panel members included eminent representatives from international and regional organisations such as ILO, OECD and ASEAN. It also included representatives from the National Educational Technology Forum and Industry. The panel discussion was attended by representatives from industry and apex industry bodies, prominent academia, national and international experts, and delegates.

The 1st EWG meeting garnered support from all member countries and International Organisations on the relevance of all the

themes. The participating nations agreed on the urgency to map the skill sets with occupations. They appreciated that common skills taxonomy and skill and qualification harmonisation are underlying enablers. On the second theme, the countries concurred that irrespective of their labels or classifications, the gig and platform workers must be provided with a minimum set of social security.







On the third theme, countries were united in their vision of sustainable and resilient financing of social protection.

The delegates also got a chance to experience a delectable culinary and cultural experience, beginning with a grand cultural show against the regal backdrop of the Umaid Bhavan Palace. The presentation of 14 traditional dance forms by a 230+ membered troupe was the highlight of the evening. The ratri-bhoj had a wide variety of cuisines, including Marwari dishes. To mark the celebrations of the International Year of Millets, stalls were set up to exhibit the various aspects of millet processing and sets of unique millet-based food items.

The delegates were also taken for a short heritage walk through the old city with an opportunity to see Toorji Ka Jhalra. During the walk, the delegates also experienced local art and crafts, popular across Rajasthan. Such local handicrafts were also presented at the main event venue.

On the second day, a 90-minute excursion was planned at the Mehrangarh Fort. The dinner venue had live traditional music with 14 different types of musical instruments. A lantern-flying activity on the fort's ramparts was also included as part of the excursion.

The last day saw a royal finale in the form of a high tea organised by H.H. Gajsingh ji, Maharaja of Jodhpur, at his personal residential section of the Umaid Bhavan Palace. The high tea allowed the delegates to unwind and enjoy the hospitality of the Maharaja and his palace.

Taking inspiration from the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal for engaging citizens through 'Jan Bhagidari', the State Government organised activities with participation from citizens from all walks of life, including students, women, academia, and civil society. Events such as painting competitions, model-making contests, quizzes, rangoli-making competitions and elocution competitions were organised in schools to increase awareness about the G20 event among school children.

The Employment track has a significant role in building a consensus amongst G20 countries to address critical and relevant labour issues. The 1st EWG meeting in Jodhpur helped garner the countries' acceptance of the priority themes and an agreement to arrive at a tangible outcome collectively. The next EWG meeting is scheduled to be held in Guwahati on April 03-05, 2023. ■

1st Sustainable Finance Working Group Meeting

FEBRUARY 02-04, 2023 | GUWAHATI



Ms. Geetu Joshi

Adviser, DEA,
Ministry of Finance



Ms. Chandni Raina

Adviser, DEA,
Ministry of Finance

The G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG) aims at mobilizing sustainable finance as a way of ensuring global growth and stability and promoting the transitions towards greener, more resilient and inclusive societies and economies.

The 1st meeting of the G20 SFWG was held in the beautiful city of Guwahati, Assam on February 02-04, 2023. The

meeting was attended in person by delegates from G20 member countries, invitee countries, and international organizations. Conforming to the Indian spirit of “Atithi Devo Bhava”, all efforts were directed towards ensuring hospitality of highest standards to the visiting delegates. The city of Guwahati offered a memorable experience to the delegates from the traditional welcome at the airport and hotel to exploring Assamese cuisine and delicacies.

The 1st meeting of SFWG in Guwahati carried forward the sustainable finance agenda guided by the G20 Sustainable Finance Roadmap which was finalized in 2021. The Working Group is co-chaired by China and the USA, while the United Nations Development Programme serves as its Secretariat.

The meeting was inaugurated by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon’ble Minister of AYUSH and Ports, Shipping,



“The culture and heritage and the spirit of conservation of nature in Guwahati is reflective of India’s pro-planet and people-centric approach”

“The aim is to channel India’s ancient wisdom and traditional knowledge, and capitalize on it to pave the way for a sustainable future”

Sarbananda Sonowal

Union Minister of AYUSH and Ports, Shipping & Waterways



and Waterways. Welcoming the delegates and highlighting the diverse ethnicity and culture of the state of Assam, he also alluded to its spirit of conservation of nature being reflective of India’s pro-planet and people-centric approach.

