



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



G20 Series #93

India's G20 Presidency

G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meet

(Kolkata– August 12, 2023)

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

August 22, 2023

“Besides strengthening our administrative and legal systems, we must foster a culture of ethics and integrity in our value systems. Only by doing so, we can lay the foundation for a just and sustainable society.”

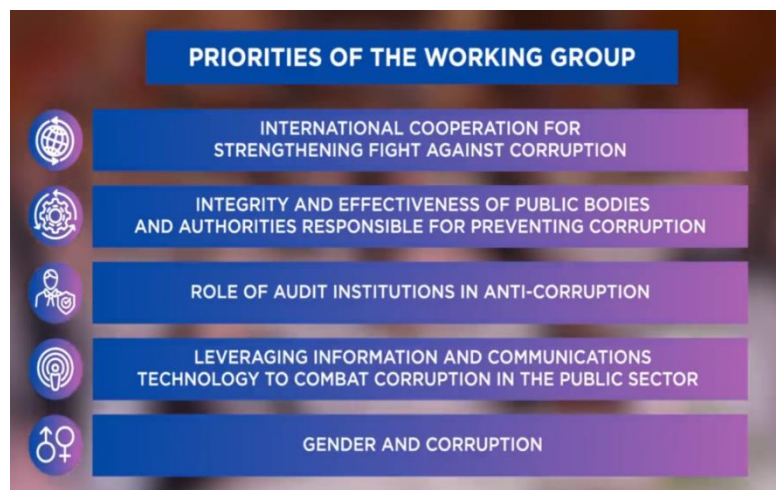
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting was held on August 12th, 2023 following the 3rd and final meeting of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) held in Kolkata from August 9 - 11, 2023. Over 154 delegates from G20 Members, 10 invitee countries, and various international organizations attended the meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent charge) for the Ministry of Science and Technology, Minister of State for the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, the Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Space of Government of India. This was the second-ever ministerial meeting of the G20 ACWG and the first in-person ACWG Ministerial Meeting. The deliberations at the level of Ministers imparted a further political impetus to combating corruption as ACWG plays a crucial role in leading international efforts to combat corruption.

The ministerial Meeting was a culmination of the three ACWG Meetings held –

- ❖ [1st ACWG Meeting \(Gurugram - March 01-03, 2023\)](#)
- ❖ [2nd ACWG Meeting \(Rishikesh, Uttarakhand– May 25-27, 2023\)](#)
- ❖ [3rd ACWG Meeting \(Kolkata, West Bengal – August 9 – 11, 2023\)](#)



Through the deliberations in these three meetings, India was able to forge a consensus at G20 to advance international anti-corruption agenda by finalizing three outcome documents (**High-Level Principles**) on important and sensitive issues.

Building on the work done in these three meetings of ACWG, on August 12, 2023, the Ministerial meeting commenced with an inaugural session which was addressed by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi via video message. Referring to the writings of Tagore, the Prime Minister cautioned against greed as it prevents us from realizing the truth. He also touched upon the ancient Indian Upanishads that strive for ‘*Ma Gridha*’, which translates to ‘*let there be no greed*’.

The Prime Minister underlined that the highest impact of corruption is borne by the poor and the marginalized. He further added that it affects resource utilization, distorts markets, impacts service delivery and ultimately diminishes people's quality of life.



“*India has a strict policy of Zero Tolerance against corruption*”, the Prime Minister remarked as he underlined that India is leveraging

technology and e-governance to create a transparent and accountable ecosystem. He mentioned that leakages and gaps in welfare schemes and government projects are being plugged in.

The Prime Minister welcomed the action-oriented High-Level Principles on three priority areas, namely, law enforcement cooperation through information sharing, strengthening asset recovery mechanisms, and enhancing the integrity and effectiveness of anti-corruption authorities.

The Prime Minister asserted that the collective efforts of G20 nations can significantly support the fight against corruption and a huge difference can be made through enhanced international cooperation and implementation of robust measures that address the root causes of corruption. He also highlighted the role of audit institutions in the fight against corruption.

