



**SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY**

AN IDEAL INSTITUTE FOR **CIVIL SERVICE EXAMS**

# the **CATALYST**

**SUPPLEMENTARY ISSUE**



**भारत 2023 INDIA**

**वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्**

**ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE**



# G-20 SUMMIT 2023

## Context

India hosted the 18th G20 Summit in New Delhi, held recently, focusing on the theme 'One Earth, One Family, One Future.' Food security, climate change, energy, development, healthcare, and digitalisation were deliberated upon at the global forum, formed to discuss economic and financial matters. The summit wrapped up successfully as India transferred the G20 Presidency to Brazil.

## About G20

- The G20, formed in 1999 in the backdrop of the financial crisis of the late 1990s that hit East Asia and Southeast Asia in particular, aims to secure global financial stability by involving middle-income countries.
- Together, the G20 countries include 60 per cent of the world's population, 80 per cent of global GDP, and 75 per cent of global trade.
- The *member countries* include **Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, US, UK, EU, Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and UAE.**
- G-20's presidency is awarded on a rotational basis and the host is responsible for releasing logos and the overarching theme of the year's meetings.

## Logo of G-20 Summit 2023

India has introduced the lotus as its logo and the Sanskrit phrase 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — One Earth, One Family, One Future' as the theme. Bharat, the other name for India, is also written alongside.

The seven petals of the lotus in the logo are also significant. They represent the seven continents. Seven is also the number of notes in the universal language of music. In music, when the seven notes come together, they create a perfect harmony. But each note has its own uniqueness. Similarly, the G20 aims to bring the world together in harmony while respecting diversity.

## Significance of the G20 theme

According to the official G20 website, the theme – "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — One Earth, One Family, One Future**" – is drawn from the ancient Sanskrit text of the Maha Upanishad. "Essentially, the theme affirms the value of all life – human, animal, plant, and microorganisms – and their interconnectedness on the planet Earth and in the wider universe".

The theme also spotlights **LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)**, "with its associated, environmentally sustainable and responsible choices, both at the level of individual lifestyles as well as national development, leading to globally transformative actions resulting in a cleaner, greener and bluer future."

### Guest Countries

India, as G20 Presidency, invited Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and UAE as Guest countries.

### Troika

During the Presidency, **India, Indonesia and Brazil would form the troika**. This would be the first time when the troika would consist of three developing countries and emerging economies, providing them a greater voice.

Troika refers to the top grouping within the G20 that consists of the current, previous and the upcoming presidencies (Indonesia, India and Brazil).

### Why are the International and Regional Organisations invited?

International Organisations(IO) and Regional Organisations(RO) are important for the G20 to achieve its aims of furthering international cooperation and implementing any pronouncements made by the group.

As the G20 itself is an informal grouping, in the sense that it does not have any direct power to govern or implement any pronouncements made. Rather, it depends on its members and IOs to do that. This is why it is crucial to involve IOs in the workings of the G20.

For instance, one of the areas India's G20 presidency has emphasised has been health. An organisation such as the WHO is crucial in this regard, as decisions made in the G20 can be implemented and carried forward by it.

Similarly, ROs being a part of the G20 helps further the group's reach to countries that otherwise might not be members but who remain crucial to the G20's agenda nonetheless. For instance, ASEAN as an RO can represent the interests of all its member countries including the likes of the Philippines and Thailand which are not otherwise a part of the G20.

### New Delhi Leaders' Summit Declaration

India achieved a significant diplomatic victory by successfully negotiating a "New Delhi Leaders' Summit Declaration" that garnered unanimous agreement on all matters pertaining to development and geopolitics during the initial day of the G20 Summit. This accomplishment was attained despite existing disagreements concerning the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The G-20 in Delhi has also made its mark in terms of the Indian initiative to bring on board the "Voice of the Global South", ensuring that more than 125 countries of the developing world raised their concerns at a "feeder conference" in January 2023, that were included in the declaration.

