

G20-MOES

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G20 RIIG Summit and Research Ministers' Meeting, Mumbai, 4th - 5th July “Research and Innovation for Equitable Society”



India has taken forward the Research and Innovation Initiative (RIIG) during its Presidency in 2023 under the theme **“Research and Innovation for Equitable Society”**. The RIIG meetings were hosted by India this year under the theme “Research and Innovation for Equitable Society”. The RIIG Inception Meeting was held at Kolkata, followed by four thematic conferences in Ranchi, Dibrugarh, Dharamshala and Diu.

The City of Mumbai hosted the G-20 Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) Summit and Research Ministers' Meeting during 4th to 5th July, 2023. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh chaired the G-20 Research Ministers' Meeting (RMM) on 5th July 2023. During the RIIG Summit on 4th July 2023 chaired by the Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Dr. Srivari Chandrasekhar the delegates deliberated on the Ministerial Declaration to reach a consensus amongst the G20 countries.



»» RESEARCH & INNOVATION

The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology, was the coordinating Ministry for the G20 RIIG meetings during this presidency. Each of the 4 thematic conferences were hosted by different Science M/D's jointly with DST. The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) jointly coordinated the fifth G20 RIIG Conference on Scientific Challenges and Opportunities for a Sustainable Blue Economy in Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu during 18 to 19 May 2023. The events provided a platform for stakeholders at all levels to share ideas and create new partnerships to advance research and innovation to develop sustainable solutions for science-driven equity by sharing best practices, collaborations in science, and developing policies to promote equitable access to the benefits of research and innovation.



CIRCULAR & SUSTAINABLE BIOECONOMY

At the RMM, the Research Ministers of the G20 members and invitee countries, while endorsing and supporting the four priority discussion areas identified by India's Presidency for RIIG, re-affirmed the critical role of research and innovation for enabling inclusive and sustainable development and resolved to support all efforts for transforming research and innovation systems to respond to the changing world of the 21st century. During the meeting, the important role science, technology and research plays in supporting a more circular and sustainable bio-economy and the need for innovation across all industrial supply chains, from raw materials to finished products, while meeting food security needs, were recognized.

» DEVELOPMENT VISION 2030 OF INDIA- BLUE ECONOMY THE 6TH DIMENTION

Hon'ble Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh stressed on the need for enhanced scientific collaboration and knowledge sharing between the G20 member countries for giving momentum to the vision of Blue Economy especially for majority of the member countries that are ocean based economies. Blue economy is envisaged as the 6th dimension of the development vision 2030 of India. The G20 Ministers stressed the need to further develop capacities for more and better sustained coastal and ocean observations, monitoring and forecasting systems, and the use of tools such as maritime/marine spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management to balance and effectively accomplish the objectives of a sustainable blue economy through enhanced international coordination and cooperation.



The experts emphasised the inherent responsibility of G20 members — representing 85% of the global GDP, 75% of the global trade, and home to about two thirds of the global population — in steering research and innovation for transforming global ocean challenges into opportunities for a bluer and better future. The G20 Ministers also expressed their commitment to encourage the mobility of students, scholars, researchers and scientists across research and higher education institutions through mobility programmes.



Based on the engagements and discussions on the four priority areas – Materials for Sustainable Energy; Circular Bio-Economy; Eco-Innovations for Energy Transition; and Sustainable Blue Economy, which took place through the thematic conferences of the RIIG, an “Outcome Document and Chair's Summary” was issued. All G20 Research Ministers unanimously agreed to recommend the elevation of the Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) to the status of a formal Working Group, i.e., G20 Research and Innovation Working Group (RIWG) under the Sherpa Track.



»» BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS



The RIIG also provided a platform for the G20 and invitee countries to engage in bilateral discussions. Secretary, MoES, Dr. M. Ravichandran and other officials of MoES participated in bilateral engagements with France, Indonesia, European Union and discussed areas of mutual interest and fostering partnerships in science and innovation.



On the sidelines of the RIIG Summit and RMM, the G-20 delegates visited Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and explored the research and innovation facilities.

4th G-20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) meeting and Ministerial Meet, Chennai, India

26th, 27th and 28th July



The 4th G-20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) meeting under India's presidency was held on 26th and 27th July, followed by the Ministerial Meet on 28th July, 2023 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

The ECSWG meeting witnessed proactive engagement from over 225 delegates representing G20 member countries, invitee countries and heads and representatives of 23 International organizations including (United Nations Environment Programme) UNEP, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Conference of the Parties (COP28) and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