The two-day meeting saw discussions among the members on the workplan of the SFWG for 2023 consisting of three priority areas: mechanisms for mobilisation of resources for climate finance; enhanced financing for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and capacity building to scale up sustainable finance.

Recognising the emergent need to finance climate action and ensure a smooth transition to low-carbon development pathways in line with the Paris Agreement, India has taken up the mobilisation of timely and adequate resources for climate finance as a flagship priority under the SFWG. There was broad support for this priority in the first meeting of the SFWG with all members underscoring the criticality and timeliness of this discussion. The paper prepared by the Presidency on Climate Finance was also supported as a good basis for discussions. As far as the issues are concerned, there was an agreement that the public sector and MDBs play a critical role in the mobilization of finance at scale

and reasonable cost. Members supported the need for deliberations on innovative mechanisms including blended finance for scaling up resources for climate action. There was support for discussing incentives and financial solutions for financing the development, demonstration, and deployment of green and low-carbon technologies. The side events planned under the priority, non-price policy levers to support sustainable investment and on supporting development, demonstration, and deployment of green and low-carbon development technologies were well received.

With only seven years left to achieve Agenda 2030, scaling-up of sustainable finance is urgently needed to respond to the challenges of a changing world. Accordingly, it is for the first time that during the Indian Presidency, the SFWG is expanding the scope of its work to include SDGs beyond climate, which has been greatly appreciated by all member countries. In this context, the second priority of the Working Group on enabling finance for Sustainable Development Goals will focus on nature and biodiversity related data and social impact investing. Members have agreed to develop an 'analytical framework for financing select SDGs' to complement the G20 Sustainable Finance Roadmap. In addition, the members also lauded a proposal of the Co-chairs and Presidency, mooted in a

side event, to compile a compendium of best practices on financing for SDGs by jurisdictions, International Organisations, and the private sector.

Skilled workforce is a huge asset especially in the emerging area of sustainable finance and has the potential to scale up sustainable finance. In many countries, the lack of adequate knowledge and scarcity of skilled workforce in sustainable finance acts as a barrier to mobilising financial resources. To address the need for bridging the skill gaps in the sustainable finance landscape, the third priority on capacity building of the ecosystem for financing sustainable development was taken up for discussion. During the meeting, members also underscored the importance of technical assistance for capacity building in sustainable finance. Keeping this in view, the SFWG agreed to develop a G20 Sustainable Finance Technical Assistance Action Plan which will include recommendations on capacity building.

A workshop on capacity building for scaling up of sustainable finance was also held on the sidelines of the meeting to discuss capacity building needs of public & private sector professionals and financial regulators. Leading international organisations, networks and jurisdictions including International Finance Corporation





(IFC), Global Green Finance Leadership Program (GFLP), Institute of International Finance, United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI), Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS), Ireland, Egypt and Mexico Central Bank made technical presentations on different topics.

A series of Jan Bhagidari events were organized on the sidelines which included cleanliness drive, painting and slogan competition, tree plantation drive, hackathon on innovative investment instruments that can mobilise resources for climate action and experience sharing by start-ups in the area of early-stage climate technologies. Further, a seminar on the financing of SDGs was also organized at the Gauhati University. An exhibition of innovative technologies by such start-ups was also held. A domestic outreach workshop on the mobilisation of climate finance at scale and reasonable cost was also held at Shillong with IIM Shillong and North East Council.

Promoting the idea of vocal for local, an exhibition of local products showcasing the rich culture and heritage of Awesome Assam was also organized on the sidelines of the meeting. Many organizations including state cooperatives, small and medium enterprises, and start-ups among others were part of the exhibition.

Further, several G20 delegates participated in local sightseeing to Kaziranga National Park and Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Brahmaputra River cruise to Sandbar Island, visit to Sualkuchi and the old governor house. The delegates also enjoyed the relaxing Yoga Sessions.