### Major Outcomes

New Delhi Declaration, encompasses a wide range of topics, including **sustainable and inclusive growth, the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, international trade, climate change and finance, enhanced accessibility to medical countermeasures for health emergencies,**

**debt vulnerabilities, reforms of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), and Digital Public Infrastructure.**

The declaration seeks to accelerate progress on SDGs and has come up with an action plan accordingly. It envisages a **green development pact for a sustainable future**, it endorses **high-level principles on lifestyle for sustainable development, voluntary principles of hydrogen, the Chennai principles for a sustainable resilient blue economy, and the Deccan principles on food security and nutrition among others**

Enlisting the “**Global South**”, including many G-20 members, who were reluctant to take sides in the tussle, and wanted instead to shift priorities to global development issues.

Declaration made progress on **cryptocurrency regulation and** crystallised a figure of nearly \$10 trillion needed for climate change adaptation and mitigation projects for the Global South, although it failed to agree on any fossil fuel “phase-out” deadlines.

## 1. INCLUSION OF AFRICAN UNION

The **admission of the 55-member African Union** has corrected an imbalance that so far only allowed the EU in as a regional grouping in the G-20. The AU’s membership in the G20 offers an opportunity to reshape global trade, finance, and investment and would provide a greater voice to the Global South within the G20. It allows African interests and perspectives to be heard and recognized within the G20.

Bringing the African Union into the G-20 fold will be credited to India, and future summits in Brazil and South Africa are likely to take India’s Global South initiative forward.

## 2. GLOBAL BIOFUEL ALLIANCE

The **Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA)** was an important step towards more research and delivery of alternative energy sources for a world still dependent on fossil fuels.

GBA will support worldwide development and deployment of sustainable biofuels by offering capacity-building exercises across the value chain, technical support for national programs and promoting policy lessons-sharing.

It will facilitate mobilising a virtual marketplace to assist industries, countries, ecosystem players and key stakeholders in mapping demand and supply, as well as connecting technology providers to end users.

It will also facilitate development, adoption and implementation of internationally recognized standards, codes, sustainability principles and regulations to incentivize biofuels adoption and trade.

The mandate is also to support research and advocacy for improvements in biofuel technology across supply chains, expand the range of sustainable feedstock and convert feedstock to biofuels.

**It will help accelerate India's existing biofuels programs such as PM-JIVANYojna, SATAT, and GOBARdhan scheme**, thereby contributing to increased farmers' income, creating jobs and overall development of the Indian ecosystem.

The global ethanol market was valued at USD 99.06 billion in 2022 and is predicted to grow at a CAGR of **5.1% by 2032** and surpass USD 162.12 billion by 2032. As per IEA, there will be 3.5-5x biofuels growth potential by 2050 due to Net Zero targets, creating a huge opportunity for India.

### Members of GBA

19 countries and 12 international organisations have already agreed to join.

1. G20 countries (07) supporting GBA: 1. Argentina, 2. Brazil, 3. Canada, 4. India 5. Italy, 6. South Africa, 7. USA
2. G20 Invitee Countries (04) supporting GBA: 1. Bangladesh, 2. Singapore, 3. Mauritius, 4. UAE
3. Non G20 (08) supporting GBA: 1. Iceland, 2. Kenya, 3. Guyana, 4. Paraguay, 5. Seychelles, 6. Sri Lanka, and 7. Uganda and 8. Finland
4. International organisations (12): World Bank, Asian Development Bank, World Economic Forum, World LPG Organisation, UN Energy for All, UNIDO, Biofutures Platform, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Energy Agency, International Energy Forum, International Renewable Energy Agency, World Biogas Association.

**GBA Members constitute major producers and consumers of biofuels. USA (52%), Brazil (30%) and India (3%), contribute about 85% share in production and about 81% in consumption of ethanol.**

### What are biofuels?

The International Energy Agency (IEA) defines biofuels as “liquid fuels derived from **biomass** and used as an alternative to fossil fuel based liquid transportation fuels such as gasoline, diesel and aviation fuels.”

### Why renewed focus on biofuels?

1. Severe disruptions to global crude oil supplies due to the Ukraine war,
2. India's import dependence on crude oil and related products reached an all-time high of 87.3% in FY2023. This high import bill for oil is a significant economic challenge, as 25.8% of the country's import spending is allocated to crude oil.
3. Transport accounts for about one-quarter of global carbon emissions.
  1. But some modes of transport like aviation, shipping and long-haul trucking will find it harder to reduce carbon emissions-some experts feel that 2G ethanol could be a valuable substitute.
4. While EVs are seen as a solution, they have their own set of challenges, including the supply of minerals, materials, and components, which can pose trade, employment, and economic concerns. To address these challenges, flex-fuel vehicles that can run on biofuels are considered as an option. India recently unveiled its **first flex-fuel vehicle**.



