



Research Unit
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G20 Series #69

India's G20 Presidency

G20 Development Ministers' Meeting (Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh– June 11 - 13, 2023)

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

June 19, 2023

“Our efforts must be comprehensive, inclusive, fair, and sustainable. We should increase investment in fulfilling the SDGs and find solutions to address the debt risks faced by many countries.”

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The G20 Development Ministers' Meeting was held from June 11th-13th, 2023 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. With its initiation in 2021, Development Ministerial Mechanism is a platform within G20 for deliberations on global developmental challenges and ways to address them for achieving progress toward the (Sustainable Development Goals) SDGs. The G20 Development Ministerial Meeting took place as a culmination of priorities, outcomes, discussions, and initiatives of the following four meetings of the Development Working Group (DWG):

- ❖ [1st DWG Meeting from December 13 – 16, 2022 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.](#)
- ❖ [2nd DWG Meeting from April 6 – 9, 2023 in Kumarakom, Kerala](#)
- ❖ [3rd DWG Meeting from May 8 – 11, 2023 in Goa](#)
- ❖ [4th DWG Meeting from June 6 – 9, 2023 in New Delhi](#)

The Varanasi Development Ministers' Meeting took place amidst mounting developmental challenges that have been further aggravated by the economic slowdown, debt distress, impacts of climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss, growing poverty and inequality, food and energy insecurity, cost-of-living crisis, global supply-chain disruptions, and geo-political conflicts and tensions.

The G20 Development Ministerial meeting was an opportunity to collectively agree on actions for accelerating the achievement of the (SDGs) and fostering synergies between the development, environment, and climate agendas while avoiding costly trade-offs that hold back progress for the developing countries.

The meeting follows the Voice of the Global South Summit that was hosted by India in January 2023, and the decisions taken at the Varanasi meeting will also contribute to the United Nations SDG Summit which will take place in September in New York.

Day 1: June 11, 2023

On day 1 of the G20 Development Ministers' Meeting delegates received a warm Banarasi Welcome. They arrived in Varanasi to warm hospitality and traditional reception as G20 India welcomed them to the City of Lights.



Later, the delegates and dignitaries witnessed Varanasi's famous Ganga Aarti.



Day 2: June 12, 2023

Plenary sessions of the G20 Development Ministers' Meeting, Varanasi commenced with a special [video message by Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#). The keynote address at the meeting was delivered by the Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar.

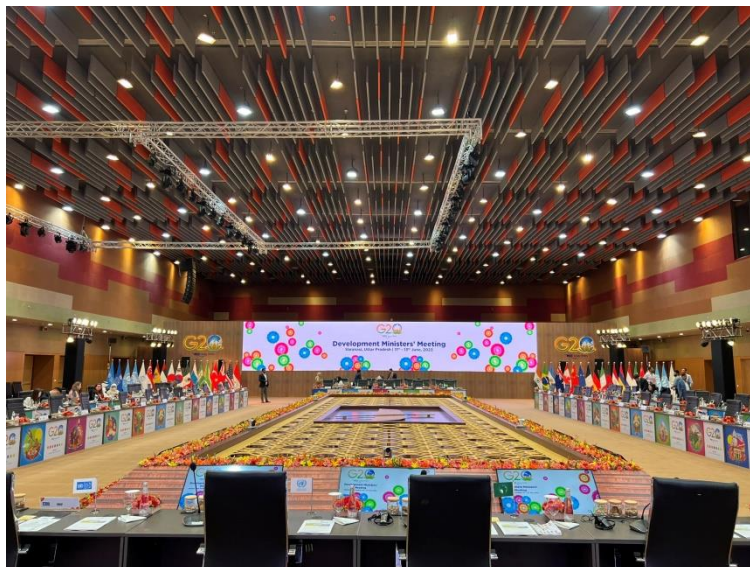
In his [video message](#), Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, welcomed everyone to Varanasi, the oldest living city of the mother of democracy.

Highlighting the significance of Kashi, the Prime Minister said that it has been the center of knowledge, discussion, debate, culture, and spirituality for centuries and showcases the essence of India's diverse heritage serving as a convergence point for people from all parts of the country.



The Prime Minister underlined that in the pursuit of SDGs, our efforts must be comprehensive, inclusive, fair, and sustainable, and attempts should be made to increase investment in fulfilling the SDGs and finding solutions to address the debt risks many countries face. The Prime Minister exhorted the G20 Development Ministers to study the **100 Aspirational Districts Development Model** of India which has transformed these districts that have been pockets of underdevelopment into catalysts of growth in the country. He added this model can be relevant to achieving the “Agenda 2030”.

Further, the delegates continued important deliberations on addressing developmental challenges & accelerating progress toward the SDGs. The agenda of the day was:



1. **Multilateralism: Collective Actions for Accelerating Progress towards SDGs.**
2. **Green Development with LiFE Approach.**

Moreover, G20 members at the G20 DMM unanimously adopted:

1. [G20 2023 Action Plan on accelerating progress on the SDGs](#)
2. [G20 High-Level Principles on Lifestyles for Sustainable Development](#)

After the sessions, the G20 delegates also explored the handicrafts showcased by the local artisans.



Day 3: June 13, 2023

G20 India Presidency released the [Outcome Document & Chair's Summary](#) for the G20 Development Ministers' Meeting in Varanasi.

Post deliberations at the G20 DMM, [delegates visited Sarnath](#), a place where Buddha delivered his first sermon. The delegates also visited the Archaeological Museum of Sarnath during their excursion at the renowned Buddhist pilgrimage spot.



The G20 delegates were also enthralled with an immersive cultural experience showcasing India's traditional dance and music.



References:

[PM addresses G20 Development Ministers' Meeting](#)

[Text of PM's video message during G20 Development Ministers' Meeting](#)

[External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar To Chair G20 Development Ministers' Meeting In Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh From 11th To 13th June, 2023](#)

[Outcome document and Chair's Summary](#)

Twitter Links:

[G20 Development Ministers will meet in Varanasi from June 11-13 to discuss global development issues. Chaired by Dr. S Jaishankar, G20 DMM will be a momentous event prior to the G20 Leaders Summit in September.](#)

[The Development Ministers' Meeting will take place in the eternal city of Varanasi from June 11-13. Here is an overview of what will happen in the G20 DMM.](#)

[An amalgamation of learning, spirituality & progress, Varanasi is ready to host G20 India delegates at the Development Ministers' Meeting.](#)

[Delegates receive a Banarasi welcome](#)

[Highlights from a successful Development Ministers' Meeting in Varanasi.](#)

Video Links:

[GANGA AARTI | Development Ministers' Meeting, Varanasi](#)

[Inaugural Segment of the G20 Development Ministers' Meeting, Varanasi](#)

[Presidency Press Briefing post Development Ministers' Meeting, Varanasi](#)

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