

## G20 Series #34

### India's G20 Presidency

#### Labour 20 Engagement Group

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting)

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*“Flexible workplaces, a work-from-home ecosystem, and flexible work hours are the need of the future”*

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi

The Labour 20 (L-20) is an integral part of the G-20 and represents the interests of workers at the G20 level. The forum tries to bring together trade unionists from the G-20 countries representing 66% of the population and around 75% of the Global GDP to discuss issues concerning the working people and population in general that transcend borders.



Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), and India's largest Trade Union have been appointed chair to host the L-20.<sup>1</sup> The key priorities of Labour 20 under the Indian G20 Presidency are:



- 1) Universalization of social security benefits**
- 2) Addressing low Wages**
- 3) Creating a global skills data management system**
- 4) Redefining formality & informality**

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.l20india.org/>

## LABOUR 20 INCEPTION MEETING Amritsar, Punjab | March 19-20, 2023

The Labour 20 (L20) meeting was held in Amritsar, Punjab, from March 19 -20, 2023. This Inception Event of L20 was attended by trade union delegates, experts and labour leaders from 20 countries, as well as by trade union leaders and labour experts from India.



BMS national President Shri Hiranmay Pandya, as the chair of the L-20, presided over the meeting. Briefing the media about the agenda of the meeting, he had said that the Inception meeting plans to discuss key subjects related to sustainable livelihood and employment, including:

- ❖ Universalization of Social Security;
- ❖ International Migration of Labour;
- ❖ Portability of Social Security Funds;
- ❖ Social Protection for Informal Workers; and
- ❖ Skill Training and Skill Upgradation: Role and Responsibilities of Employers, Employees and Governments.



Union Labour and Employment Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav and the Chief Minister of Punjab Shri Bhagwant Mann interacted with the delegates at the meeting.<sup>2</sup>Shri Som Prakash, Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry attended the L20 Inception meeting in Amritsar, Punjab<sup>3</sup>

Trade union leaders, labour studies experts and delegates from other nations at this meeting under India's G20 presidency have given a call for the universalisation of social security to place women at the centre of the future of work.

<sup>2</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1908371>

<sup>3</sup> [https://twitter.com/CBC\\_Amritsar/status/1637503413260013569?s=20](https://twitter.com/CBC_Amritsar/status/1637503413260013569?s=20)

**The meeting also had five parallel technical sessions on:**

- International Migration of Labour and Portability of Social Security Funds;
- Social Protection for Informal Workers;
- Skill Training and Skill Upgradation and Role and Responsibilities of Employers, Employees and Governments;
- Changing World of Work and New Employment Opportunities in G20 Countries;
- Promoting Sustainable Decent Work.<sup>4</sup>



### **Priority Issues: L20 adopts two Joint Statements on the Universalisation of Social Security & Women and the Future of Work**

The L20 group adopted two Joint Statements as the outcome of the two-day deliberations. One calling for resolving the question of portability of social security among G20 nations as a first step towards universalisation of social security, and the other for plugging the gender gap in the global workforce.

The **Joint Statement on Universalisation of Social Security** stated that the question of portability of benefits within the G20 nations is a low-hanging fruit, which could be addressed by the grouping at no time and pointed out to the BRICS deliberations for an intra-group arrangement in this regard.

The **Joint Statement on Women and the Future of Work** called for upskilling of the women workforce globally to meet the emerging challenges of tech-intensive industry and the post-pandemic job market and asked the governments and employers to shoulder this responsibility. It also called for recalibrating how women in the informal sector, and family-raising roles, contribute to the global economy and asked for valuing that contribution.

Union Labour and Employment Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav agreed that universal social security and its portability across the world is an important issue and said that the informal sector must be brought under the ambit of social security. *“There has to be a sustainable mix of social insurance and social assistance schemes for social security,”* he added. Keeping in line with the vision of ‘*Nari shakti*’ or ‘Women Power’ of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Minister said women’s participation in the labour force has to be enhanced which in turn will lead to the creation of an equitable, inclusive and developed society.<sup>5</sup>



<sup>4</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1908566>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1908847>

Before the 2-day meeting ended, representatives from Russia, India, Australia, Nepal and Bangladesh shared their national experiences on wages and their various dimensions, particularly the impact on livelihoods<sup>6</sup>.