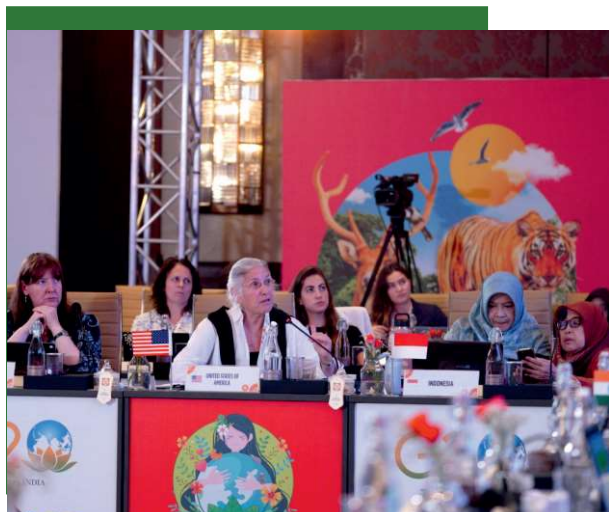


» SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT BLUE ECONOMY



Under ECSWG, “Promoting a Sustainable and Climate Resilient Blue Economy” was one of the key priorities with active involvement of the Ministry of Earth Science (MoES) and covered three important sub-themes namely, **(i) addressing marine litter for a sustainable Blue Economy; (ii) conservation and restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems; and (iii) Marine Spatial Planning for a sustainable and resilient Blue Economy.**

During the 4th ECSWG meeting the Communique and other outcome documents like the High-Level Principles for Sustainable and Climate Resilient Blue Economy were negotiated and attempts were made to reach consensus amongst the G20 countries regarding the same. G20 under India's presidency laid prime emphasis on the potentials of the Blue Economy; acknowledging the fact that the lack of awareness of the management and governance aspects may pose future impediments to a more robust Blue Economy growth. A transition and a clear path to a thriving and vibrant relationship between man and the ocean resulting in an effective Blue Economy is the prime requisite.





»» ECSWG MINISTERIAL MEETING, 28TH JULY

During the Ministerial Meet, the discussions revolved around critical challenges related to matters of climate and environment which are of utmost global importance. The meeting, was chaired by Shri Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and was attended by 41 Ministers from various nations, and highlighted significant achievements and key takeaways focused around the priority areas under the Environment and Climate track- Land and Biodiversity, Blue Economy, Water Resource Management and Circular Economy.



Shri Bhupender Yadav, in his opening remarks encouraged the collaborations among nations in tackling the complex and interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, fostering a unified approach towards a sustainable and resilient future.

»» HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE



The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, in his message to the delegates and the Ministers attending the 4th ECSWG meeting, expressed his confidence to the G20 countries joining hands to tackle the climate and environmental challenges in a holistic way in the true spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - One Earth, One Family, One Future. He further spoke on “Mission Amrit Sarovar”, a unique water conservation initiative under which more than sixty-three thousand water bodies have been created.

Several negotiations and presentations on priorities, technical studies and discussions steered around the communique have been proceeding under the four ECSWG meetings till date. Building upon them, the final ECSWG Outcome Document and Chair's Summary was adopted at the Ministerial Meet.



»» ECSWG OUTCOME DOCUMENT



The four outcome documents comprised the i) G20 ECSWG Communique, ii) Technical study on 'Accelerating the Transition to a Sustainable and Climate Resilient Blue Economy', iii) Chennai High-Level Principles (HLP) for a Sustainable and Resilient Blue/Ocean-based Economy, and iv) Fifth G20 Report on actions against Marine Plastic Litter (MPL).

The G20 Ministerial Communique encompasses discussions on key priority areas of the ECSWG (arresting land degradation, encouraging resource efficiency and circular economy and promoting a sustainable and resilient Blue Economy) to ensure inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive outcomes.

The ECSWG Technical Study on “Accelerating the transition to a sustainable and resilient blue economy” covered all G20 Countries and address sustainable economic growth, protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the marine environment, social equity, gender equality, and human development

The Chennai High Level Principles for a Sustainable and Resilient Blue/Ocean-based Economy provide inputs for development of policies based on national circumstances for boosting and promoting growth of sustainable and resilient Blue Economy'.

The Fifth G20 Report on Actions Against Marine Plastic Litter (MPL) is a compilation of policies and measures undertaken to tackle marine plastic litter by the G20 members, invited/other countries and international organisations.

»» WITNESSING THE VIBRANT CULTURE



On the last day, after the ministerial meeting event, the G20 delegates witnessed a vibrant cultural event which showcased the cultural and historical magnificence of Tamil Nadu. The G20 delegates had the opportunity to visit the historically significant town of Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu. They were enthralled by the group of temples and monuments which dates back to 7th and 8th centuries and recognized as a UNESCO world heritage site.

The deliberations of the 4th ECSWG came to a successful end with the G20 Environment and Climate Ministers' Meeting on 28th July, 2023. It stands as a testimony to the collective will and determination of the G20 nations to tackle environmental challenges head-on. As the Indian Presidency term draws to a close, the legacy of this fruitful collaboration will continue to inspire and guide global efforts towards a more sustainable and prosperous world.



»» WAY FORWARD: FINAL G20 SUMMIT AND LEADERS' DECLARATION

The ECSWG and RIIG Ministerial Meet will be succeeded by the final G20 Summit, which will be a culmination of all the G20 processes and meetings held throughout the year among ministers, senior officials, and civil societies and will be held in 9th – 10th September, 2023 New Delhi, the capital of the Republic of India.

A G20 Leaders' Declaration will be adopted at the conclusion of the New Delhi Summit, stating Leaders' commitment towards the priorities discussed and agreed upon during the respective ministerial and working group meeting