## Present status

1. The majority of India's ethanol supply for blending comes from first-generation production using food crops, primarily sugarcane and grain.
2. Much of India's supply of ethanol for the blending programme comes from first-generation production – using underlying sugars in food crops, mostly sugarcane (84 per cent) and grain (16 per cent).
3. While the prospects for second-generation (2G) technologies for ethanol production are immense, investments have been slow and even Indian Oil's state-of-the-art facility will only produce 3 crore litres of 2G ethanol.
4. There are 12 such facilities in various stages of planning and construction but are unlikely to contribute to the lion's share of ethanol demand.
5. Given the predominance of first-generation production, the often-discussed food-energy-water nexus considerations must be put into practice at the earliest. Food crops require fertiliser and water, and these in turn require heavily subsidised energy (natural gas and electricity) to produce (or draw).
6. While ethanol opens up a new income stream for the farming community by way of assured procurement, climate change considerations suggest that rainfall and yields will both see significant variations and can leave us vulnerable to supply shocks. India needs a robust assessment of these tradeoffs, and a clear research and development plan for 2G technologies, before it can scale up ethanol production.

## Advantages of Biofuel

### Biofuels like bioethanol and biodiesel offer several advantages:

1. **Fuel Efficiency:** They can increase fuel efficiency when used in vehicles.
2. **Affordability:** They are currently cheaper to produce than petrol and expected to become even more cost-effective in the future.
3. **Renewability:** Biofuels are renewable as they can be quickly grown and harvested.
4. **Durability:** Biofuels contain lubricating properties, reducing engine maintenance and increasing durability.
5. **Cleaner Energy:** Biofuels produce fewer harmful emissions during combustion due to their organic origin. They emit less greenhouse gases than fossil fuels, making them a cleaner alternative.
6. **Increase in Farmer's Income:** Biofuels contribute to additional income of farmers and have potential to contribute to the goal of doubling farmer's income.
7. **Abundant Availability of Biofuels:** Biofuels can be produced from a variety of sources, including crops, waste, and algae.

## Limitations of Biofuels

1. **Food vs. Fuel Debate:** Biofuel production can divert agricultural resources away from food production, raising concerns about food shortages.
2. **Resource Scarcity:** Factors like climate conditions, land availability, and competition with other agricultural needs affect the availability of feedstock for biofuel production.
3. **Environmental Impact:** Building biofuel infrastructure can lead to deforestation as fertile land is converted for crop cultivation, and increased water usage for out-of-season crop production can be an environmental hazard.
4. **Dependency on Crops:** Reliance on crops like rice for biofuel production can worsen

existing food shortages, as seen in India's rice export ban.

5. **Hinders EV Push:** While some experts feel that accelerating EV adoption and developing alternatives like green hydrogen must be the focus of the ongoing energy transition, others argue that 2G ethanol would soften the impending disruption.

### Indian Initiatives

1. **Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana, 2019:**

The objective of the scheme is to create an ecosystem for setting up commercial projects and to boost Research and Development in the 2G Ethanol sector.

2. **Ethanol blending:**

The 2018 Biofuel Policy has the **objective of reaching 20% ethanol-blending and 5% biodiesel-blending by the year 2030**. Recently, instead of 2030, the Centre plans to move ahead with its **ethanol blending target of 20% of petrol containing ethanol by 2025-26**.

Achieving the 20% blending target by 2025 will require substantial investments and a reliable source of feedstock for ethanol production. In 2022, ethanol producers supplied nearly 430 crore litres of ethanol, but demand is expected to rise to nearly 1,100 crore litres by 2025.

3. **GOBAR (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources) DHAN scheme, 2018:**

It focuses on managing and converting cattle dung and solid waste in farms to useful compost, biogas and bio-CNG, thus keeping villages clean and increasing the income of rural households. It was launched under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).

4. **Repurpose Used Cooking Oil (RUCO):**

It was launched by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and aims for an ecosystem that will enable the collection and conversion of used cooking oil to biodiesel.