India's G20 Presidency has allowed the country to present itself as a global leader concerning key issues of sustainability and development. In the context of the G20 Employment Working Group and the Labour-20 too, India is making important contributions in the domain of employment and labour. The resolve to work for the universalisation of social security and to work for plugging the gender gap in the global workforce are crucial areas that were at the centre of discussion at the Inception Meeting of the L-20 held in Amritsar. This has further paved the way for India to facilitate sustainable action on issues such as global skill gaps, gig and platform economy and social protection, and sustainable financing of social security that have been identified as priority areas in the context of the G20 EWG under India's Presidency.

## LABOUR 20 SUMMIT

Patna, Bihar | June 22-23, 2023

The Labour20 (L20) Summit first took place formally during the French Presidency in 2011. L20 convenes trade union leaders from G20 countries and provides analyses and policy recommendations aimed at addressing labour-related issues.

The L20 Summit under India's G20 Presidency was held in Patna, Bihar from June 22 to 23, 2023. **Delegates from 29 countries, 200 participants, 56 International delegates, 38 International trade unions and 43 Indian trade unions participated.** BMS national President, Mr. Hiranmay Pandya, was the chair of L20 and he presided over the Summit meeting in the city. Many other leading trade unions namely, the Indian Trade Union Congress (INTUC), the Trade Union Coordination Centre (TUCC), National Front of Indian Trade Unions (NFITU) in India also joined the event.

The L20 Summit was a culmination of the discussions and deliberations of the various Task Forces constituted and to prepare an Outcome Document based on their reports. Check the [Journey of L20 in India: Short Film](#).

### Day 1 – June 22, 2023

On June 22, the Inaugural session was convened by Mr. S. Malleshram, Trustee, Central Board of Trustees, EPFO. The welcome address was delivered by Shri Surendra Kumar Pandey, Deputy General Secretary, BMS and coordinator L20.

During the presidential address, Shri Hiranmay Pandya, the Chair of the L20 meeting, presented the roadmap for the discussion to



<sup>6</sup> <https://www.l20india.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/BMS.pdf>

be held in the coming days while informing that L20 aspired for collaborative efforts to ensure sustainable and inclusive development for the countries and support the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. Ms. Ruth Coelho Monteiro (Brazil) and Mr. Hermento Ahmad (Indonesia) delivered their address on behalf of the Troika. The **Governor of Bihar Shri Rajendra Arlekar, who was the Chief Guest for the Inaugural meeting, emphasized the need for discussing issues of women's security and societal challenges affecting marginalised communities.**

### Release of Task Force Reports

The summit, hosted by BMS, aimed to present and deliberate Task Force reports on different subjects related to labour and employment.

The topics covered by different Task Forces and their respective chairs are as follows:

**Task Force 1: Universal Social Security – Chair, Mr. Santosh Mehrotra (India)**

**Task Force 2: Women and Future of Work - Chair, Ms. Rimah Saleh A. Alyahya (Saudi Arabia)**

**Task Force 3: International Migration: Portability of Social Security Funds - Chair, Mr. Irudaya Rajan (India)**

**Task Force 4: Changing World of Work: New Employment Opportunities in G20 Countries -Chair, Mr. Arun Maira (India)**

**Task Force 5: Skill Development: Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders - Mr. Samuel Salaz Paez (Brazil)**

### Plenary Sessions

**Women and Future of Work:** The session emphasized gender equality and the role of women in changing the world of work. Measures to encourage women's participation, such as flexibility in the workplace and skill development, were discussed. Notable initiatives from various countries were presented, including Saudi Arabia's extended maternity leaves.



**Universal Social Security:** The session focused on addressing the challenges faced by informal workers and the need for a comprehensive social security system. The concept of "totalization" and portability of social security benefits were explored, with an emphasis on bridging gaps in legislation and practice.

## Parallel Sessions

**International Migration of Labor: Portability of Social Security:** This session highlighted the need for better Social Security coordination between countries and explored options for portability of benefits. The challenges and opportunities of international migration were discussed, including the role of bilateral and multilateral agreements.



**Skill Development: Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders:** The session emphasized holistic skill development, including upskilling and reskilling, to bridge the gap between education and the job market. The importance of a common qualification framework and recognition of prior learning was stressed.



