



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



G20 Series #57

India's G20 Presidency

Think 20 (T20)

(Madhya Pradesh – January 16 - 17, 2023)

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

May 24, 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](#)

Think20 (T20), an official G20 Engagement Group, was initiated during the Mexican Presidency in 2012. It serves as an “idea bank” for the G20 by bringing together think tanks and high-level experts to discuss relevant international socio-economic issues. T20 recommendations are synthesized into policy briefs and presented to G20 working groups, ministerial meetings, and leaders’ summits to help the G20 deliver concrete policy measures.¹

Each year, under a new G20 Presidency, the T20 creates Task Forces to structure their proposals. Under India’s Presidency there are 7 Task Forces:

1. Macroeconomics, Trade, and Livelihoods: Policy Coherence and International Coordination
2. Our Common Digital Future: Affordable, Accessible and Inclusive Digital Public Infrastructure
3. LiFE, Resilience, and Values for Wellbeing
4. Refuelling Growth: Clean Energy and Green Transitions
5. Purpose & Performance: Reassessing the Global Financial Order

¹ <https://www.g20.org/en/workstreams/engagement-groups/>

6. Accelerating SDGs: Exploring New Pathways to the 2030 Agenda
7. Towards Reformed Multilateralism: Transforming Global Institutions and Frameworks

The meeting was organised from January 16 – 17, 2023, at Kushabhau Thakre International Convention Centre, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Earlier, on 13th January, India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant addressed the Think20 India Inception Conference. He touched upon the developmental narrative led by India.

Day 1: January 16, 2023

In the inaugural session held on the first day, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan welcomed dignitaries with the spirit of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”. He pressed on the idea of, “One Earth, One Family, One Future” and said, “Only the thought of the entire world as one family can bring solutions to all the problems of the world.”²

Chief Coordinator for India's G20 Presidency Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla in his special remarks at the 2-day meeting of the engagement group Think20 (T20) under G20 spoke on Global Governance with LiFE, values and wellbeing. He talked about a value-driven approach needed to solve the problem of today's times. He emphasised that T20 is the best forum to ideate well-crafted responses to the challenge of climate change.



² <https://newsonair.com/2023/01/16/g20-india-universal-message-of-oneness-discussed-at-think20-meet-in-bhopal/>

Chief Coordinator of India's G20 Presidency Harsh Vardhan Shringla also participated in the tree plantation drive with the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan and other Think 20 delegates at the Smart City Park in Bhopal.³



On the first day, three Plenary Sessions were held on the following themes:

1. LiFE, Values and Development Transformation
2. Financing Resilient Infrastructure and Sustainable Transition towards LiFE
3. Towards Inclusive G20

The first day concluded with a visit to Tribal Museum, Bhopal followed by a cultural programme and *Aahar* (Dinner) at Tribal Museum.

Day 2: January 17, 2023

On the second day, the following sessions were held:

◆ Plenary Session 4: Role of Triangular Cooperation in Localisation of SDGs –

“We need a people-centric approach for localisation,” said Ambassador Amar Sinha in the plenary sessions titled, “Role of Triangular Cooperation in Localisation of SDGs.”



³ https://twitter.com/PBNS_India/status/1614893036349325312?s=20

In the session, the importance of localization in achieving Sustainable Development Goals has been acknowledged. Eminent speakers said that triangular cooperation of government, society, and private organizations is necessary to achieve this goal. The speakers praised India's efforts in balancing this triangular cooperation.

- ◆ Roundtable on Global South and Global Governance for LiFE
- ◆ Plenary Session 5: New Complementarities in Trade and Value Chains
- ◆ Valedictory Session

The discussions on the last day of the Think20 meeting emphasized that values and ethical considerations should not be treated as residual elements. Values play a crucial role in formulating development strategies. It was deliberated upon that values should form the core of the substantive practices in production, technology and financial transactions.

The second day concluded with a visit to Sanchi.

Bhopal Declaration

The Think 20 Meeting concluded with the Bhopal declaration.

The Bhopal Declaration says that the development path pursued so far has threatened the existence of biodiversity. Hence, if substantial progress towards universal value-based systems is not taken then it can be a threat. Therefore the adoption of Mission LiFE, an ethical approach has been cherished by all.

Key highlights of the Declaration are:

Healthy, Inclusive Development on Priority in Bhopal Declaration:

The Bhopal Declaration made an appeal to all the stakeholders to focus more on inclusive development. The key recommendations of the Bhopal Declaration include the need for development transformation for 'Global South and Global Governance for (Lifestyle for Environment)' LiFE and responsible consumption.

Director General of Research and Information System (RIS) for Developing Countries and Chief Organizer of Think20, Sachin Chaturvedi said that the Bhopal Declaration has also emphasized promoting traditional medicine systems like AYUSH can form a strong pillar of the 'One Health' approach.

Alongside the UNICEF official, experts from India, South Africa, Brazil and Bangladesh were also there. It was put on the table that South Asia is home to about 36% of the global children

population under 18. Hence, the focus on health that empowers women and children was kept on priority in Bhopal Declaration. Also, a provision for a “Child Budget” as a part of the annual financial plan was agreed upon.

Director General RIS Sachin Chaturvedi further added, “We know that investments in early childhood and adolescence can be a powerful driver of inclusive economic growth. We know with India in the lead of G20, this new model will emerge.”⁴

Mission LiFe as a way for value-oriented development:

Values form an integral part of building an ethically sound future. The theme for G20 under India’s Presidency, “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” or “One Earth, One Family, One Future”, embraces the significance of a value-driven approach.



References:

- [Universal message of oneness discussed at Think20 meet in Bhopal](#)
- [Healthy, Inclusive Development on Priority in Bhopal Declaration](#)

Twitter links:

- https://twitter.com/PBNS_India/status/1614893036349325312?s=20
- <https://twitter.com/byadavbjp/status/1660873770960289792?s=20>
- [Agenda of Think 20 Meeting - Bhopal](#)

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⁴ <https://newsonair.com/2023/01/18/g20-india-2-day-meeting-of-think20-concludes-with-bhopal-declaration/>