



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



G20 Series #25

India's G20 Presidency

1st Culture Working Group Meeting (Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh – February 22-25, 2023)

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

March 10, 2023

“G20 Presidency would help showcase parts of India beyond the conventional big metros, thus bringing out the uniqueness of each part of our nation.”

[-Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#)

Recognizing the synergies between culture and other policy areas and considering the impact of culture, cultural heritage, and the creative economy on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development, culture was integrated into the G20 agenda as a [Culture Working Group](#) in 2021. The G20 Culture Ministers met for the first time in 2020 and highlighted culture's cross-cutting contribution to advancing the G20 agenda. The group aims to strengthen international cooperation and collaboration to support cultural and creative industries.

1st Culture Working Group Meeting

The [1st G20 Culture Working Group \(CWG\)](#) meeting was held at Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh. The Meeting was scheduled from February 22-25, 2023. Around 125 delegates attended the



meeting. The theme for the Khajuraho meeting was “**Protection and Restitution of Cultural Property**”.

In the meeting, there was a discussion on the priorities identified by India in four important sessions. These included:

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

Working Group Sessions

The [Inaugural Session](#) was addressed by the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr Virendra Kumar, and followed by the Minister of State for Culture, Smt Meenakshi Lekhi. Shri Govind Mohan, Secretary, Culture, chaired the session. In the session, remarks by Troika (Indonesia and Brazil) were also presented. Brazil commented on its commitment to build upon these priorities taking it forward in the country’s upcoming presidency.



The [opening session](#) focused on discussions with the visiting delegates regarding the four priorities of the Indian Presidency, which promote Culture as an enabler for global sustainability and growth. Padam Shri Mr Nekk Ram known as the Millet man was also invited to celebrate the International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 in the meeting.

Mr Ernesto Ottone R, Assistant Director General of UNESCO for Culture talked about how the outcome of the G20 CWG under the Indian Presidency will be a vital contribution to firmly anchor Culture in the post-2030 agenda.

Further, presentations were made on the working process along with presentations by knowledge partner UNESCO.

Furthermore, an exhibition titled “**Re(ad)dress: Return of Treasures**” at the Maharaja Chhatrasal Convention Centre (MCCC) was also held, which was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Chauhan and the Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER Shri G. Kishan Reddy.



The Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Shri Govind Mohan presented his concluding remarks. He mentioned that as an outcome of the meeting, a consensus has emerged among the G-20 member countries, guest countries and international organizations that the four priority topics discussed in the meeting should be taken forward strongly.



Other Highlights from Culture Working Group Meeting

On their arrival at the Khajuraho Airport, the delegates were welcomed with folk performances - Badhai and Rai. The delegates were given a feel of the traditional arts and cultural experiences and they also participated in activities like paper-mâché, block printing, and henna art during the meeting.



The G20 delegates enjoyed colourful and vibrant performances choreographed by the Sutra Foundation from Malaysia headed by Shri Ramli, at the Western Group of Temples, Khajuraho.



G20 delegates also visited Adivart Tribal and Folk Art Museum in Khajuraho. In the museum, representative houses and daily needful things of all the seven major tribes of the state, that is, Gond, Baiga, Bheel, Bhaira, Korku, Kol and Saharia have been constructed and collected along with all five cultural regions, that is, Baghelkhand, Bundelkhand, Malwa, Nimar and Chambal.

The delegates also got a glimpse into India's rich natural heritage when they visited the Panna Tiger Reserve at the end of the meeting in Khajuraho.



References

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