



**Research Unit**  
Press Information Bureau  
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
Government of India



## G20 Series #58

### India's G20 Presidency

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Culture Group (CWG) Meeting (Bhubaneswar, Odisha – May 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2023)

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

May 24, 2023

*“We all always take pride in the fact that our country is home to the oldest traditions in the world. Therefore, it is also our responsibility to preserve our traditions and traditional knowledge, to promote it and to take it forward as much as possible.”*

- [Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Culture Working Group Meeting was organised in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, from May 15 – 17, 2023. The meeting was attended by delegates from G20 members, guest nations, and several international organisations. The meeting offered an opportunity to discuss pressing issues facing the culture sector to further deliberate in-depth work towards tangible, action-oriented recommendations.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> CWG meeting was built on the momentum gained from the 1<sup>st</sup> Culture Working Group meeting held in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh, which was followed by in-depth expert-driven Global Thematic Webinars held over the past two months.

The meetings of the Culture Working Group focus on 4 key priority areas articulated under the Culture Track of India's G20 Presidency. The 4 priority areas are:

- ◆ 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 the Protection and Promotion of Culture.

### Day 1: May 15, 2023

The Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER, Shri G. Kishan Reddy and Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai graced the inaugural session of the meeting on the first day.

Addressing the delegates, Shri G. Kishan Reddy said, “Culture plays an important role in global policymaking, as it leads to more inclusive and sustainable solutions to address contemporary

challenges". He also added, "In this light, the G20 Culture working group plays a pivotal role in fostering collaboration and promoting dialogue among members".



"The ancient Indian philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (The world is a family) beautifully connects with the concept of unity in diversity, as it promotes the idea that despite our differences in culture, religion, language, or ethnicity, we are all a part of one global family", he opined.

Referring to the Prime Minister's vision of only one world instead of any First World or Third World, the Minister said India envisions the collective effort of the entire world to ensure a better future. "This meeting is not just a diplomatic meeting, but a new responsibility of India- a country that has generated unforeseen inquisitiveness across the globe to be known and to be understood.", he added.

The agenda of Day 1 of the meeting included two sessions on Shaping Action-Oriented outcomes for:

- 1. Priority Area 1: Protection and Restitution of Cultural Property**
- 2. Priority Area 2: Harnessing Living Heritage for a Sustainable Future**

Session 1 witnessed the delegates focusing on the recommendations that emerged from the global thematic webinars, based on the priority areas of the Working Group. The way forward on the drafting & finalisation of the G20 Culture Ministers' Declaration was also presented.



Taking up the first priority area of the Culture Working Group, delegates deliberated in detail on how the G20 can strengthen the global commitment to prevent illicit trafficking and facilitate the return & restitution of cultural property.



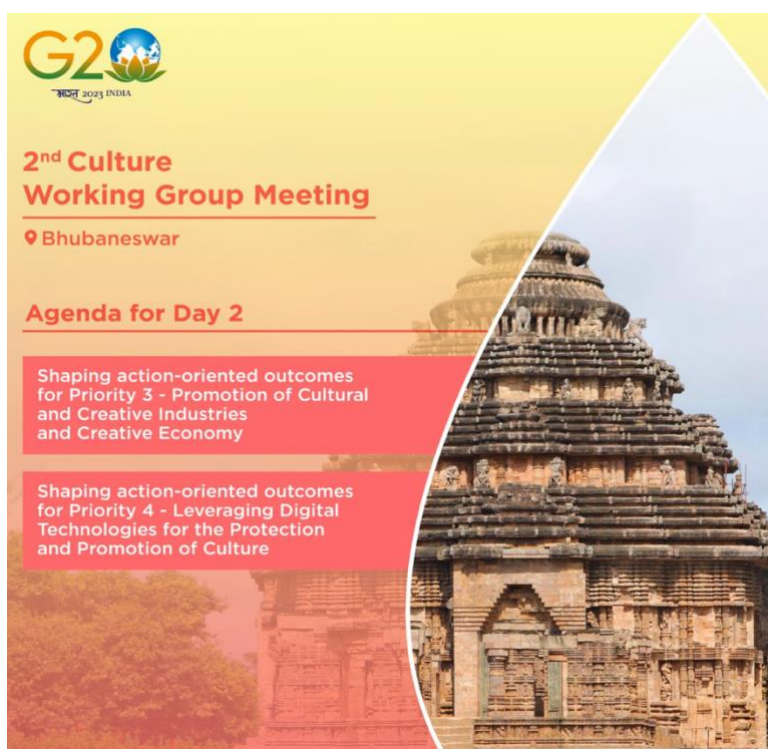
Focusing on harnessing living heritage to build a sustainable future for all, the deliberations at the 2<sup>nd</sup> CWG Meet focused on the promotion of culturally grounded practices & knowledge systems as an effective means of addressing crucial development & environmental challenges.

