



Research Unit
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G20 Series #50

India's G20 Presidency

Space Economy Leaders Meeting (SELM) (Shillong, Meghalaya – April 17-18, 2023)

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

May 23, 2023

“The G-20 presidency is a new responsibility for India, and India will fulfil its responsibility by living up to the hopes and expectations of the world. With its thousands of years of culture and modernity, India will work for the knowledge enhancement and welfare of the world.”

- [Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#)

The precursor event to the 4th edition of the Space Economy Leaders Meeting (SELM) was held in Shillong on April 17-18, 2023. This two-day event was a forerunner for the 4th edition of SELM to be organized in Bengaluru on July 6-7, 2023 under India's G20 Presidency. Department of Space (DOS)/ISRO, Government of Meghalaya, and India's Ministry of External Affairs organised the precursor event. Ambassadors/ High Commissioners and senior diplomats of G20 Countries and invited Countries and eminent think tanks participated in it.¹



¹ https://www.isro.gov.in/g20selm/Precursor_Event.html

Inaugural Ceremony

During the inaugural ceremony, Mr Conrad K Sangma, Chief Minister of Meghalaya welcomed all the delegates to the state of Meghalaya. He narrated how the Space applications have enabled the growth of the North Eastern Region and Meghalaya in particular and hoped that events like this facilitate the contribution of the region to the fullest extent towards national development.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State Science & Technology; Minister of State Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, who participated virtually, recollected that India has established end-to-end capabilities in Space technology and the response to the 2020 space sector reforms is overwhelming. He urged for new technologies and new applications toward increased contribution to the Indian economy and world harmony.



Dr Jitendra Singh said that under the able leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Government has decided to open up the space sector for the Indian private industry through the 2020 Space Sector reforms to enhance their participation in end-to-end space activities with hand holding of ISRO.²

Mr. Pankaj Chaudhary, Minister of State, Ministry of Finance, affirmed that the New Space fuels the economy and remarked that the opportunities for responsible Space activities should not be left unexplored.

G20 India Sherpa, Mr Amitabh Kant, appreciating the role of Space technology in the well-being of humankind, called for the critical role to be played toward sustainable and socioeconomic development. Mr. Somanath S, Secretary, DoS/ Chairman, ISRO welcomed all delegates and

² <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1917307>

outlined the layout and expectations of the precursor meeting. Dr. Pawan Kumar Goenka, Chairman, IN-SPACe briefed the opportunities post 2020 reforms.

Technical Sessions

Three technical sessions were held. In a roundtable meeting, G20 countries presented their perspectives on the Space Economy. It entailed the present state of the space economy in the respective countries, efforts by the respective governments to promote the space economy including the New Space, and the challenges faced were presented. Secretary, DOS chaired the session and presented the Indian perspective.

The awareness-building session on '**Space Economy: Policy perspectives**' was chaired by Chairman, IN-SPACe, who presented on "**Evolving Indian space policy framework and future outlook**". The delegates made engaging technical presentations and actively discussed the status, trends, and future of the Space economy. In the concluding session explaining the 4th SELM at Bengaluru, the delegates were briefed on the importance of the event, and the selection of the venue, and were urged to ensure the participation of a delegation from the respective countries.

Officials from the Department of Space, the Ministry of External Affairs, and the Government of Meghalaya attended the event. ISRO and other leading Indian Space Industries showcased their products and Services. The government of Meghalaya presented a glimpse of its rich heritage.

The precursor event successfully enhanced the awareness of the contribution of space to the global economy and created momentum for the SELM at Bengaluru. The event is hoped to help the further proliferation of space technology applications in this region and enhance the engagements by space industries and start-ups. On the second day, the delegates visited various locations in Meghalaya.

References:

- PIB Press Release on [Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addresses G20 meeting](#) dated April 17, 2023.
- PIB Press Release on [Meghalaya is ready to host the precursor meeting of the G20 Space Economy Leaders Meeting](#) dated April 15, 2023.
- https://www.isro.gov.in/g20selm/Precursor_Event.html
- https://twitter.com/PIB_India/status/164790785557890048?s=20

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