5. **National Policy on Biofuels, 2018:**

- a. This envisages a strategic role for biofuels in the Indian Energy basket. Biofuels are derived from renewable biomass resources.
- b. The Policy aims to increase usage of biofuels in the energy and transportation sectors of the country during the coming decade. The Policy aims to utilise, develop and promote domestic feedstock and its utilisation for production of biofuels thereby increasingly substituting fossil fuels while contributing to National Energy Security, Climate Change mitigation, apart from creating new employment opportunities in a sustainable way.
- c. Simultaneously, the policy will also encourage the application of advanced technologies for generation of biofuels. The field of Biofuels has been growing rapidly over the last few years and new technology innovations are taking place.

With India diversifying its fuel base, the primary focus of policy **must be to slow down the overall consumption of petrol in the economy** and address the private demand for the fuel. Targeted promotion of EVs in public transit and pricing the use of private vehicles in urban settings could ease the transition to higher levels of biofuels.

At a time when the automobile industry is grappling with the challenges of transitioning to EVs, a well-thought-out and implementable plan to transform the way India moves, will not only help reduce the import bill but also buy us time to help transition a marquee industry of our economy.

### 3.INDIA – MIDDLE EAST – EUROPE ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (IMEC)

India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) Project was signed at the G20 Summit, which holds significant geopolitical and economic implications for India. The project includes India, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, France, Italy, Germany and the US.

The objective of this initiative is to construct a novel rail and ship corridor, facilitating connectivity between India and the Middle East.

The project forms part of the **Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)**. PGII is a values-driven, high-impact, and transparent infrastructure partnership to meet the enormous infrastructure needs of low and middle-income countries.

#### What is the project?

IMEC project is envisioned as two corridors:

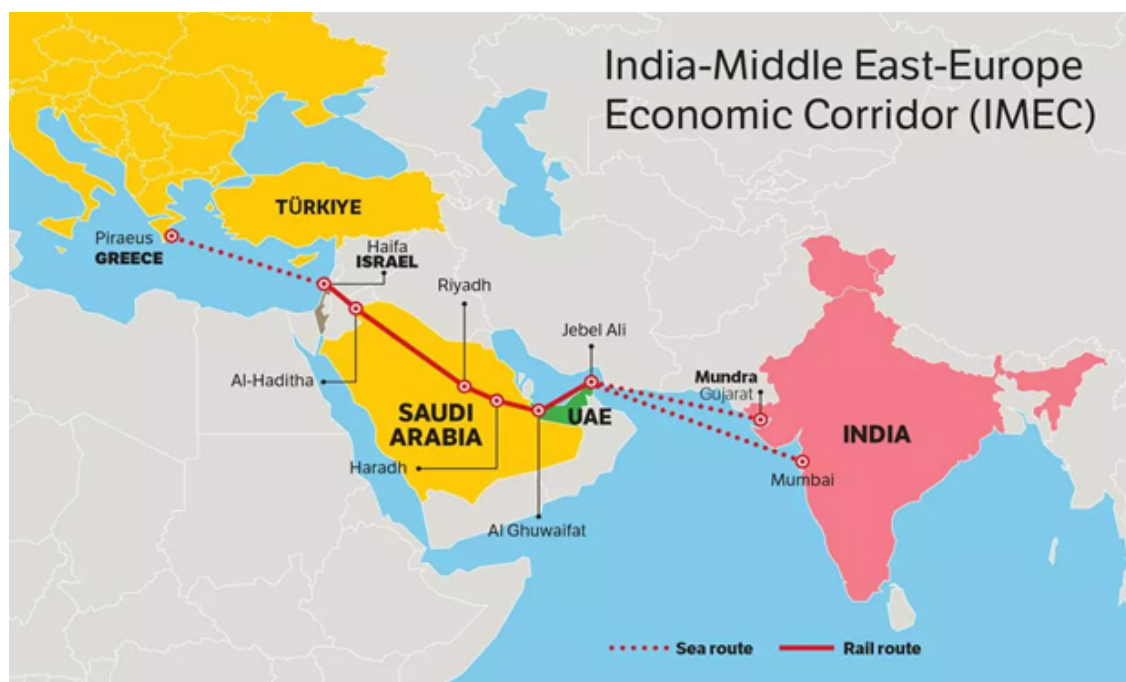
- 1) An eastern corridor linking India to the Arabian Gulf and
- 2) A northern corridor linking the Arabian Gulf to Europe.

