



Research Unit
Press Information Bureau
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
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G20 Series #74

India's G20 Presidency

4th Tourism Working Group Meeting (Goa– June 19 - 20, 2023)

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

July 13, 2023

“India’s efforts in the tourism sector are centered on preserving its rich heritage while creating a world-class infrastructure for tourism. India attracts pilgrims of every major religion of the world; therefore the development of spiritual tourism is one of our focus areas.”

[- Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#)

The 4th Tourism Working Group Meeting (TWG) was held in Goa from June 19 - 20, 2023. The meeting served as a platform for discussions on the **GOA Roadmap for Tourism as a vehicle for achieving SDGs** and the G20 Tourism Ministers’ Declaration.

Under G20 India, the TWG is working on five interconnected priority areas. These priorities are key building blocks for accelerating the transition of the tourism sector and achieving the targets for 2030 SDGs. TWG has been instrumental in fostering collaboration & taking decisive action to promote sustainable & resilient growth in the tourism sector.

Day 1: June 19, 2023

The 4th Tourism Working Group of G20 began in Goa with two important side events on the first day. The events were graced by Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Minister of State for Tourism, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik; Minister of Tourism in Goa Shri Rohan Khaunte; Secretary Tourism Ms V. Vidyavathi graced the occasion.

The first side event was organised on the theme ‘**Making Cruise Tourism a Model for Sustainable and Responsible Travel**’. Addressing the side event, the Union Minister for Tourism Shri G. Kishan Reddy said that Goa is a perfect blend of Sun, Sand, and Sea and everyone should experience this beautiful state of India.

He further said that Indian cruise tourism is like peace, far away from the stress of life and experiencing life through natural surroundings. He also informed that the Ministry of

Tourism, through the Central Financial Assistance Scheme has been supporting Tourism Infrastructure Development for developing ports and cruise terminals, development of light-houses, purchase of ferries, and development of river cruise circuits. The Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways is also working towards the development of dedicated terminals for cruise passengers and cruise vessels.



Shri G.K Reddy also informed that a dedicated task force has been formulated on Cruise Tourism, jointly by the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Shipping.

At the event, in the presence of Tourism Minister, Shri G Kishan Reddy, Ministry of Tourism signed a MoU with Airbnb to jointly promote heritage homesteads.

The second side event was organised on the theme ‘Towards a Circular Economy of Plastics in Tourism -The Global Tourism Plastic Initiative’, in collaboration with United Nations Environment Program and United Nations World Tourism Organisation. The side event focused on encouraging the engagement of tourism stakeholders to address plastic pollution through circular approaches across the tourism value chain. The event encompassed high-level introductory remarks and a keynote presentation on the action framework proposed by the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative (GTPI). This was followed by a panel discussion with tourism stakeholders and a signing ceremony to welcome the adherence of several organizations to the GTPI.

Addressing the meeting Shri G.K Reddy quoting from Atharva Veda said “The earth is our Mother and we are her children”.

Talking of sustainability, the Minister emphasised that, ‘People and Planet first; Decarbonization of Destinations; Empowering Entrepreneurs should be prioritised’. He added that there are approximately 30,000 Yuva Tourism Clubs in India, with membership ranging from fourth-graders to college students and these clubs will promote responsible tourism



practices, renew interest in sustainable tourism, re-emphasize the initiatives of ‘Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat’ and ‘Dekho Apna Desh’.

Shri G.K Reddy also informed that the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India’s ‘National Strategy for

Sustainable Tourism’ and ‘Swadesh Darshan 2.0’ initiative have laid down the guidelines for the management of plastic waste in the tourism sector.

At the second side event, an MOU was signed between the Central Nodal Agency, Sustainable Tourism, Responsible Tourism Society of India (RTSOI), and Punjab Tourism Board in the presence of Minister Shri G. Kishan Reddy, to collectively unite and address plastic pollution in the tourism sector.

Panel discussions were also held in each of the side events with sharing of experiences, best practices, suggestions, way forward, and usefulness of fostering partnerships. **Special sessions on Gender balance in Cruise Tourism, Developing India as a hub of Cruise Tourism, and Global Perspective on Cruise Tourism** were organised.

Day 2: June 20, 2023

On the second day, the inaugural session of the 4th Tourism Working Group Meeting under G20 hosted by the Ministry of Tourism was held at Goa.

