



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



G20 Series #30

India's G20 Presidency

Women-20 Engagement Group – Inception Meeting
(Aurangabad, Maharashtra; February 27-28, 2023)

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting)

March 28, 2023

“It is up to the custodians of the leading economies and monetary systems of the world to bring back stability, confidence and growth to the global economy. Focus your discussions on the most vulnerable citizens of the world”

- [Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#)

Women-20 (W20) is the [official G20 engagement group focused on gender equity](#).

Its primary objective is to **ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed into G20 discussions and translate into the G20 Leaders’ Declaration as policies and commitments that foster gender equality and women’s economic empowerment.**

With the vision to create a world of equality & equity where every woman lives with dignity, W20 aims to remove all barriers to women-led development and ensure an enabling environment and ecosystem for women to thrive, transcend and transform their lives as well as others.

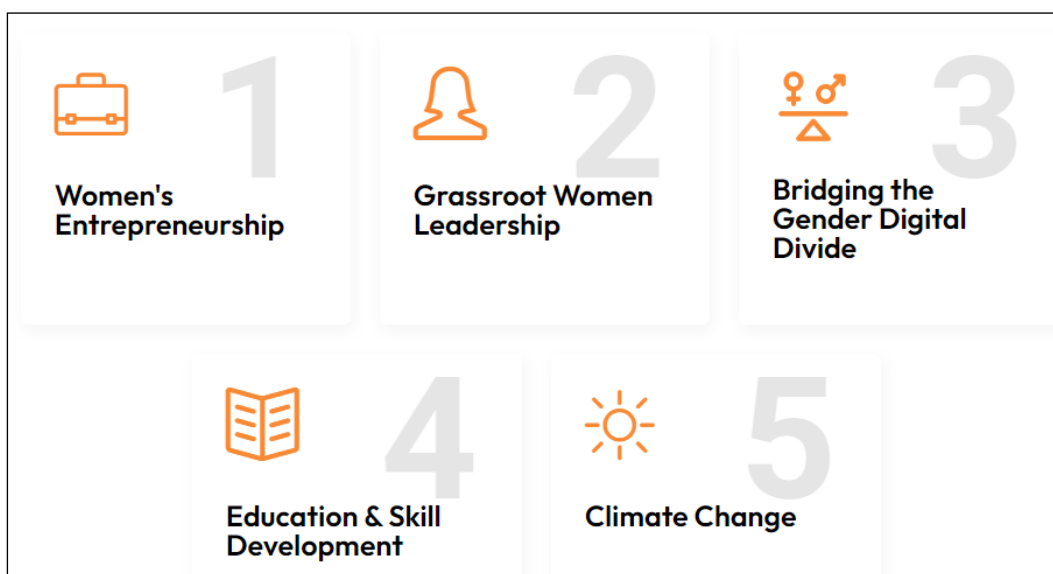


The **Goals of W20** are:

1. Inclusive consultations and action leading to a Powerful and impactful Communique
2. Feed W20 recommendations into the G20 consultations and negotiations
3. Influence and feed into the G20 Leaders' Declaration and G20 Communique
4. Establish a stronger W20 global and national network
5. Ensure continuity of W20 agenda



W20 priorities



Areas of focus



Women 20 Inception Meeting

The two-day Women-20 (W-20) Inception Meet was held at Aurangabad, Maharashtra from February 27-28, 2023. In this meet, around 150 women dignitaries from member countries, guest countries and special invitees participated.

The Women-20 (W-20) India inaugurated its inception meeting in Aurangabad on February 27, 2023, in the presence of Union Women and Child Development Minister Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister of State for Finance Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad, Union Minister of State for Railways, Coal & Mines Shri Raosaheb Danve Patil and G-20 India Sherpa Shri Amitabh Kant. W-20 India Chair Dr. Sandhya Purecha, Founding Chair of W-20 Ms. Gülden Türktan and W-20 India Chief Coordinator Smt. Dharitri Patnaik were also present. W-20 Chair Dr. Sandhya Purecha welcomed the delegates to "**The Land of Vedas**" and reiterated India's vision of establishing a world of equity, equality, and dignity.