Both ends have robust port, rail, and road infrastructure.

The corridor will include **a rail link as well as an electricity cable, a hydrogen pipeline and a high-speed data cable**, according to a document prepared by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. The document also called the project **“a green and digital bridge across continents and civilizations.”**

IMEC links,

- **Major ports of western India:** JNPT, Kochi, Kandla and Mundra with
- **Major shipping ports of the Gulf:** Jebel Ali, Fujairah, Ras Al-Khair, Dammam, Duqm, and Salalah.





From these ports, cargo will be transported by the Saudi rail network on their north-south line to the port of Haifa in Israel through Jordan.

- **In Israel:** Haifa, being a deep seaport, can handle bulk container trains and post Panamax ships which after transshipment, carry cargo to
- **European ports** such as Piraeus, Kavala (Greece), Trieste, La Spezia (Italy), Marseille-Fos (France), Barcelona, and Valencia (Spain).

Road container trailers or container cargo trains will thereafter transport goods across Europe.

The rail and shipping corridor is part of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment (PGII) — a collaborative effort by G7 nations to fund infrastructure projects in developing nations. PGII is considered to be the bloc's counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative.

The project will aim to enable greater trade among the involved countries, including energy products. "It could also be one of the more ambitious counters to China's massive infrastructure program, through which it has sought to connect more of the world to that country's economy,"

### *Three major reasons for developing the corridor:*

- 1) It would increase prosperity among the countries involved through an increased flow of energy and digital communications.
- 2) The project would help deal with the lack of infrastructure needed for growth in lower- and middle-income nations.
- 3) It could help "turn the temperature down" on "turbulence and insecurity" coming out of the Middle East.

The IMEC will be a route in the historic sense of the word (with the geopolitical and economic significance that entails), providing transport connectivity to accelerate the development and integration of Asia, the Arabian Gulf, and Europe as a new locus of global power.

It envisions a reliable, cost-effective railway and ship-to-rail transit network to supplement maritime and road routes, enabling goods and services to move between India, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel and the EU. IMEC is India's moment.

But it will also be the cornerstone of economic progress across the region by supercharging regional trade, and connecting Asia with Europe through a region that has never, since the ancient Red Sea route, been considered for such connectivity despite its game-changing potential in terms of shorter transits, accessibility, and multimodal connectivity.

As a strategic catalyst for a new way of thinking about collective growth, globalisation, and connectivity Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam in the truest sense this new corridor will trigger regional and global cooperation initiatives for socio-economic development across continents, benefitting millions.

India along with Brazil, Indonesia and South Africa, played a key role in avoiding a fracturing of the G20 over the Ukraine conflict, reflecting the growing power of the Global South developing nations in the group.

## 4. TRIPLING GLOBAL RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY BY 2030

The only new and clear deliverable on climate action at the recent G20 summit was a **commitment to work towards tripling global renewable energy capacity by 2030**.

According to an assessment by the International Energy Agency (IEA) earlier this year, this single measure could prevent 7 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions by 2030. Renewable energy is already being deployed at a rapid pace across the world, with annual capacity additions growing by around 10% every year.

For countries like India and China, the growth of renewable energy is also the most preferred way to contribute to the global fight against climate change and bring down the role of fossil fuels in their economies.

**Current Status:** The current global installed capacity of renewable energy is just short of 3,400 GW. In 2022, about 295 GW of new capacity was added, the highest ever. To triple the total capacity by 2030, the world would have to add nearly 1,000 GW of new capacity every year.

It is the single most important lever to bring about the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions needed by 2030. Expansion at that speed would allow renewable power generation growth to outpace total electricity demand, which is expected to increase strongly in the coming years supported by the electrification of energy systems, the increasing use of cooling as temperatures climb, and robust demand growth in emerging and developing economies.

### *How to achieve this target?*

The mobilisation of adequate financial resources and creation of opportunities infrastructure, policy environment, skill development in countries with low penetration of energy access.

As part of their climate action plans, about 135 countries have promised to create or enhance their renewable energy capacities, but as of now most of the new capacity addition is happening in a handful of large developing countries.

India and China together account for more than 50% of global capacity additions in each of the last five years. In 2022, out of the 295 GW of additional capacity installed throughout the world, China alone added 140 GW, or nearly 48%.