The inaugural session was addressed by Union Minister for Tourism, Culture and DoNER Shri G.Kishan Reddy, Minister of State for Tourism Shri Ajay Bhatt; Minister of State for Tourism, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik; and the Chief Minister (CM) of Goa, Shri Pramod Sawant. The Minister for Tourism in Goa Shri Rohan Khaunte graced the occasion.



In his inaugural address, the Union Minister for Tourism Shri G.Kishan Reddy observed that Since ancient times, travelling to India was an avenue for finding oneself and India has always been a popular destination for travellers from all corners of the globe seeking self-discovery.

The Minister informed that currently, the Indian Government has two priorities: Sustainable infrastructure creation, to cater to the growing needs of the tourists, and Raising awareness among the tourists, for responsible consumption and adoption of an environmentally conscious lifestyle through the launch of the G20 Tourism and SDG Dashboard, a legacy has been created.



The dashboard being developed, shall promote policies and initiatives by the G20 countries, and guest countries in building a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient sector.



A thematic discussion on ‘**Making India a Hub for Cruise Tourism**’ was organised in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). At the event discussions were held on successful practices of Cruise Tourism Promotion and Development, Development of River Cruising, and the way forward in developing cruise Tourism.

'**Draft strategy-Vision and Integrated Cruise Tourism Strategy for India**' was unveiled at the side event by Shri G Kishan Reddy, Shri Shripad Naik, and Shri Ajay Bhatt.

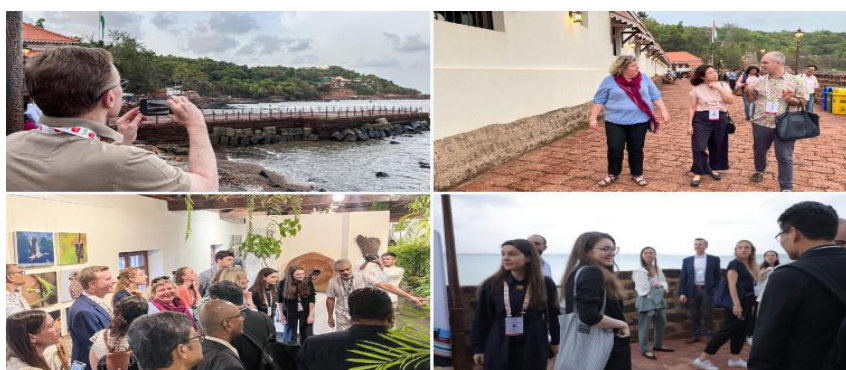
The CM of Goa Shri Pramod Sawant remarked that Goa has immense potential and a robust ship-building and cruise industry. He highlighted that with a 'Make in Goa for the Globe' approach, Goa is playing a pioneering role in cruise infrastructure development and invited investments for strengthening the cruise tourism industry. He also highlighted that a first-of-its-kind marine cluster has been introduced to boost the marine industry in Goa.



Later, delegates deliberated and held negotiations on the draft G20 Tourism Ministerial Declaration, which was to be presented to the G20 Tourism Ministers for consideration during their meeting which was held from June 21 - 22, 2023.

Witnessing a unique blend of serenity & culture!

Delegates explored the Lower Fort Aguada Jail Museum and got an opportunity to learn about the rich history of Goa.



References:

[The fourth and concluding G20 Tourism Working Group meeting to begin tomorrow at Goa; to be followed by Tourism Ministerial Meeting](#)

[Fourth Tourism Working Group meeting begins in Goa with two side events today](#)

[The Inaugural session of the 4th Tourism Working Group Meeting under G20 held at Goa today](#)

Twitter Links:

[Under #G20India, the #TWG is working on five inter-connected priority areas. These priorities are key building blocks for accelerating the transition of the tourism sector and achieving the targets for 2030 SDGs.](#)

[#TWG has been instrumental in fostering collaboration & taking decisive action to promote sustainable & resilient growth in the tourism sector. As the Tourism Ministers' Meeting is set to commence, let's take a glimpse at the remarkable journey of this Working Group!](#)

Video Link:

[PRESS CONFERENCE On 4th Tourism Working Group Meeting & Tourism Ministers' Meeting, Goa](#)

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