



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



G20 Series #20

India's G20 Presidency

G20 EMPOWER Inception Meeting (Agra – February 11-12, 2023)

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

March 06, 2023

“The G20 has a critical role to play in finding the right balance between growth and efficiency on one hand and resilience on the other.”

- [PM Shri Narendra Modi](#)

The G20 Alliance for the **Empowerment and Progression of Women's Economic Representation (EMPOWER)** is an alliance of G20 business leaders and governments that aims to accelerate women's leadership and empowerment in the private sector.¹ The G20 EMPOWER 2023, under India's Presidency, has prioritised the shift from women's development to women-led development. The Summit is aimed at providing an opportunity to develop the roadmap and policies and mobilise common strengths towards promoting equality and women-led development. Its three focus areas under India's G20 Presidency are:

- **Women's Entrepreneurship:** A win-win for Equity and Economy
- **Women's Partnership:** promoting women's leadership at all levels
- **Women's Education:** key to women's empowerment and equal workforce participation



¹ <https://newsonair.gov.in/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=455538>



Agra hosted the G20 EMPOWER Inception Meeting at the Taj Convention Hotel from February 11-12, 2023. The two-day meeting was themed around - **Empowering Women to Lead Across Sectors: Role of Digital Skilling and Future Skills**.



Inaugural Session²



Welcome Address by Shri Indevar Pandey, Secretary of the Ministry of Women & Child Development

Shri Indevar Pandey, in his welcome address, stated that India has the potential to demonstrate the leadership of the Global South by showcasing women's leadership and innovation. He also highlighted several women-centric initiatives taken by India.



Keynote Address by Smt. Smriti Irani, Minister of Women & Child Development

In her keynote address, Smt. Smriti Irani emphasised the scale of India's Self-Help Group story and highlighted the importance of women's leadership at grassroots levels and efforts to ensure the availability of banking & financial services to every woman.

² <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1898568>



Special Address by Shri Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa

In his special address, Shri Amitabh Kant indicated that for India to increase its growth rate, it would be essential to raise women's per capita income and put them into leadership positions. Shri Kant also highlighted the various initiatives taken by India which have been driving women's empowerment.

DAY 1 – February 11, 2023

Yoga Session

Day 1 of the event began with an early **Yoga session** facilitated by the Ministry of AYUSH with the goal of spreading the benefits of yoga for enhancing physical and emotional well-being.

Power Breakfast

This was followed by a session with women leaders in unconventional roles highlighting their inspirational stories in overcoming the challenges they have faced. The delegates were addressed by Ms. Chhavi Rajawat, India's first MBA Sarpanch from Rajasthan, followed by Ms. Chiquita Gulati, a food entrepreneur. The session provided a flavour of the grit of some of India's most enterprising women leaders through first-hand experience sharing.

Plenary Session: Women-led Development: Redefining Women's Leadership through Digital Skilling

The panel consisting of Ms. Anita Bhatia, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women and Ms Vaishali Sinha, Co-Founder and Chairperson Sustainability, ReNew Power; Chair ReNew Foundation discussed the digital disruption as a big enabler, opening multiple avenues of development for women.

1st Panel Discussion: Role of Digitalization and Future Skills in Empowering Women

The panel discussion was with panelists from ISRO, World Bank and G20 Empower Member delegates from Japan and Bangladesh.

2nd Panel Discussion: Enhancing Women's Participation in Non-Traditional Workforce: Institutionalized Support for Introducing Gender Equitable Opportunities in STEM and AI



The second panel discussion was with panelists from Sea6 Energy, Microsoft, Wequity, APAAACI and G20 Empower member delegate from France.

3rd Panel Discussion: Advancing Partnerships and Resourcing for Adoption of Best Practices of Women-Led Entrepreneurship

The day ended with the final panel discussion.

Projection Mapping Show

The delegates were treated to a spectacular projection mapping show in the evening, It was on the Indian cultural legacy of honouring and valuing the women of the country at the ramparts of Agra Fort, followed by a mesmerising display of the dances of India.



Exhibition: Products and Services by Women at the Grassroot

The exhibition was held concurrently on both days with the Sessions. It showcased various products (including around 54 One District One Products (ODOPs) and Geographical Indications (GI) from across 7 states, services, and initiatives by women crafts persons and entrepreneurs.



DAY 2 – February 12, 2023

Yoga Session and Power Breakfast

Day two of the meeting continued the wellness morning routine with a Yoga session by the Ministry of AYUSH which was followed by a Power Breakfast with Shereen Bhan, Managing Editor, CNBC TV-18. Dr Munjpara Mahendrabhai, MoS of Ministry of Women & Child Development and AYUSH, addressed the gathering and highlighted the Government of India's

endeavour for gender equality by sharing information on key schemes for the empowerment of women and girls in India.

Session: Art, Culture and a Better World

G20 EMPOWER INCEPTION MEETING | FEBRUARY 11-12, 2023 | AGRA

In his special address, **Mr Nag Naidu, Joint Secretary, G20, Ministry of External Affairs** remarked that reducing gender gaps in labour force participation could substantially boost global GDP and by reducing the gender gap, GDP could go up by approximately 30%.

Ratna Sahay, Special Advisor to the Managing Director, International Monetary Fund, Empower Delegate focussed on keeping women at the centre of policy making, digital skilling and entrepreneurship.

Tsukiko Tsukahara, Co-Chair G20 EMPOWER, Japan appreciated the idea of an outcome-oriented approach and highlighted the need of increased involvement by the private sector and ways to do it.

Rinawati Prihatiningsih, Co-Chair G20 EMPOWER, Indonesia focused on the G20 Empower pledge and discussed the contribution of women in SMEs as important as they represented 90% of businesses.

Marguerite Soeteman Reijnen, Chairman of the Executive Board, AON Holdings, G20 EMPOWER Delegate, Netherlands remarked that the world groups are crucial for financial inclusion.

Mr. Charles Ramsden, Head of International Gender Policy, Government Equalities Office, United Kingdom brought to the spotlight, the things that will make EMPOWER successful – shared priorities, shared experience and shared commitment to making progress.

The session was moderated by a delegate from Avanee Foundation and was attended by Dr Sandhya Purecha, Chair W20 and Chairperson, Sangeet Natak Akademi, and artists from various genres of art.

Closing Plenary Session: Establishing Actions across G20 EMPOWER Priorities and Identifying Key Outcomes

The G20 Empower Chair, Dr Sangita Reddy, chaired the closing plenary session.

Concluding Remarks by Dr Sangita Reddy, Chairperson, G20 EMPOWER

In her concluding remarks, Dr Sangita Reddy reiterated the three pillars of G20 EMPOWER while highlighting four broad areas of working that will underlie each. These include the KPI Dashboard, pledge, proposals for Working Groups, and the need to record outcomes to drive impact.

In her **concluding remarks**, Dr Reddy said ‘The new definition of a billionaire is not someone who makes a billion, but someone who touches a billion lives’.

Excursion

The second and final day came to end with an excursion to the Taj Mahal and a cultural evening, 'Strings of the World'.



References:

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