

G20 Presidency and Beyond: India's Strategic Imperatives for Global Leadership

Dr. Garima Das

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi

ABSTRACT: India successfully hosted the G20 presidency, and all foremost world leaders hailed the rise of India as a global leader. On 1 December 2022, India assumed the presidency of G20, the grouping that brings together 20 of the world's largest economies. This Summit was held amidst the post-pandemic economic struggles and increased geopolitical tensions triggered by the Russia-Ukraine conflict. India left no stone unturned to galvanize this opportunity to enhance strategic engagements with G20 countries. India undertook several strategic initiatives to bolster traditional and non-traditional challenges. One of them was India's efforts for sustainable development, which included India's emphasis on food security. In the inaugural address, Union Home Minister Amit Shah warned the global community of the security challenges evolving from dynamite to metaverse and hawala to cryptocurrency and asked G20 member countries to come together. Most G20 nations have strong trade ties with India, and several have strategic defense agreements. This confidence in India's capabilities was actualized through numerous agreements to bolster national and multilateral security. India also took this opportunity to spearhead a global partnership to build safe cyberspace and prioritize cyber security concerns. Defence alliances and agreements with many countries followed this. India's masterstroke was the successful Delhi declaration, the Inclusion of the African Union as a G20 member, and the announcement of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. This paper will analyse India's strategic initiatives during the G20 presidency, including the challenges and opportunities for multilateralism and the progress made thereafter.

This will also explore the debates on India's strategic initiatives within the broad perspective of foreign policy and international relations.

INTRODUCTION

Brazil hosted the G20 summit in Rio in 2024, promoting inclusive governance and social inclusion. Brazil's administration is the portion of a troika with India, the past president, and South Africa, the following president. The G20 Leaders' Summit in Rio de Janeiro was held on November 18-19, 2024. Brazil's G20 presidency (2024) focused on climate change, social inclusion, global health, and pandemic

preparedness. The country worked for green development, climate finance, biodiversity protection, and policies supporting developing nations and marginalized groups. Brazil also advocates for fairer international trade, debt relief, and better financial systems for the Global South.

India had earlier held the G-20 Presidency. Prime Minister Modi, while addressing the G 20 summit in Brazil, described that India had been continuously striving towards achieving food security and addressing the problems of hunger and malnutrition. He stated that 800 million Indians were receiving free food grains and that the government lifted 250 million people out of poverty in the last ten years. When discussing India's progress in food security, the Prime Minister underlined India's "Back to Basics and March to Future" strategy was working. He also emphasized the steps India has taken to support women-led growth. Prime Minister also emphasised India's efforts to improve food security in Africa and beyond. India also praised Brazil's effort to form a Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, emphasizing that the ongoing wars significantly impacted the Global South due to food, fuel, and fertiliser shortages. (PIB India)

Brazil inherited the legacy of such policies as inclusive governance and sustainability. Brazil's Envoy to India, Kenneth Felix Haczynski da Nobrega said that 'the effective results of Brazil's G20 Administration is unequivocally built on the amazing accomplishments of the Indian G20 administration'.

India's presidency in 2023 aligned with India's human-centric approach, aiming for balanced global governance representing developing world interests. On December 1, 2022, New Delhi, India, took over Indonesia as the G20 forum's President. India hosted a series of events culminating in the final G-20 event in its Presidency. India, the world's biggest democracy, added to the achievements of the previous 17 presidencies. This Summit concluded with meetings throughout the year, meetings from December 2022 to February 2023, including Bengaluru, Chandigarh,

Chennai, Guwahati, Indore, Jodhpur, Khajuraho, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Pune, Rann of Kutch, Surat, Thiruvananthapuram, and Udaipur.

India hosted it in its Amrit Kaal program (a time commencing from the 75th anniversary of its independence on August 15, 2022, leading up to the centenary of its independence)(Ministry of Earth Sciences) and LiFE movement. (STA Law Firm) India dreamt of ensuring a shared global future for everyone by encouraging landscape-preventative measures for an eco-friendly lifestyle. India strived to establish new standards for a world based on rule-based order and governed by laws. (Pressroom today)

India took up a significant leadership role in directing the group's agenda as the 2023 president. India has conflicting interests as a natural ally of the West and a leader and as the voice of the Global South. To understand India's negotiation behaviour, it is essential to understand with whom it is negotiating. Despite closer relations with the West, India uses distributive negotiation strategies and moralistic framing and resists bandwagoning. However, it uses integrative bargaining strategies and shares international responsibility when dealing with smaller players.(Narlikar, 2013)