**Changing World of Work: New Employment Opportunities in G20 Countries:** This session delved into emerging employment opportunities and the need for supranational regulations to ensure decent work and human rights globally. Discussions included the role of government, trade unions, and private companies in fostering just transitions.

## Sharing Engagement Group Perspectives

Representatives from various G20 engagement groups presented their perspectives on the themes discussed in their respective groups, ensuring a comprehensive approach to the discussions.

After the session, at the end of the day, delegates were taken on an excursion. They visited Bapu Sabhagar to see an exhibition, later L20 Summit delegates in Patna were enthralled by cultural performances showcasing rich cultural heritage of Bihar.

The Bihar Government further hosted the **Gala Dinner** on June 22, 2023.



## Day 2| June 23, 2023

On the second day of the summit, attendees embarked on an excursion to Takth Sri Harimandir Ji, Patna Sahib Gurudwara in early hours.



Following this enriching experience, the session commenced with a series of engaging discussions. Topics covered during this session included reporting on parallel sessions, discussion of the draft statement, presentation of the draft L20 & B20 Joint Statement by sub-committees, discussions on the L-20 process, spanning from grassroots to government, and presentations on L-20 events. Additionally, attendees had the opportunity to engage in the presentation and discussion of two important statements: the L20 Statement to G-20 Leaders' Summit and the Draft Joint Statement of L20 & B20.

On the G20 Labour Summit's concluding day, experts presented papers on different issues. [Labour affairs expert Ravi Raman says the global scenario of migration of work has changed due to the introduction of AI and ICT.](#) The G-20 countries should admit these critical changes in the arena.

### **Presentation of L-20 Events**

The Labor20 (L20) conducted numerous side events across India to comprehensively discuss L20 themes with various stakeholders. The report on these events was presented during a session.



Shri B Surendran, along with other panelists, highlighted that 8 Side Events were held in 11 Indian states. Additionally, over 450 Jan Bhagidari (People's Participation Programs) events, attended by women employees, were organized nationwide to discuss women's employment and social security coverage in labour-intensive and women-centric sectors. These discussions

facilitated consensus-building among national and international trade unions, incorporating insights from experts and stakeholders across the country.

### **Valedictory Session**

The summit concluded with the presentation and unanimous adoption of the Labour20 Statement and an [L20 and B20 Joint Statement](#). Distinguished guests, including officials from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Labour and Employment, addressed the attendees.



Furthermore, **In a virtual address in valedictory session on June 23, 2023, Union Minister Shri Bhupendra Yadav expressed his delight in Bihar hosting the L20 summit.** He



He thanked G20 trade union representatives, labour experts, the state government, and the people of Bihar for their enthusiastic participation. He highlighted the L20's crucial role in advocating for workers' interests globally. He praised the adoption of two vital joint statements on Universal Social Security and empowering women in the future of work during the Amritsar meeting.

Shri Bhupendra Yadav emphasized the need for comprehensive and adaptable social security policies, including coverage for informal and gig platform workers. He called for collaboration among governments, employers, trade unions, and international organizations to ensure inclusive and efficient social security systems, leveraging technology for effectiveness.

The Minister commended the L20's focus on women's empowerment and the importance of skilling, upskilling, and re-skilling women for participation in STEM fields and technology-intensive industries. He believed the L20's outcomes would contribute to advancing decent work, gender parity, and enduring social protection worldwide.

**After the summit ended, the delegates were bid a cultural farewell by the state government. Following that, the delegates visited Nalanda ruins and Nalanda University.**







The Labour20 Summit in Patna successfully brought together international trade union delegates, experts, and labour leaders to deliberate on key issues affecting workers globally. The discussions highlighted the importance of gender equality, social security, skill development, and fair employment opportunities, aiming for sustainable and inclusive development in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

For more detailed information on this Summit, please [click here](#).

### References:

L20 1<sup>st</sup> Inception Meeting, Amritsar

- <https://labour.gov.in/lcandilasdivision/india-and-g-20>
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L20 Summit, Patna:

- L-20 Patna summit concludes (PIB press release)
- <https://www.l20india.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Labour20-Statement-2023.pdf>
- L 20 meet inauguration press release (PIB)
- <https://twitter.com/g20org/status/1672572662470819840?s=20>

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