A phenomenal display of rich culture and heritage of Assam was organized for the delegates on Sandbar Island. The event included various cultural performances such as Folk Bihu Dance, Sattriya dance, Tal jhomok, Hajong dance, Bodo dance, Rabha dance, and Jhumur dance. The cultural performances were enhanced by traditional musical instruments like Doba, Sankha, Bor Dhol, and Mridanga. Delegates also experienced the culture of Assam through the Ethnic village developed in the Sandbar Island.

The meeting concluded successfully in Guwahati with strong support from members, guest countries, and international organizations on the agenda proposed for the SFWG in 2023. The discussions held in this meeting informed the First G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting under the Indian Presidency, which was held on February 24-25, 2023 in Bengaluru. ■

1st Education Working Group Meeting

JANUARY 31- FEBRUARY 02, 2023

The first meeting of G20 Education Working Group (G20 EWG) 2023 was held in Chennai on February 01-02, 2023 with a focus on areas to ensure inclusive, equitable, relevant and quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all, within the theme of “One Earth, One Family, One Future”. With India assuming the G20 Presidency of 2023, it aims to work together with G20 countries to bridge gaps in quality education and skilling.

The Education Working Group during India’s G20 Presidency will focus on four priority areas including issues of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Tech-enabled learning, Future of work, and Research and innovation collaboration. The first meeting of the

Education Working Group commenced with a Seminar held at IIT Madras Research Park on the theme, ‘The Role of Digital Technologies in Education.’ The Seminar was organised by the Ministry of Education and the G20 Secretariat in close coordination with IIT Madras. Delegates of the Working Group were also shown the cutting-edge research underway at IIT Madras’ Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre and the innovations happening at the student-run Centre for Innovation (CFI). A number of specially curated cultural events were organised on the campus to showcase the rich cultural diversity of the nation.

Alluding to the discussions of the meeting, Secretary Higher Education Shri Sanjay Murthy said that the



“India launched its National Education Policy in 2020 under which many initiatives have been rolled out for making education more inclusive, accessible, affordable, relevant to emerging needs”

“The aim of Education Working Group under the Indian Presidency is to work collectively and evolve solutions that will help all countries and societies to strengthen their education system”

Dr. L. Murugan

Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Dairying



members expressed their willingness towards the goals and the priorities including capacity building measures for promoting life-long learning process in the context of of the future of working atmospheres, while also finding long term sustainable solutions to the similar educational challenges being faced by member countries placed in different geographies.

Through the Education Working Group, India's G20 Presidency aims to catalyze quality academic research

collaborations across G20 members to strengthen research and promote innovation and enabling cooperation to work together to develop a roadmap for enhancing knowledge creation and research.

During their visit to Chennai, the delegates also visited the Shore Temple and Five Chariots at Mahabalipuram, a World Heritage Site, and also relished the spectacular cultural programmes organised for them which made their experience a truly memorable one. ■

1st Agriculture Working Group Meeting

FEBRUARY 13-15, 2023 | **INDORE**

The 1st Agriculture Deputies Meeting (ADM) of the Agriculture Working Group under India's G20 Presidency was held in Indore from February 13-15, 2023. Spanning across three days, deliberations in the meeting were held on four key themes covering: food security and nutrition; sustainable agriculture with climate smart approach; inclusive agricultural value chains and food systems; and, digitalization for agricultural transformation.

The meeting included theme-based technical sessions on Food Security and Nutrition, Sustainable Agriculture with Climate Smart Approach, Digitalisation for Agricultural Transformation, and Agricultural Value Chains and Food Systems each one of which were informed by open house discussions involving intellectually rich exchange of ideas,

“There can be an alternative for everything in this world, but grain, fruits and vegetables have no alternative”



Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh





suggestions and observations. On the first day of the three-day meeting, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated an exhibition in which Millets and its value-added food products along with stalls from Animal Husbandry and Fisheries were a major attraction.

Countries' intervention on the proposed agenda by the Indian Presidency was well received and discussed. Emphasizing the need to have greater convergence and collaboration among the G20 member countries on agricultural research and development aspects, the chair assured to carry forward the discussions on G20 agricultural issues in the upcoming AWG meetings.

