



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



G20 Series #35

India's G20 Presidency

Civil 20 (C20) Engagement Group

(Ministry of Culture)

April 19, 2023

“India’s G-20 presidency will be inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action-oriented. India will strive to ensure that the G-20 acts as a global “prime mover” to envision new ideas and accelerate collective action over the next one year.”

- [Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#)

Civil 20 (C20) India 2023 is one of the official Engagement Groups of the G20 that provides a platform for Civil Society Organizations (CSO) around the world to voice people’s aspirations to the world leaders in the G20 forum. It gives CSOs a platform to protect the agency of this sector, reflects the primary and common concerns affecting the people of the world, and promotes social and economic development with the vision of leaving no one behind.¹

Civil-20 (C-20) India 2023 Inception Meeting was held on March 20-21, 2023, in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

357 delegates attended the Inception Meeting. There were representatives of 26 countries and 130 international delegates who arrived in Nagpur for the Civil-20 Inception Meeting, including Steering Committee (SC) Members, the International Advisory Committee (IAC) members, and the Working Group Coordinators of Civil-20 India 2023.



¹ <https://civil20.net/c20-india-2023/about/>

Mata Amritanandamayi was the Chair at the Civil 20 Inception meet and Nobel Laureate and Founder of Satyarthi Foundation, Kailash Satyarthi was the Chief Guest at the event.²

Speaking on the occasion, Mata Amritanandamayi Devi remarked that from ancient times ‘the world is one family’ has been the mantra of Indian soil. It still is today and will continue to do so in the future. The Presidency of the G-20 nations is a unique opportunity for India to model this truth before the world.

Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi noted that it was for the first time that Civil-20 is being driven by spirituality. “*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*’ and ‘One Earth, One Family, One Future’ are not merely slogans but have roots in spirituality”, he said.

The Guest of Honour, Maharashtra’s Deputy Chief Minister, Shri Devendra Fadnavis, highlighted that under India’s Presidency, the G20 has been democratized and transformed into a people’s movement. He stressed on the need to have a robust system of civil society so that the voice of the last man is heard by the government.



Day-1 (March 20)

The **First Plenary Session** of the Civil 20 Inception Meeting was held in Nagpur on March 20, 2023. The theme of the session was ‘**Balancing Development with Environment**’. Former Chief Information Commissioner, Shri Satyananda Mishra chaired the session.³

The session covered the following Working Groups of Civil-20 India 2023

Integrated Holistic Health: Mind, Body and Environment
Sustainable and Resilient Communities: Climate, Environment and Net Zero Targets
Lifestyle For Environment (LiFE)
Revival of Rivers and Water Management

² <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1908902>

³ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1908770>

Shri Satyanand Mishra as the Chair remarked that a common theme runs across all the subjects of the working group, which was that human beings were interdependent on their surroundings and nature.⁴



Day-2 (March 21)

The **Second Plenary Session** on the second day of the Inception Meet was on the theme '**Civil Society Organisations and Promotion of Human Values**'.

The session covered the following Working Groups of Civil-20 India 2023

Sewa – Sense of Service, Philanthropy, and Volunteerism

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – World is One Family

Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect, and Human Rights as Human Value

The session was chaired by Shri Shyam Parande, Global Coordinator, Sewa International. Shyam Parande remarked that activists and delegates present at the conference should carry the message of *appo deep bhava* (be the light yourself) given by Gautam Buddha. He further said that India has a long history of values, and these Indian values match global values.⁵



⁴ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1908770>

⁵ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1909062>

The **Third Plenary Session** of the Civil-20 India 2023 was held on the theme '**Role of Civil Society in Promoting Human Development**'.

The session covered the following Working Groups of Civil-20 India 2023

Gender Equality and Disability (GED)
SDG 16+ and Promoting Civic Space
Delivering Democracy – Retrospect and Prospect

The session was chaired by Ms. Nivedita Bhide, All-India Vice President of Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari. Speakers in the session included Mr. Gabriella Wright, Co-founder, Never Alone, Dr. R. Balasubramaniam. Founder and Chairman of Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement (GRAAM), Ms. Meg Jones, Chief, Economic Empowerment at UN Women and Pedro Bocca, International Advisory Member of Civil-20 India 2023.⁶



The **Fourth Plenary Session** dealt with '**Civil Society Organisations as Drivers of Innovation and Technology**'. The session was chaired by Ambassador Vijay Nambiar, Sherpa, Civil-20 India, 2023.⁷

The session covered the following Working Groups of Civil-20 India 2023

Technology, Security, and Transparency
Preservation and Conservation of Traditional Arts, Crafts and Culture
Traditional and Innovative Ways of Livelihood and Employment
Education and Digital Transformation

⁶ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1909071>

⁷ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1909159>



Valedictory function of Civil-20 Inception Meeting

The Valedictory function was held on March 21, 2023. The event was attended by the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari, the Chair of Civil-20 India 2023, Mata Amritanandamayi, Vice-Chairman of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini and Patron Civil-20 India 2023, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, Joint Secretary (G-20), Ministry of External Affairs and Sous-Sherpa, G-20 India Ambassador Abhay Thakur. The session was chaired by Sherpa, Civil-20 India 2023, and former ambassador Vijay Nambiar.⁸

In the Valedictory session, the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari remarked that in the Indian context, ‘Antyodaya’ means that we have to ensure the rise and development of the last person in society. He further said that ethics, economy, ecology, and environment are the three pillars of society.



Excursions

C20 delegates visited the Pench Tiger Reserve in the first lap of their excursion. C20 delegates also visited the Gau Vigyan Anusandhan in Deolapar Village of Nagpur district. On their arrival,

⁸ <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1909306>

delegates were given a traditional welcome by tribal dancers. The delegates enthusiastically participated in the dance performances along with the performers.⁹



References:

- PIB Press Release on [CIVIL-20 India 2023 Inception Meet concludes at Nagpur](#) dated March 21, 2023.
- PIB Press Release on [First Plenary Session of Civil 20 India 2023 Inception Conference](#) dated March 20, 2023.
- PIB Press Release on [Second Plenary Session of CIVIL20 India 2023](#) dated March 21, 2023.
- PIB Press Release on [Third Plenary Session of CIVIL20 India 2023](#) dated March 21, 2023.
- PIB Press Release on [Fourth Plenary Session of CIVIL20 India 2023](#) dated March 21, 2023.
- PIB Press Release on [Civil20 India Inception Meet starts at Nagpur](#) dated March 20, 2023.
- PIB Press Release on [Fourth Plenary Session of CIVIL20 India 2023 Inception Conference](#) dated March 21, 2023.
- <https://civil20.net/c20-india-2023/about/>
- <https://newsonair.gov.in/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=457748>

Twitter links:

- <https://twitter.com/airnewsalerts/status/1637636314991407106?s=20>
- <https://twitter.com/PIBMumbai/status/1638147633255424000?s=20>

AG/HP/PK/JA

⁹ <https://mailchi.mp/eb23089a3a74/civil20-india-newsletter-january-22-6265245>