



**Research Unit**  
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## G20 Series #54

### India's G20 Presidency

#### *G20 Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG)*

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

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*“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](#)

Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) aims to enhance, intensify, and strengthen research and innovation collaboration among the G20 member countries. It reflects the government's focus on designing frameworks that generate new markets and sustain macroeconomic growth, enabling the research and innovation ecosystem. RIIG is furthering the work of the Academic Forum held during the Italian Presidency in 2021, by bringing together science, technology and innovation experts of the G20 member countries.<sup>1</sup>

The Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) aims to address the challenges of achieving socio-economic equity through research and innovation. It proposes the establishment of a G20 Working Group on Research, Innovation, and Equity, which would bring together leading economic powers to address these challenges. The goal is to promote international scientific cooperation and develop sustainable solutions for science-driven equity, by sharing best practices, collaborating on research projects, and developing policies to promote equitable access to the benefits of research and innovation.<sup>2</sup>

Within the broad theme "Research and Innovation for Equitable Society" for RIIG 2023, the deliberations focus on four priority areas –

- ◆ Materials for Sustainable Energy;
- ◆ Circular-bio-economy;
- ◆ Eco-Innovations for Energy Transition;
- ◆ Scientific Challenges and Opportunities towards Achieving a Sustainable Blue Economy.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.g20.org/en/workstreams/sherpa-track/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://moes.gov.in/g20-india-2023/riig?language\\_content\\_entity=en](https://moes.gov.in/g20-india-2023/riig?language_content_entity=en)

<sup>3</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1897776>

## RIIG INCEPTION MEET

Kolkata, West Bengal | February 8-9, 2023<sup>4</sup>

The Inception meeting of RIIG kicked off in Kolkata, bringing together scientists & administrators from different areas together to discuss research and innovation for an equitable society. A total of 36 foreign delegates representing 20 countries and International Organisations, namely Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, European Union, France, Germany, Indonesia, International Solar Alliance (ISA), Italy, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Turkiye, UAE, United Kingdom, and the United States of America – participated in the Inception meeting. About 40 Indian delegates and special invitees from various scientific departments/ organisations of the Government of India participated in the meeting.



**Dr. S Chandrasekhar**, Secretary Department of Science and Technology (DST), said that G20 has the greatest footprint and impact on growth, economy, and sustainability through international cooperation, stressing the responsibility of the group to drive change and drive it now.

**Dr. Kiran Kumar**, Former Secretary, Department of Space and member Space Commission delivered the keynote address and remarked, “Human development is a continuous process, and intellectual capabilities are growing with each passing day. Research and Innovation bring new opportunities, and we need to see how the new technologies could be helpful for society”.

**Dr N. Kalaiselvi**, Secretary Department of Scientific & Industrial Research(DSIR), and DG, CSIR stressed that as a global community, the G20 requires a huge expansion of manufacturing of renewable energy appliances, and needs to augment manufacturing by 10 to 15 times. She expressed the necessity of partnership among G20 countries in the areas of energy generation, conversion, and storage, particularly on the production of green hydrogen and green ammonia, end-to-end production of energy storage devices, and supply chain management.

**Dr. Rajesh Gokhale**, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology(DBT), introduced the second priority area of circular bio-economy. Dr. Gokhale emphasised India’s “Mission LIFE” -“Life Style for Environment” launched by Prime Minister envisions replacing the prevalent ‘use-and-dispose’ economy with a circular economy defined by mindful and deliberate utilisation. He also highlighted that India is developing a policy framework for high-performance bio-manufacturing that will foster world-class expertise, facilities, and a skilled workforce in synthetic biology-based sustainable manufacturing practices for green India.

Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences **Dr. M Ravichandran** elaborated on scientific challenges and opportunities to achieve a sustainable blue economy, ensure sustainable and equitable

<sup>4</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1897776>

utilisation of marine living resources, and enhance blue carbon capacity to counter climate change.

**Dr. Akhilesh Gupta**, Secretary, Science and Engineering Research Board, introduced the third priority area, Eco-Innovations for Energy Transition. Dr. Gupta highlighted the global energy scenario and India's commitment towards attaining climate goals through the sustainable energy transition. Research and Innovation initiatives in the areas such as Carbon capture, utilisation, and storage, hydrogen economy, and R&D in electric vehicles were highlighted as key drivers of the energy transition.