During the event, the delegates got to experience the rich Indian history through a heritage walk to the Rajwada Palace and an excursion to the regal Mandu Fort in Madhya Pradesh. Gala dinners and cultural performances provided the delegates with a taste of Indian cuisine and culture who relished an amalgamation of experiences rich in culture, cuisine, and history. ■

“We need to adopt a 3S strategy for agricultural ecosystem, one that is smart, sustainable, and serves everyone”



Jyotiraditya M. Scindia
Union Minister for Civil Aviation & Steel



COMING UP

March 2023

02

1st Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting



Established in 2010, the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group will host its 1st meeting under India's G20 Presidency in Gurugram, Haryana from March 1 to 4. This working group comes under the Sherpa Track and focuses on public and private sector integrity and transparency, bribery, international cooperation, asset recovery, beneficial ownership transparency, vulnerable sectors and capacity-building.

Gurugram | March 01-02

04

2nd Education Working Group Meeting



80 delegates from 30 countries and international organisations had participated in the 1st G20 Education Working Group meeting in Chennai. Best practices in Tech related education in member countries were discussed in a major way. Now to take the discussions forward, the delegates will meet in Amritsar, Punjab for the 2nd Education Working Group Meeting in March.

Amritsar | March 15-17

06

2nd Sustainable Finance Working Group Meeting



Rajasthan's city of lakes, Udaipur is all set to welcome the G20 delegates for 2nd Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG) meeting from March 21-23. The SFWG will develop a G20 Sustainable Finance Technical Assistance Action Plan and aims to mobilise sustainable finance to help ensure global growth and stability and promote the transition towards greener, more resilient, and inclusive societies and economies.

Udaipur | March 21-23

01

G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting



The G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting will take place in the national capital on March 1-2. New Delhi will witness participation of foreign ministers from G20 countries to deliberate on pressing global issues.

Delhi | March 01-02

03

2nd Meeting for the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion



The city of pearls, Hyderabad, the capital of Telangana will host the 2nd Meeting for the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) on March 6 -7. This working group comes under the Finance Track and its 1st meeting was held in Kolkata in January 2023.

Hyderabad | March 06-07

05

2nd Joint Finance-Health Task Force Meeting



The 2nd Joint Finance-Health Task Force Meeting will be held in virtual mode on March 20 under the Finance Track. The 1st meeting on December 20 was attended by Finance and Health representatives from G20 members, invited countries as well as International Organizations. The Bali Leaders' Declaration 2022 extended the mandate of this Task Force to continue the collaborations between Finance and Health Ministries for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response.

Virtual | March 20

07

2nd Framework Working Group Meeting



The 2nd Framework Working Group Meeting under the Finance Track of India's G20 Presidency will be held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Framework Working Group (FWG) discusses global macroeconomic issues of current relevance, monitoring of global risks and uncertainties, and possible areas of policy co-ordination aimed at promoting Strong, Sustainable, Balanced, and Inclusive Growth (SSBIG) across the G20.

Chennai | March 24-25



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COMING UP March 2023

09

1st Trade & Investment Working Group Meeting



Established in 2016, the Trade & Investment Working Group to hold its 1st meeting under India's G20 Presidency in March in India's financial capital Mumbai. It focuses on subjects including strengthening the G20 trade and investment mechanism, promoting global trade growth, supporting the multilateral trading system, promoting global investment policy cooperation and coordination, and promoting inclusive and coordinated global value chains.

Mumbai | March 28-30

11

2nd Agriculture Working Group Meeting



The Agriculture Working Group under the Sherpa track held its first meeting, the Agriculture Deputies meeting in Indore, Madhya Pradesh in February. The need to have greater convergence and collaboration among the G20 member countries on agricultural research and development aspects was the key focus. Important discussions on other G20 agricultural issues can be expected during the meeting in Chandigarh.

Chandigarh | March 29-31

13

2nd International Financial Architecture Working Group Meeting



Under the G20 Finance Track, the International Financial Architecture Working Group is one of the important work streams with a focus on strengthening international financial architecture. It also aims to address multiple challenges faced by vulnerable countries. The 1st meeting was held in Chandigarh, a city planned by famous French architect Le Corbusier and the 2nd meeting of this working group will be held in Paris, a quintessential global city.

