



Research Unit
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G20 Series #60

India's G20 Presidency

3rd Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) Meeting (Mumbai, Maharashtra – May 21 - 23, 2023)

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

May 25, 2023

“India is moving forward on the subject of climate with great courage and great ambition. India also understands the suffering of all other developing countries, shares them, and will continue to express their expectations.”

- [Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#)

The 3rd Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) meeting was held in Mumbai from May 21st-23rd, 2023. The main focus of this meeting was on steering the discussions around Communique with a more outcome-driven approach. The 3rd ECSWG meeting is a critical step in fostering the efforts of the G20 countries, invitee countries, and international organizations towards a sustainable and resilient future.

The three-day meeting witnessed the participation of 141 delegates from G20 countries and 10 invitee countries. The representatives of 14 international and regional organisations also attended deliberations conducted over the 3 days.

The 3 priorities outlined for the ECSWG are:

- ❖ **Arresting land degradation,**
- ❖ **Promoting Circular economy, and**
- ❖ **Giving impetus to Blue Economy.**

All meetings focused on a specific theme out of these three themes. The 3rd ECSWG focused on Blue Economy and was supported by two side events – the Mega Beach Clean Up Event and the Ocean 20 Dialogue on Day 1 of the meeting.

Day 1: May 21, 2023

The G20 Mega Beach Clean Up event which kicked off the 3rd meeting of the Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group witnessed widespread participation from G20 countries, invitee countries, State government officials, international organisations and delegates attending the 3rd ECSWG meeting, and highlighted the global commitment to preserving coastal and marine ecosystems.

The massive drive organized to sensitize people and create awareness is in alignment with the Prime Minister's message on '*Swachhta*' and '*Jan Bhagidari*' and highlights the significance of '*Lifestyle for Environment*' (*LiFE*) concept and the importance of individual actions in tackling the menace of marine pollution. With a pledge to keep the beaches clean, the message sent out was that the beach cleaning event was not only a manifestation of sustainable coastal management and ocean economy but is very closely connected to the larger issue of marine pollution and the fact that our behaviour has an impact on the environment. The event in India saw the participation of close to 16,000 enthusiastic volunteers.



Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Labour and Employment Shri Bhupender Yadav participated in G20 Mega Beach Clean Up campaign at Juhu Beach. Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Ramesh Bais; Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Eknath Shinde; Minister of State, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey; and Shri Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Minister, Government of Maharashtra and Environment Secretary, Mrs Leena Nandan along with senior officials of central and state governments were also present on the occasion.

The selfie point on the beach and the stall showcasing recycled items from plastic were points of attraction. The stall showcased items like benches, car dustbins, and more such items made out of recycled plastic. The plastic waste collected from Juhu Beach was recycled, using recycling machines kept at the beach, to enhance awareness.

The renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik created captivating sand art on the beach aligned with the event's theme, featuring the G20 logo along with *Prakriti*, the mascot for LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment). The paintings made by schoolchildren were also displayed at the meeting venue.

Day 1 of the meeting also witnessed extensive deliberations on the Ocean 20 dialogue - a platform for sharing best practices on science, technology, and innovation, policy, governance, participation, and blue finance mechanisms. These discussions were aimed at devising a solution for ensuring a sustainable and climate-resilient Blue Economy, aligning with the priorities of the G20 India Presidency.



Day 2: May 22, 2023

The second day started with an inaugural address by Shri Kapil M Patil, Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj, who congratulated the Working Group on the resounding success of the Mega Beach Clean Up Event and appreciated the hard work done by the ECSWG in the area of climate change and environment issues.



This was followed by opening remarks for the day by Ms. Leena Nandan, G20 India Chair and Secretary, MoEFCC, who expressed her gratitude to the delegates for engaging actively in the first two ECSWG meetings. She urged the G20 countries for their continued participation in the Communique discussion to ensure inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive outcomes as the Working Group moves closer towards the last leg of the proceedings under the Indian Presidency.



Amidst the rounds of deliberations at the 3rd ECSWG Meet in Mumbai, G20 India delegates visited the pavilions and appreciated the exhibits crafted by local artisans. They explored various stalls and acknowledged the efforts which will help ensure a sustainable future.

Day 3: May 23, 2023

The primary agenda of the 3rd ECSWG meeting was the detailed discussions on the draft Ministerial Communique and entailed constructive discussions and deliberations on priority areas. Picking up the thread from the Focus Group Discussions which had been conducted by the Indian Presidency over the past three weeks across all the three thematic priorities, the discussions were conducted with a steadfast resolve of being collaborative and inclusive. The outcome documents were discussed line-by-line and the member countries presented their respective viewpoints.



The third day of the 3rd ECSWG meeting ended in a discussion mode on the Communique, to be further deliberated upon and refined in the virtual meetings scheduled over the next few weeks, as a run-up to the 4th and final ECSWG meeting to be held in Chennai from 26 to 27 July, with the Minister's meet on 28 July 2023.

Witnessing the Vibrant Culture of India

A visual extravaganza was offered to the G20 delegates during the 3rd ECSWG Meeting!



After rounds of deliberations at the 3rd ECSWG Meet in Mumbai, G20 India delegates witnessed vibrant cultural performances that reflected the true essence of India's culture. They also experienced a spectacular light show at the iconic Gateway of India.

References:

[G20's Third Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group \(ECSWG\) Meeting to be held in Mumbai from May 21-23, 2023](#)

[Shri Bhupender Yadav participates in G20 Mega Beach Clean Up campaign at Juhu Beach in Mumbai](#)

[Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj, Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil addresses G20 delegates in the inaugural session of the Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group in Mumbai](#)

[G20 India's 3rd Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group \(ECSWG\) meeting concludes today in Mumbai with a commitment to facilitate tangible outcomes through a consensus-driven approach](#)

Twitter Links:

[G20 India stands committed to preserving coastal & marine life!](#)

[The 3rd ECSWG Meeting concludes in Mumbai.](#)

Video Link:

[MEDIA BRIEFING On 3rd Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group Meeting, Mumbai](#)

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