

APRIL 10–24, 2023

Important discussions in G20 forums over the last two weeks included frameworks to manage financial stability risks and leverage digital public infrastructure to further financial inclusion, preventing and controlling transboundary diseases, and antimicrobial resistance. Forums also discussed ensuring equitable access to medical countermeasures, protecting the livelihoods of farmers, digital inclusion and sustainable green digital infrastructure.

FMs discuss action plan to address food and energy insecurity, climate change

April 12-13: The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) met in Washington to discuss progress made by the various workstreams of the G20 Finance Track. Members discussed the key challenges to the global economic outlook, including the war in Ukraine, food and energy insecurity, climate change, and recent risks to financial stability.

The ministers and governors also shared their expectations from the recently formed G20 Expert Group on Strengthening Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs). The FMCBG discussed frameworks needed to mobilize resources for climate change and the role of multilateral financial institutions in catalyzing private finance flows for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The group agreed that the G20 should increase efforts to encourage and scale up social impact investment instruments.

On financial inclusion, discussions focused on leveraging digital public infrastructure for financial inclusion and productivity gains. The ministers and governors also shared perspectives on the development of the 2023 Financial Inclusion Action Plan (FIAP).

The meeting was held on the margins of the 2023 Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group. The Finance Minister of India, Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, and Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Mr. Shaktikanta Das, jointly chaired the meeting, which was attended by 350 delegates from G20 member countries, 13 invitee countries, and international and regional organizations.



Sustainable agriculture and food systems take priority at MACS discussions

April 17-19: The Meeting of Chief Agriculture Scientists (MACS) of the G20 member nations took place in Varanasi for brainstorming on the action plan for sustainable agriculture and food systems. The G20 MACS participants deliberated on leveraging science, technology, and innovation to provide innovative solutions to achieve food security and nutrition with due consideration to social and ethical dimensions. Discussions suggested that the G20 Members could play a role in promoting food safety, healthy diets, and preventing and controlling transboundary diseases, zoonoses and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Some speakers suggested forging cross border alliances to protect the livelihoods of farmers from the impact of plant and animal diseases and increase the sustainability and resilience of agrifood systems with One Health benefits.

The scientists stressed the need for developing climate resilient crop varieties for increased tolerance to pests, diseases, droughts, floods, salinity, and other climate-related issues and how they would be helpful to farmers. They also discussed the need for G20 members to exchange information and knowledge about successful agriculture projects and initiatives that use digital technologies and to learn from each other's experiences. They also spoke of the need to overcome barriers to the adoption of digital technologies by farmers such as upfront investments, recurring maintenance costs, limited use cases, and high operator skill requirements.

The three-day meeting included about 80 foreign delegates from G20 member states, international organizations such as the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, World Health Organization, World Trade Organization, International Labour Organization, FSB, OECD, Chairs of Regional Organizations AU, AUDA-NEPAD, ASEAN, and special invitees such as the International Solar Alliance, CDR, and Asian Development Bank.

Health Working Group discusses comprehensive global health architecture

April 17-19: Panaji, capital city of Goa, hosted the 2nd Health Working Group meeting under the G20 India Presidency. During the session on “Health Emergencies Prevention, Preparedness and Response (HEPPR),” experts discussed the inclusion of the problem of AMR in the HEPPR protocol. Members also discussed proposals to build collaborative surveillance systems in pandemic management, supported by advanced networks of laboratories and relevant infrastructure. Participating members shared thoughts on the significance of strengthening co-operation in the pharmaceutical sector with a focus on medical countermeasures. The discussion focused on creating better collaborations at various levels, be it public and private partnerships or international collaborations through a network-of-networks coordination platform to ensure equitable access to medical countermeasures.

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The Working Group also highlighted the need for an integrated global health framework through the approach of “One Health” and on the need to counter the challenge of AMR. He urged everyone to continue working collectively to ensure “Universal Health Coverage” for all. Discussions on the draft Outcome Document was done exclusively amongst G20 member states in an hour-long session afterwards. The meeting was attended and addressed by Union Health Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya, along with senior officials from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, representatives from the G20 member countries, special invitee countries, international organizations, forums, and partners like WHO, World Bank, and WEF.

DEWG focuses on digital inclusion and improving lives with digital connectivity

April 17-19: The three-day meeting of the Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG) at Hyderabad focused on improving lives through digital connectivity in the G20 member nations, with particular emphasis on digital inclusion and sustainable green digital infrastructure. Tech experts from India and international specialists in digital infrastructure and telecoms discussed cutting-edge research in the field of 5G products, 5G base stations, 6G system prototypes, and autonomous navigation systems to improve last mile connectivity. To bring coherence among the various working groups and parallel tracks of G20, the respective leads from the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion and the Health Working Group also presented their progress and linkages with the DEWG. They highlighted digital public infrastructure initiatives, especially those related to financial inclusion and universal digital healthcare and their impacts in India.

The meeting was anchored by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), the nodal ministry for DEWG. The session included views shared by senior officials from the ministry — including MeitY Secretary, Alkesh Kumar Sharma, and Joint Secretary, Sushil Pal — and 81 foreign delegates from G20 member countries, eight guest countries, five international organizations, and one regional organization. The third in-person meeting of DEWG is planned in June 2023 at Pune, Maharashtra.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ **May 9–11, 2023:** G20 – 3rd Development Working Group Meeting, Goa
- ◆ **May 15–17, 2023:** G20 – 3rd Energy Transitions Working Group Meeting, Mumbai
- ◆ **May 21–23, 2023:** G20 – 3rd Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group Meeting, Mumbai

The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for international economic cooperation. It plays an important role in shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on major international economic issues. The G20 Presidency is with India from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023, and it is hosting a series of events aligned with the agenda and themes of the G20 in the run-up to the two-day summit scheduled to be held in New Delhi starting September 9, 2023.



Bi-Weekly G20 India Diaries

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