Inaugural address by Union Women and Child Development Minister Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani

Addressing the delegates at the Inaugural Ceremony, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani spoke about the five priority areas of W20 under India's Presidency, namely, **Women's Leadership at the Grassroots, Female Enterprise and Female Prowess in the Agriculture Sector, Bridging the Digital divide, Education and Skill Development and Women and Girls as Changemakers in Climate Resilience Action.**

Welcoming the W-20 member delegates from various parts of the world, the Union WCD Minister stated that the leadership and contribution of W20 is valued as the arrival of W20 member delegates marks the arrival of the solution that the women of the world seek.



Day 1: February 27, 2023

The various sessions on Day-1 of the W-20 Inception Meet focussed on a wide range of issues like:

Session 1: Empowering Women in Nano, Micro, and Startup enterprises

Session 2: Role of Women as Changemakers in Climate Resilience Action

Session 3: Creating an Enabling Ecosystem for Women Leaders at the Grassroots

Session 4: Improving Access through Infrastructure & Skill to bridge the Gender Digital Divide

Session 5: Creating Pathways for Women through Education & Skilling



Day 1 of the W20 inception meeting concluded with a special session on **"Women-led Development in India"**.

Day 2: February 28, 2023

Day-2 of the inception meeting today started with a special session on the theme **"Breaking the Barriers: The Stories of Unconventional Women"**. Rajya Sabha MP Dr. Sonal along with Dr. Sandhya Purecha launched a coffee table book called 'Avvaya', highlighting the contribution of women to the heritage city of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar.

The session also saw the participation of bravehearts from Indian Navy - Shazia Khan, Disha Amrith, Tavishi Singh, and Swati Bhandari who rose above the social fabric to quash the patriarchal ideas that restrict women from entering certain sectors.



Zubedia Bibi, a member of the Jammu & Kashmiri Rural Livelihood Mission expressed how the Administration's initiative under the Union Government has helped women in rural areas to economically empower themselves and provide for their families.

The sixth session of the W-20 Inception Meet, titled 'Enablers of Women-led Development: Policy and Legal Framework' focused on the role of policy and legal framework as enablers of women-led development and economic empowerment.

W20 delegates in the city of Gates

1. W-20 delegates went for a heritage walk to the historic sites of Bibi Ka Maqbara and Aurangabad Caves and the world-renowned gates of the city.
2. Exhibition on handmade products, paintings depicting cultural heritage of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (formerly Aurangabad), e-bikes indicating India's push for digitalisation, sarees, handicrafts etc displayed for the delegates as part of W20 Inception Meet.



3. Jan-bhagidari with 1000 women from all walks of life including anganwadi workers, women from various NGOs and many other grassroots level women workers was conducted prior to the W20 Inception Meeting in MGM University. The event began with an enchanting cultural performance by Mahagami, emphasising the rich and diverse cultural heritage of India.



References:

- [W20](#)
- [Two-day W-20 inception meet starting tomorrow in Aurangabad, Maharashtra](#)
- [Women-20 Inception Meet starts in Aurangabad](#)
- [Union Minister for Women and Child Development \(WCD\), Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani spoke about the five priority areas of W20 under India's Presidency](#)
- [The two-day Women-20 Inception Meet concludes today at Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar](#)

Twitter Links:

- [Dr. Sandhya Purecha in W20 Inception meet](#)
- [Dr. Gulden Turktan in W20 Inception meet](#)
- [Shri Amitabh Kant in W20 Inception meet](#)
- [Women leading change at G20 India](#)
- [How W20 is mainstreaming gender issues in G20 India discourse & striving towards a world where every woman lives with dignity](#)
- [Women delegates voiced their views on enabling ecosystems & bridging gender gaps across sectors.](#)
- [Dhol & Lavani performers at a cultural night organised for W20 delegates](#)

Video Link:

- [W20 India Inception Meeting in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Maharashtra](#)

For picture, click [here](#)

For more information, visit Women 20 or W20 [website](#)

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