



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



G20 Series #99

India's G20 Presidency

G20 4th Culture Working Group Meeting

(Varanasi– August 24 - 25, 2023)

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

August 29, 2023

“Culture has an inherent potential to unite. It enables us to understand diverse backgrounds and perspectives. And therefore, your work holds immense significance for entire humanity.”

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The 4th G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) Meeting was held from August 24th-25th, 2023 in Varanasi culminating in the Culture Ministers' Meeting (CMM) on 26th August 2023. Delegates from G20 member nations, invitee countries, and various international organizations attended the meeting.

The Culture Ministers' Meeting in Varanasi aimed to catalyze collective actions for accelerating progress on the four priority areas articulated by the Indian Presidency-

- ❖ Protection and Restitution of Cultural Property
- ❖ Harnessing Living Heritage for a Sustainable Future
- ❖ Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries and Creative Economy
- ❖ Leveraging Digital Technologies for the Protection and Promotion of Culture.

The CWG, under India's G20 presidency, had launched the '[Culture Unites All](#)' campaign to highlight India's unwavering belief in multilateralism based on peaceful coexistence among diverse cultures and communities.

Day 1: August 24, 2023

On the first day, delegates from the G20 members, and international organisations held discussions on the Draft declaration at the 4th G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) Meeting, under India's Presidency.

Shri Govind Mohan, Secretary, Ministry of Culture and Chair - G20 CWG highlighted the uniting power of culture by expressing that the universal canvas of culture epitomizes the shared human journey,



fortifying our sense of global kinship.

The Chair, G20 CWG also commended the exceptional feat achieved by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the lunar South Pole, underscoring India's growing prowess in the realm of space exploration.

Following the inaugural session, the working sessions began with the delegates participating in discussions over the Draft of the Culture Ministers Declaration for the upcoming Culture Ministers' Meeting on August 26, 2023. Gearing up for the G20 Leaders' Summit, the aim of the 4th CWG Meeting was to adopt outcomes by consensus that places culture at the heart of policymaking, leveraging its interplay with other key policy areas such as trade, tourism, and digital sectors.



Day 2: August 25th, 2023

The delegates' discussions on the Draft declaration concluded on the second day of the 4th G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) Meeting.

The CWG under India's G20 Presidency, through its [Outcome Document and Chair's summary](#), emphasized positioning culture at the heart of global policymaking.

In the Press Conference held earlier in the day the Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER, Shri G. K Reddy said that the Varanasi Culture Meetings have created an opportunity to discuss multi-dimensional global relations related to the cultural sector. Shri G. Kishan Reddy also said that this year in this Cultural working group, various programs and webinars were organised. In these webinars and programmes, a record 159 experts from different G20 countries and invitee countries as well as other stakeholders participated. He informed that more than 400 antiquities have been retrieved and brought back to India since 2014.



Embedding Culture at the heart of Policy-making

1. Delegates visited Sarnath, near the confluence of the Ganges and the Varuna rivers in Varanasi.
2. The delegates also experienced an immersive cultural performance showcasing India's rich music traditions - "*Waves of Music*" which had four exciting presentations underlining Hindustani Classical Music.



3. Delegates visited the Sant Ravidas Ghat for a cruise on River Ganga followed by the grand Ganga Aarti.
4. Delegates also witnessed a mesmerizing cultural performance organised by renowned dancer and choreographer, Rani Khanam. The Kathak dance presentation aimed to capture the essence of India's spiritual and cultural expressions. It reflected both the festive and celebratory aspects of Indian traditions, as well as the profound spiritual thoughts found in temples and Sufi mysticism.

References:

[The fourth G20 Culture Working Group \(CWG\) meeting to start tomorrow in Varanasi](#)

[The discussions on the draft declaration begin at the fourth G20 Culture Working Group \(CWG\) meeting today in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh](#)

[The fourth G20 Culture Working Group concludes in Varanasi today](#)

[G20 Culture Working Group TERMS OF REFERENCE](#)

[G20 CULTURE MINISTERS' MEETING KASHI CULTURE PATHWAY Outcome Document and Chair's Summary](#)

X Links:

<https://twitter.com/g20org/status/1694408264300285974>

<https://twitter.com/g20org/status/1695127241284346068>

<https://twitter.com/g20org/status/1694764625286549821>

Video Link:

[Press Conference On 4th Culture Working Group Meeting & Culture Ministers' Meeting in Varanasi](#)

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