Paris, France | March 30-31

08

2nd Environment and Climate Working Group Meeting



Gujarat's Gandhinagar to welcome G20 delegates for the 2nd Environment and Climate Working Group Meeting under the Sherpa Track from March 27-29. All G20 countries showed interest and commitment to constructively work towards the objective of the three priority areas: Arresting Land Degradation, Accelerating Ecosystem Restoration and Enriching Biodiversity; Promoting a Sustainable and Climate Resilient Blue Economy; Encouraging Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy during the 1st meeting.

Gandhinagar | March 27-29

10

2nd Infrastructure Working Group Meeting



64 delegates from 18 member countries attended the first G20 Infrastructure Working Group meeting in Pune in January. The 2nd meeting of this working group under the Finance track will be held in Visakhapatnam, a port city and the industrial center of Andhra Pradesh.

Visakhapatnam | March 28-29

12

1st Disaster Management Working Group Meeting



First meeting of the Disaster Management Working group is expected in Gandhinagar, the capital of Gujarat & one of the best planned cities in India.

Gandhinagar | Mar 30-Apr 01

14

2nd Sherpa Meeting



Known for picturesque backwaters, Kumarakom in Kerala is getting ready to host the G20 Sherpas from March 30 to April 2. This will be the 2nd G20 Sherpa meeting. The 1st Sherpa meeting in Udaipur offered the delegates a unique 'Indian experience' through cultural performances, art exhibitions & excursions.

Kumarakom | Mar 30-Apr 02

The India Story



*COVAXIN: Indigenously
Developed Vaccine for Covid-19*



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi being administered the vaccine (COVAXIN)

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the apex biomedical research body of the country, has been at the helm of India's COVID-19 response. While the pandemic brought unprecedented challenges, ICMR supported Indian government in responding to the ever-evolving situation. The Council provided guidance on evidence-based prevention, management, and diagnosis in real time to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. Among these successes, the most incredible achievement was the development of COVAXIN, which played a critical role in preventing deaths, and hospitalisation, and contributed to controlling the spread of the disease.

COVAXIN was the first COVID-19 vaccine indigenously

developed in India by ICMR- National Institute of Virology (NIV) and Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL), an Indian manufacturer. ICMR-NIV successfully isolated the SARS-CoV-2 virus using the throat swabs of patients, which in turn, paved the way for the development of the vaccine. Paramount importance was given to ensuring the safety and efficacy of the vaccine. The neutralizing antibodies elicited by COVAXIN were found effective against alpha, kappa, gamma, and beta variants. Incredibly, the 'bench to bedside' journey of COVAXIN took less than eight months demonstrating India's capabilities in fighting the COVID-19 battle. At the centre of the vigorous scientific efforts of developing



i-Drone initiative: Last mile delivery of vaccine through drones

the vaccine was the aim of preventing deaths and severe sickness in people. The demonstrated efficacy of the vaccine has been highlighted in more than nine international scientific journals. COVAXIN has been the backbone of India's national COVID-19 vaccination drive, which went on to become one of the largest vaccination drives in the world. Over 350 million doses of COVAXIN have been administered in India. In addition to this, it has also received emergency use authorization in 14 countries including Mexico, Brazil and Nepal, among others. The indigenous production of the vaccine has enabled India to supply 14.8 million doses to over 100

countries across the globe as part of its 'Vaccine Maitri' scheme.

As the 'pharmacy of the world', India is committed to continuing its work in supporting the good health and well-being of people. India's vaccination campaign was not limited to pioneering the development of India's first indigenous vaccine. The country also ensured that the vaccine is accessible in hard-to-reach terrains. For this, ICMR led the drone-based delivery of COVID-19 vaccines in hard-to-reach areas, which constitute diverse geographies such as hills and islands, through ICMR's Drone Response and Outreach for Northeast (i-DRONE)

project. The initiative was piloted in the state of Manipur to guarantee prompt, secure, and last-mile delivery of the vaccines. Before this project, South-East Asia had never witnessed the delivery of vaccines through Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV). India's success in indigenously developing a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine, in record time, is a testament to its bio-medical advancement. As we learn from the experience of tackling COVID-19, the remarkable story of the COVAXIN development serves as a model for how we can prepare for future health challenges while building a healthier and safer world for all. ■



Hon'ble Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launching the first commercial batch of COVAXIN



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