Later, India's Minister In-charge Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Dr. Jitendra Singh reiterated India's crusade against corruption and underlined Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for zero tolerance against corruption. He said the G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial meeting is an opportunity for all of us to demonstrate the collective and strong political will to lead the global fight against corruption. India's zero-tolerance approach to corruption also guides our approach toward international cooperation for combating corruption.



Dr. Jitendra Singh said the G20 ACWG has made commendable progress in the preparation of a

[Compendium of Good Practices in Enhancing the Role of Auditing in Tackling Corruption](#). “*I hope it will prove to be an important knowledge resource to enhance good governance, integrity, accountability, and transparency in public and private sectors by using*

audit as a key tool,” he said. He said the G20 ACWG has been leading the global efforts for combating corruption and promoting transparency and accountability in the public and private sectors since 2010.



“Our discussions and decisions today will have the potential to contribute towards a robust anti-corruption architecture, enabling fair, inclusive, and equitable growth,” he said.

Ministers & delegates welcomed the Working Group’s push for strengthening law enforcement cooperation, asset recovery & anti-corruption institutions

towards bolstering the international anti-corruption regime and countering economic crimes.

The Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting came to a conclusion with Ministers’ reaffirming their commitment to strengthen collective actions towards countering corruption. A [Chair’s Summary and Outcome Document](#) along with the documents on [Enhancing the Role of Auditing in Tackling Corruption](#) and [Accountability Report on Mutual Legal Assistance](#) were released.

The G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial meeting in Kolkata also released **High-Level Principles** on:

Strengthening Law Enforcement-related International Cooperation and Information Sharing for Combatting Corruption: This is a 6-point plan to enhance inter-agency cooperation and international cooperation through information sharing amongst law enforcement agencies and countries. It will ensure timely and effective action against corruption offenses, prosecution of offenders, and recovery of proceeds of crimes.

Promoting Integrity and Effectiveness of Public Bodies and Authorities Responsible for Preventing and Combatting Corruption: This will provide a guiding framework for strengthening the independence, transparency, and accountability of anti-corruption institutions. It will help in addressing the root cause of corruption including institutional weakness and lack of accountability.

Strengthening Asset Recovery Mechanisms for Combatting Corruption: These are a set of guiding principles to support the establishment of a robust and effective framework for the expeditious recovery of proceeds of crime. These principles will deter economic offenders who seek refuge in foreign jurisdictions.

A Cultural Immersion!

The G20 Ministers and delegates were enthralled with the vibrancy of the Kolkata’s culture – the City of Joy. They were provided with an immersive experience of West Bengal’s rich heritage through cultural performances and an excursion.



References:

[3rd G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting and G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting will be held in Kolkata from 9 to 11 August , 2023 under India's Presidency](#)

[PM addresses G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meet](#)

[Text of PM's video message at G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meet in Kolkata, West Bengal](#)

[G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial meeting an opportunity for all of us to demonstrate collective will to lead the global fight against graft, says Dr Jitendra Singh](#)

[Ahead of the top G20 Ministerial meet and the final meeting of G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group \(ACWG\) at Kolkata tomorrow, India is seeking consensus among G20 nations against fugitive economic offenders, says Dr Jitendra Singh](#)

Documents Released:

[High-Level Principles on Promoting Integrity and Effectiveness of Public Bodies and Authorities Responsible for Preventing and Combatting Corruption](#)

[High-Level Principles on Strengthening Asset Recovery Mechanisms for Combatting Corruption](#)

[High-Level Principles on Strengthening Law Enforcement Related International Cooperation and Information Sharing for Combatting Corruption](#)

X Links:

[Demonstrating the collective will of #G20 nations to lead the fight against corruption, the 3rd #ACWG and Anti-Corruption Ministers' Meet concludes!](#)

Video Links:

[Inaugural Session of the G20 Anti-Corruption Ministers' Meeting in Kolkata](#)

[PM Shri Narendra Modi's Video Message at the G20 Anti Corruption Ministers' Meeting in Kolkata](#)

[Press Conference On G20 Anti-Corruption Ministers' Meeting in Kolkata](#)

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