## **RIIG EVENT (CSIR)**

**Ranchi, Jharkhand | March 2-3, 2023<sup>5</sup>**

The second RIIG event was held in Ranchi, Jharkhand from March 2-3, 2023. The conference discussed mechanisms to collaborate and work for sustainable energy technologies. A total of 21 foreign delegates from 16 G20 member countries, guest countries and international organisations participated in the conference along with about 40 Indian experts. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi coordinated the Conference.



Delegates deliberated on ways of working jointly to solve the energy challenges collectively to achieve carbon emission net-zero goals for environmental protection and sustainability at the G20 Conference on Materials for Sustainable Energy.

Various facets of 'Materials for Sustainable Energy' were discussed under three sessions –

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<sup>5</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1903985>

- 21st-century challenges related to energy materials & devices
- Solar energy utilisation and photovoltaic technology
- Materials and processes for green energy.



Dr. S. Chandrasekhar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST) and RIIG Chair, said that many G20 nations, including India, have enormous minerals and materials wealth that is required to be sustainably used for meeting our energy requirements.

Highlighting the theme of the G20 under India's Presidency, "VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM" or "One Earth, One Family, One Future" Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Secretary, DSIR and DG, CSIR said it underlines the need for the entire world to come together and focus on sustainable energy so that we can have one global future with net zero emissions.

As G20 delegates from Indonesia and Brazil, the other two troika countries reiterated the importance of the conference, delegates from several countries called upon the G20 nations to join hands for furthering research and developing technological solutions in sustainable energy storage, distribution and management.

Post the RIIG Conference, the delegates stepped out for an exciting day of excursion in Ranchi. From exploring the local delicacies to shopping for authentic trinkets from the stalls, the foreign delegates praised for the warm hospitality of Jharkhand.<sup>6</sup>



<sup>6</sup> <https://twitter.com/g20org/status/1631639824107991040>

## RIIG EVENT (DBT)

Dibrugarh, Assam | March 23-24, 2023<sup>7</sup>

The third RIIG Conference was held on March 23-24, 2023 at Dibrugarh, Assam, India. Delegates deliberated on building a sustainable and circular bio-economy. The G20 RIIG Conference is coordinated by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India. Delegates from G20 members, guest countries, and International Organizations, and invited participants from the scientific community deliberated on the ways towards building a sustainable and circular bio-economy. About 100 delegates and invitees participated in the conference.



In his inaugural speech as the Chair of the G20 Research and Innovation Initiative conference, Dr. S Chandrasekhar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology said that integration of circular economy and bio-economy is necessary for sustainable economic growth. He added that circular economy and bio-economy are interrelated and instead of looking at them as separate entities, we should aim for mutually beneficial complementary collaboration between them.



The event brought together key actors, comprising national authorities and experts from the G20 members responsible for planning, setting up new, and managing existing programs on the subject. The focus areas included challenges and opportunities in agriculture, decarbonization of industry, and

bio-energy and bioresource management. The conference also saw deliberations on national and regional programs and country experiences, regulatory environment and public/private sector collaboration, the role of Research, Development & Innovation in creating new, resource-efficient, sustainable, and more circular bio-based technologies, products and services, and cooperation between G20 members on specific thematic areas.

On March 25, 2023, the RIIG Meeting delegates visited Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. On their arrival in Itanagar, the delegates witnessed an exhibition on various tribal cultures, arts and

<sup>7</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1909496>

innovations of the budding innovators of the State. The exhibition was formally inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Pema Khandu.

Young innovators from Arunachal Pradesh also exhibited their innovations to the Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) Conference delegate visiting Itanagar at the State Banquet Hall.<sup>8</sup>



Various items made from cane & bamboo were on display at RIIG at the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exhibition in Itanagar's GJ Banquet Hall.<sup>9</sup> Delegates also witnessed the cultural programme of various tribes of Arunachal Pradesh.<sup>10</sup>



<sup>8</sup> [https://twitter.com/search?q=RIIG%20\(from%3A%40airnewsalerts\)&src=typed\\_query&f=top](https://twitter.com/search?q=RIIG%20(from%3A%40airnewsalerts)&src=typed_query&f=top)

<sup>9</sup> <https://twitter.com/DDNewslive/status/1639820443782619137>

<sup>10</sup> <https://twitter.com/airnewsalerts/status/1639537043872133126>

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