India has to fight hard, be it at the UN table, where China, a Veto power, covers Pakistan's terrorist ventures in India, or at the G7 table, where India has to make a strong push as a non-Western, non-white country. Through its negotiating tactics, India strikes agreements and negotiates tenaciously with states like China and Pakistan, ensuring that India's multipolar position is upheld. On top of that, India, being a democratic country, has to keep in mind its domestic arena, which is fraught with differences, as India is a multicultural and multi-ideological country. India's deep cultural philosophy influences India's leaders and diplomats, the tenets of nonviolence, peace, and tolerance. At the same time, with the onset of PM Modi's era, we see India not only showcasing its rich cultural heritage but also acquiring brutal bargaining tactics. Indian civilization goes a step further in balancing both individual and collective interests. In the G-20 Summit, India reached major agreements on global issues in several sectors during its G-20 leadership in 2023. India was able to convene and reach a consensus on some of the most critical global challenges facing the modern world by utilizing its G20 chair to bring together the most significant, powerful, and influential nations. India, one of the world's largest economies and perhaps its fastest-

growing large economy, had a unique opportunity to shape global outcomes. During this period, India faced numerous challenges due to geopolitical tensions caused by events like the Ukraine War. As a result, engaging all the great powers to reach a consensus at a table was the most challenging task for India.

At the same time, balancing friends, allies, and rivals was another challenging task. India, being an old friend of Russia, had to walk a tightrope. This was evident in the fact that India avoided mainly blaming Russia for the war despite the utmost pressure.

The agreement was a major diplomatic accomplishment amid strenuous discussions to lessen differences. According to the communiqué, all governments are prohibited from using force that would violate another state's territorial integrity, sovereignty, or political independence. This also applies to the conflict in Ukraine. It is not acceptable to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons. The specifics of the Russian invasion of Ukraine were left out.

The shadow of Indian-Canada tensions was also looming at the conference, which was evident in the Canadian President not staying in the Presidential suite booked by India. China and Russia also skipped the conference, narrowing the room for diplomacy on pressing global issues. This was indeed a disappointment. The G-20 summit in New Delhi offered India the opportunity to represent the concerns and aspirations of the Global South, even while serving as a bridge between the developed and the developing world. (Saran, 2023)

India has hosted many preparatory meetings in important domains, such as finance, public health, climate change, and the digital economy. These promised substantive outcomes at the Summit, but the key will be practical follow-up. Ali, D., & Kamraju, M. (2023) explained that the G20 is essential in forming global governance and addressing urgent international issues. This G-20 was also symbolic as the first time India, an emerging power representing 1.30 billion people with a democratic polity, hosted the Summit from 1st December 2022 and convened the G20 Leaders Summit in 2023. This symbolized the shifting of global cooperation towards the Global South, illustrating the growing influence of emerging economies such as India in promoting multilateralism and directing international development cooperation. G20, accounting for 85 percent of global GDP, 75

percent of international trade, and two-thirds of the world population, is a premier forum for international economic cooperation. India's presidency in this unique global institution presented an excellent opportunity to accelerate sustainable growth within India, in the emerging world, and beyond. (Gautam, 2022)

HISTORY

The Group of Twenty (G20) is a platform for international economic cooperation to guide world leaders through its significant issues. It is comprised of critical economic powerhouses, and approximately two-thirds of the world's population, 75% of international commerce, and 85% of the global GDP are all represented by its members.

The following nations constitute G20: Saudi Arabia, Egypt, United Kingdom, United States, African Union, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, and Turkey.

The first G20 Leaders' Summit was held in 2008, and since then, the G20 leaders have met regularly in various cities each year. Leaders have gathered annually for the G20 Leaders' Summit. Ministerial meetings, sherpa meetings, working groups, and special events are scheduled throughout the year in addition to the Summit. The G20 consists of the Finance Track and the Sherpa Track. Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors lead the Finance Track, while the Sherpas oversee negotiations and substantive work. The G20 does not have a permanent secretariat and is supported by the Troika, including Indonesia, India, and Brazil during India's Presidency. The main motivation for the establishment was to provide a new mechanism for informal dialogue in the Bretton Woods institutional system. Since its establishment, the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors have met annually, with subsequent meetings held in various countries. The group's focus has expanded to include issues related to international financial stability, trade and investment, energy and climate change, empowering women, global health, agriculture, development policy, digitization, employment policy, and terrorism.