Later in the day, an [exhibition on 'Sustain: The Craft Idiom'](#) was inaugurated by the CM of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik, Union Minister Shri G. Kishan Reddy and Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai. Delegates witnessed masterpieces crafted by local artisans and more.

## **Day 2: May 16, 2023**

On Day 2, delegates participated in the discussion sessions focusing on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> priority areas outlined by the CWG: '**Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries and Creative Economy**' and '**Leveraging Digital Technologies for the Protection and Promotion of Culture**'. The discussions offered valuable insights, which are expected to culminate into tangible and action-oriented recommendations that have the potential to shape the cultural sector and concerning policy frameworks globally.

The first two sessions of the CWG meeting witnessed the delivery of



statements by the delegates, followed by an open discussion on the third and fourth priority areas. Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi concluded the second session of the day with a special address. The concluding session outlined details and the timeline concerning the working process of the Culture Working Group going forward.



In her interaction with the media, echoing Prime Minister's desire to take India to greater heights during the Amrit Kaal i.e. 25 years from now, the Minister said, India has to work hard to regain the position it once used to be in. Underlining the cohesive nature of culture, the Minister said, "Culture can be a way of engagement to bring everyone together, especially at a time when a lot of stress and strain are showing up. Stating "Culture Connects", the Minister said that for the first time in G-20 Culture working group has been created as a separate group. She said when G-20 talks about harmony and peace, culture is something one needs to look at.

### **Exploring the wonders of Bhubaneswar**



1. An exquisite sand art exhibit by Padma Shri Sudarsan Pattnaik was organized at the Puri beach. Created to celebrate the theme of 'Culture Unites All', the sand art installation was inaugurated by the Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER, Shri G. Kishan Reddy and Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State for Culture and Parliamentary Affairs.

2. Post deliberations delegates experienced native dance performances like Sambalpuri & Odissi. The range of traditions showcased India's cultural versatility!



3. Delegates explored the magnificent UNESCO World Heritage Site, Konark Sun Temple. They also witnessed the majestic Gotipua, known as a precursor to the Odissi dance form!



4. Delegates marvelled at Khandagiri & Udaygiri Caves - a testament to India's artistic craftsmanship. They also visited the Gandhi Peace Centre & learnt about the philosophies of the Father of our Nation!



**References:**

[2nd G20 Culture Group \(CWG\) meeting to start tomorrow in Bhubaneswar, Odisha](#)

[Delegates arrive for the 2nd G20 Culture Group \(CWG\) Meeting in Odisha and experience the 'Culture Unites All' Sand Art exhibit at Puri](#)

[Deliberations of the G20 Second Culture Group \(CWG\) meeting begin in Bhubaneswar](#)

[Ms Meenakashi Lekhi graced the Day-2 deliberations of the G-20 Culture group at Bhubaneswar](#)

**Twitter links:**

[Agenda for Day 1](#)

[Agenda for Day 2](#)

[Exhibition on 'Sustain: The Craft Idiom'](#)

[Creating a sense of shared identity that transcends borders & shapes identities](#)

**Video Link:**

[Media Briefing on 2nd Culture Working Group Meeting, Bhubaneswar](#)

**NR/HP/RK/KG**