



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



## G20 Series #45

### India's G20 Presidency

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Tourism Working Group Meeting

(Siliguri/ Darjeeling - April 1 - 3, 2023)

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting)

May 03, 2023

*"India's tourism sector can increase manifold with growing civic amenities, good digital connectivity, good hotels and hospitals, no trace of filth, and excellent infrastructure."*

- [Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting under India's ongoing G20 Presidency took place from April 1 – 3, 2023 at Siliguri and Darjeeling in West Bengal. Over 130 participants, including delegates from G20 members, guest countries, invited International Organisations, industry partners and local tour operators took part in the meeting.

This meeting took forward discussions from the previous G20 Tourism Working Group meeting held at Rann of Kutch, Gujarat in February 2023.

#### **Day 1: April 1, 2023**

Day 1 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tourism Working Group Meeting under G20 began with a side event of a panel discussion on '**Adventure Tourism as a Vehicle for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals**'. Among other topics, discussions were held on promoting Adventure tourism, and presentations on the Global and Indian scenarios of Adventure tourism were given.

The keynote address at the side event was delivered by Union Minister for Culture, Tourism, and DoNER, Shri G.K Reddy. In his address, he said that India offers many avenues for adventure tourism across the four elements of land, water, sky, and air. He highlighted that India has in its possession 70% of the mighty Himalayas, more than 7,000 kilometers of coastline, 70,000 square miles of sand desert apart from the white salt desert in Kutch and cold desert in Ladakh, 700 sanctuaries and national parks including tiger reserves.

The minister said that Adventure tourism in India is gaining immense popularity among both domestic and international tourists.

The panelists gave presentations and held discussions highlighting the best practices, success stories prospects, opportunities, and issues in the field of adventure tourism.



## **Day 2: April 2, 2023**

Energising their body & minds to conquer the day ahead, delegates began their morning on a peaceful note by practicing yoga & meditation before starting Day 2 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tourism Working Group (TWG) Meeting in Siliguri.



Later, the Inaugural session of the 2<sup>nd</sup> TWG Meeting under G20 held at Siliguri was addressed by the Union Minister for Tourism, Culture, and DoNER, Shri G. Kishan Reddy; and Minister of State for Minority Affairs, Shri John Barla. Shri Raju Bista, Member of Parliament, Darjeeling was also present in the session.

In his opening remarks, Union Minister for Culture, Tourism, and DoNER Shri G.K Reddy said that the ideas discussed in the meeting will aid in developing tourism in mission mode. He announced that in order to give a boost to the uniqueness of Indian tourism, the country is observing '**Visit India Year 2023**' which is a unique, collective movement that invites the



world to explore India in the historical year of India's G20 presidency as well as, grand celebrations of 75 years of Indian Independence - India@75 Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The minister announced that the vision is to make India a one trillion dollar tourism economy by 2047 - our 100th year of Independence.

The Union Minister added that the aim is to make India a seamless, modern, and smart tourism destination.

All the G20 Member States (including Troika – Indonesia & Brazil) engaged in intra-session group activity and shared their comments/suggestions on the 1<sup>st</sup> Draft Outcome and the five priorities introduced by India which are **Green Tourism, Digitalization, Skills, Tourism MSMEs & Destination Management**.



In the second session of the day, Presentations were made on each priority area and each presentation was followed by open and detailed discussion among member countries, invitee countries, and international organizations.

A side event was also organised on "Tourism in Mission Mode: Advantage Adventure Tourism. The presentations made by the participants highlighted the benefits, issues, and challenges in the promotion of adventure tourism. Ideas were discussed with respect to making India a globally competitive Adventure Tourism hub. The Model Law on Adventure

Safety as well as ways of developing vibrant villages as adventure destinations were discussed.



### **Immersing in the unique customs & values**

1. The [delegates and participants visited Tea Estate](#) & enthusiastically participated in the moonlight tea leaf plucking and tea tasting.





2. On the sidelines of the second day, Shri G.Kishan Reddy and Shri John Barla flagged off the Himalayan drive Car 9 car rally.



3. The second day of the meeting concluded with colorful cultural performances by folk artists. On the occasion, Adivasi dance and Chau dance performances were performed.
4. Delegates experienced a [display of traditional weaves and handicrafts](#) including GI and One District One Product from West Bengal.
5. Delegates got a taste of [vintage experience with the world-famous Darjeeling Himalayan Railways](#). A UNESCO World Heritage site, the Toy Train was right on track to give everyone a nostalgic ride and unforgettable memories.
6. Delegates visited Raj Bhawan, the summer residence of the Governor of West Bengal, known for its old-world charm.



7. Delegates were treated to a captivating display of artistry through folk performances at Chowrasta, Darjeeling's public square.



## References:

[The 2nd Tourism Working Group Meeting begins with a side event on ‘Adventure Tourism as a vehicle for achieving Sustainable Development Goals’](#)

[Inaugural session of the 2nd G-20 Tourism Working Group Meeting held at Siliguri in West Bengal](#)

[2nd G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting concludes successfully](#)

## Twitter links:

[Siliguri & Darjeeling, with their stunning tea gardens and scenic beauties, eagerly await to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> TWG Meeting](#)

[Delegates visited the historic Makaibari Tea Estate in Kurseong, the world's first tea factory.](#)

[Art and Craft share a symbiotic relationship with tourism.](#)

[Delegates witnessed the diverse heritage of West Bengal through vibrant music & dance performances.](#)

## Video links:

[Media Briefing 2nd tourism working group meeting](#)

[INAUGURAL SESSION 2nd tourism working group meeting, Siliguri/Darjeeling](#)

**NR/HP/RK/KG**