The tripling target cannot be achieved without the rapid growth in demand from other developing countries, mainly in Africa. The addition of the African Union to the G20 is expected to provide the right impetus for this.

It is here that a multilateral body like the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** set up after Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed it in 2015 has a crucial role to play. Solar energy constitutes more than 50% of new renewable energy capacity additions every year and is pivotal to the growth of renewables. **In 2022, out of the 295 GW of new renewable capacity created, 191 GW, or 65%, came from solar energy.** The ISA was created specifically for the purpose of rapidly scaling up solar energy across the world, but it is still to realise its full potential.

- First, we need to build the knowledge and capacity of all countries to produce, transport and use low and zero-carbon hydrogen. ISA has launched the Green Hydrogen Innovation Centre to enable this action.

- Second, we need to enable solar mini-grids to provide universal energy access, especially where grid extension is too expensive. Guarantees help in crowding-in private sector investment into solar mini-grids. We are proud to provide such a guarantee to our member countries in Africa.
- And the third action is to build entrepreneurs in these countries who can, with help, become the Amazons of tomorrow, supplying solar energy across countries and regions. We have recently identified, and are strengthening, 20 solar startups in Africa. We now look at the Asia & Pacific Region, and then the Latin America & Caribbean region.

### Challenges

According to an IRENA outlook, investments of about 5.3 trillion USD would be required per year, till 2050, to enable the energy transition that will limit the global rise in temperatures to within 1.5 degree Celsius from pre-industrial times.

“Global investment across all transition technologies reached a record high of 1.3 trillion USD in 2022. Yet annual investment would need to more than quadruple to remain on the 1.5°C pathway,” IRENA said in a recent report.

Even if the tripling target is achieved by 2030, it alone would not be sufficient for the 1.5 degree Celsius goal. According to current projections, the greenhouse gas emissions in 2030 would exceed the 1.5 degree Celsius compatible levels by about 24 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent. Renewable energy, if tripled, would be able to avoid only 7 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent, or less than one third of what is required.

## 5. COMMITMENT TO GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Observing that the rising commodity prices, including food and energy prices, are contributing to cost-of-living pressures, the G20 leaders announced their commitment to global food security and nutrition for all in line with the G20 Deccan High-Level Principles on Food Security and Nutrition 2023.

The agriculture working group during the G20 Presidency reached a historic consensus on two aspects: Deccan G20 High-level principles on Food Security and Nutrition and the Millet initiative called MAHARISHI.

Global challenges like poverty and inequality, climate change, pandemics and conflicts disproportionately affect women and children, and the most vulnerable.

They aim to eliminate hunger and malnutrition, acknowledging that global challenges like poverty, climate change, pandemics, and conflicts disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, particularly women and children.

The G20 declaration highlights the human suffering and impacts of the war in Ukraine on global food and energy security, supply chains, inflation, and economic stability. G20 leaders called for the full, timely implementation of the Black Sea grain initiative.

It expressed commitment to “accelerating innovations and investment focused on increasing agricultural productivity, reducing food loss and waste across the value chain, and improving marketing and storage, to build more sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture and

food systems.”

It also made a commitment to facilitate open, fair, predictable, and rules-based agriculture, food and fertilizer trade, not impose export prohibitions or restrictions and reduce market distortions, in accordance with relevant WTO rules.

The leaders expressed their commitment for “strengthening the **Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS)** and the **Group on Earth Observations Global Agricultural Monitoring (GEOGLAM)**, for greater transparency to avoid food price volatility, supporting AMIS’s work on fertilizers, its expansion to include vegetable oils, and for enhancing collaboration with early warning systems.”

## 6. G20 GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR FINANCIAL INCLUSION DOCUMENT

The G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion document prepared by the World Bank has lauded the transformative impact of India’s **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** over the past decade under the Central Government.

The document emphasizes the following initiatives that played a greater role in shaping the DPI landscape:

### *Rapid Financial Inclusion:*

India’s DPI approach achieved 47 years’ worth of financial inclusion progress in just 6 years. Jan Dhan-Aadhar-Mobile (JAM) Trinity boosted the financial inclusion rate from 25% in 2008 to over 80% within 6 years. Regulatory frameworks, national policies, and Aadhaar-based verification complemented DPIs.

### *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna (PMJDY) Success:*

PMJDY accounts tripled from 147.2 million (March 2015) to 462 million (June 2022). Women own 56% of these accounts, exceeding 260 million. PMJDY drove savings among low-income women, attracting over 12 million customers by April 2023.

### *Government to Person (G2P) Payments:*

India’s digital G2P architecture facilitated USD 361 billion transfers to beneficiaries from 53 ministries via 312 schemes. Achieved total savings of USD 33 billion by March 2022, equivalent to 1.14% of GDP.

### *Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Dominance:*

May 2023 witnessed over 9.41 billion UPI transactions, valued at Rs 14.89 trillion. UPI transactions in FY 2022–23 neared 50% of India’s nominal GDP.

### *Private Sector Efficiency:*

DPI streamlined private organizations’ operations, reducing complexity, costs, and time. Some NBFCs achieved 8% higher SME lending conversion rates, 65% savings in depreciation costs, and 66% cost reduction in fraud detection. Banks’ customer onboarding costs in India dropped from USD 23 to USD 0.1 with DPI use.



### *Lower Cost of Compliance for Banks for KYC*

India Stack has digitised and simplified KYC procedures, lowering costs; banks that use e-KYC lowered their cost of compliance from \$0.12 to \$0.06. The decrease in costs made lower-income clients more attractive to service and generated profits to develop new products.

### *Cross-Border Payments:*

UPI-PayNow linkage enables faster and cheaper cross-border payments with Singapore.

### *Account Aggregator Framework:*

Enabled 1.13 billion accounts for data sharing with 13.46 million consents raised.

### *Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture (DEPA):*

Provides individuals control over their data, fostering innovation and competition.

## **7. COMMITMENT TOWARDS ELIMINATING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION**

It highlighted the human suffering and impacts of the war in Ukraine with regard to global food and energy security, supply chains, macro-financial stability, inflation and growth, which has complicated the policy environment for countries, especially developing and least developed countries which are still recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic and the economic disruption which has derailed progress towards the SDGs.

It appreciates the efforts of Türkiye and UN-brokered Istanbul Agreements consisting of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Russian Federation and the Secretariat of the United Nations on Promoting Russian Food Products and Fertilizers to the World Markets and the Initiative on the Safe Transportation of Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian Ports (**Black Sea Initiative**), and call for their full, timely and effective implementation to ensure the immediate and unimpeded deliveries of grain, foodstuffs, and fertilizers/inputs from the Russian Federation and Ukraine. This is necessary to meet the demand in developing and least developed countries, particularly those in Africa.

It encourages efforts to strengthen research cooperation on climate-resilient and nutritious grains such as millets, quinoa, sorghum, and other traditional crops including rice, wheat and maize. We welcome the outcomes from the G20 members' engagement in the 12th G20 Meeting of Agriculture Chief Scientists (MACS),”



## INDIA'S POSITION IN SEVERAL SPHERES

### A) Health

India's performance has seen little relative improvement in metrics relating to health, even though there has been growth in absolute numbers. In 1990, the average life expectancy in India was 45.22 years, which was better than China's 33.27 years. By 2021, life expectancy rose to 67.24 years, ahead of South Africa. However, India's ranking remained the same, as China surpassed India. In 1990, with an infant mortality rate of 88.8, India ranked at the bottom of the 20 regions analysed. In 2021, the infant mortality rate improved to 25.5 and India ranked 19, just ahead of South Africa (26.4).

### B) Human Development Index

India's HDI improved from 0.43 in 1990 to 0.63 in 2021. However, despite its progress in absolute terms, India ranked at the bottom of the list. The HDI is a measure of life expectancy, access to education, and standard of living.

### C) Labour Force Participation Rate

In 1990, with an LFPR of 54.2%, India ranked 18, above Italy (49.7%) and Saudi Arabia (53.3%). In 2021-22, its rank slipped to 19, only ahead of Italy's (49.4%). Notably, India's LFPR also decreased to 49.5% in this period.

### D) Participation of women in Parliament

Despite having seen several women in leadership positions, India's relative growth in the share of women in Parliament has been slow, with many countries and the EU outpacing India. From 8.1% in 1998, the share almost doubled to 14.9% in 2022. But when compared to the 18 countries and the EU, India's rank slipped from 15 in 1998 to 18 in 2022, just ahead of Japan (9.9%).

### E) Curbing carbon emissions

India has succeeded in curbing carbon emissions over the past three decades. It has been the lowest emitter of CO<sub>2</sub> in 1990 and 2020 among the 20 regions analysed. However, its progress in adopting eco-friendly energy sources to combat climate change has been relatively slow. Most G20 nations, excluding the U.S. and Mexico, generated less than 2% of their electricity from renewables in 1990. By 2015, only 5.36% of India's electricity came from renewable sources. India ranked 13 out of the 20 regions analysed.

## India's new multilateralism that stands out at the Jakarta and Delhi summits

- 1) In Jakarta, Modi underlined that the Quad is not in competition with the ASEAN but will complement its efforts to promote regional stability through more bilateral and minilateral security cooperation to deter and limit unilateralism and territorial expansionism.
- 2) India's focus on "re-globalisation", "that is more diversified, more democratic, where there would be multiple centres of production, not just of consumption."
- 3) India is not walking away from finding collective solutions despite the current crisis in multilateralism. India has put in much effort in the last nine months not to tie the fate of the G20 to just a few issues like Ukraine but to pursue agreements on a range of

consequential issues, like modernising the global tax regime and reforming the multilateral development banks.

- 4) Putting the concerns of the Global South on the G-20 agenda is likely to be a lasting contribution to India's new multilateralism. Although widely misunderstood as a return to the old confrontational politics of the NAM in the 1970s, Delhi's current emphasis is on building bridges between developing and developed countries.

Many in the developed world are waking up to the importance of greater cooperation between the North and the South amidst the breakdown of relations between the East and the West.

### Subjects not discussed in G20

Unfortunately, India missed a great opportunity to protect worker rights and advance the welfare of workers during the G-20 summit, despite the G-20's Labour 20 (L20), a coalition of G20 leaders concerned about workers, holding two meetings in India.

The Indian government should have taken the opportunity to address the serious issues facing workers in India, such as forced labour, modern-day slavery, and the kafala system in the Arab Gulf where some nine million Indians are working under exploitative working conditions. The Arab Gulf countries follow an exploitative labour system called the kafala system, which ties migrant workers to their employers. This system makes it difficult for migrant workers to leave their jobs or change employers, and it increases the risk of forced labour and modern-day slavery.

**India is the world's largest migrant-sending country, with an estimated 13 million workers abroad.** Of these, an estimated nine million are working in exploitative conditions in the Arab Gulf.

But the exploitation of Indian workers is not limited to the Arab Gulf. In India itself, workers in several industries, including textiles, brick kilns, shrimp farming, copper manufacturing, stone cutting, and plantations, face forced labour and modern-day slavery.

According to the Walk Free Foundation, there are an estimated 27 million people trapped in modern-day slavery in G-20 countries, of whom 11 million are in India.

According to the International Labour Organization, forced or compulsory labour is "all work or service which is exacted from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily".

It must be noted that India has signed and ratified the ILO's Forced Labour Convention known as C29.

In other words, forced labour is different from substandard or exploitative working conditions. Various indicators can be used to ascertain when a situation amounts to forced labour, such as restrictions on workers' freedom of movement, withholding of wages or identity

documents, physical or sexual violence, threats and intimidation or fraudulent debt from which workers cannot escape.

The G-20 should have discussed investments in job creation, compliance with the promise of the fundamental principles and rights at work, ensuring minimum living wages and equal pay, social protection for all with official development assistance, establishing equality of incomes, gender, and race, and coordinating action on inclusion as the basis of a rights-based development model realised through multilateral reform that deals with the threats to our peace and common security.

## INDIA'S CULTURAL SHOWCASE IN G20 SUMMIT



- 1) Bharat Mandapam (inspired from Anubhav Mandapam)
- 2) Bronze statue of Lord Nataraja (Chola style).
- 3) Konark Chakra of Odisha's Sun Temple and Image of Nalanda University (used as iconic backdrops).
- 4) Thanjavur Paintings of TamilNadu and Dhokra art of West Bengal.
- 5) Brass statue of Lord Buddha sitting under Bodhi tree.
- 6) Diverse musical heritage (Hindustani, Folk, Carnatic, Devotional).