The G20 summit was to be held in Italy in 2022 and India in 2021. During the 2018 G20 Buenos Aires summit in Argentina, on the Indian PM's request, Italy agreed (honoring India's 75th anniversary of independence) to hold the G20 in 2021, and India

would host in 2022. Given the strength of their bilateral ties, Italy consented to allow India to host the G20 meeting in 2022 instead. However, because Indonesia will also preside over the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2023, India swapped its G20 presidency with Indonesia at the request of Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi.

In 2024, Brazil is serving as the G20 president. The United States of America will host the G20 in 2026, after South Africa in 2025. This group includes 19 countries, representing around 80% of the global GDP, two-thirds of the worldwide population, and three-quarters of international trade. (Singh, 2022)

As Shyam Saran (2023) noted, India has the chance to bridge the gap between the developed and developing worlds by representing the worries and hopes of the Global South at the G-20 conference in New Delhi. Indeed, India held many preparatory meetings in various strategic areas, including public health, finance, climate change, and the digital economy. India's presidency had also strived to assist states struggling to overcome the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and to accept diverse perspectives and opinions regarding ongoing matters of concern. Institutions like G20 bring countries with different capabilities and powers to a common platform and provide numerous opportunities for maintaining cordial relations.

Also, the G20 presidency requires hard decisions by consensus about issues on which members' interests diverge. India has demonstrated that it believes in collective action to address global challenges and believes a better world is possible through adherence to multilateralism.

On the other hand, if we try to understand India's behavior through a constructivist lens, we find that common beliefs, rather than external factors, shape state behaviour and the international system: social constructions, identity, rhetoric, norms, and immaterial elements. As Constructivist theories focus on the importance of ideas and norms in international politics, India has been pivoting to digital public infrastructure, sustainable development, and global health to shape its normative vision for a more inclusive and just world.

India's G20 priorities: India has identified key priorities for the G20 to address critical challenges. Amongst them was to fund future cities as core drivers

of economic expansion, improving infrastructure and services such as water, transport power, waste management, and affordable housing. The private sector is recognized as a critical partner in these investments, and India can leverage the G20 platform to fill the financing gap. Another area was transitioning from carbon-heavy to renewable energy, reducing global warming, increasing power supply security, job creation, environmental gains, and cutting healthcare expenses. Another initiative concerns health care, with the COVID-19 pandemic highlighting the need for a global response to strengthen health systems. India believes the G20 should have a broad vision of public health, supporting universality, affordability, and excellent quality in globally scaled essential health services.

G20 India introduced six agenda priorities for the 2023 G20 Dialogue

Green Development, Climate Finance and Life

Inclusive, Accelerated, Resilient Growth

Accelerating progress on SDGs

Digital Public Infrastructure & Technological Transformation

Centers of Multilateral Institutions 21st Century

Women-led development

Before discussing about India's strategic choices, we must acknowledge India's unique position between the East and the West. South Asia has been a volatile continent with terrorism, insurgency, and disputed borders. India is a member of SCO, BRICS, which comprises Russia and China, and anti-western rhetoric. India is also a QUAD member, bringing it closer to the West. G 20, conversely, provides a multilateral forum comprised of countries across different continents to discuss pertinent questions.

Also, the G20 presidency preceded India's election year; a successful G20 was supposed to boost PM Modi's election campaign and his international standing. Besides, it gave India a unique opportunity to contribute significantly to future contributions with growing economic influence and technological improvements.

The G20 was led by India from December 1, 2022, until November 30, 2023. In December 2023, India hosted the 18th G20 Summit in New Delhi.

Key Strategic areas were:

There are 83 paragraphs in the New Delhi Leader's proclamation, and every one of those paragraphs enjoys unanimous support from every nation. The geopolitical topic, "Planet, People, Peace, and Prosperity," is covered in eight paragraphs, all endorsed by all the countries. The New Delhi Leader's declaration set high standards with the Deccan high-level principles on food security, the Chennai high-level principles for the blue ocean economy, the Goa tourism roadmap, the Gandhinagar implementation roadmap for land restoration, and the Jaipur call for enhanced MSMEs. (Economic Times, 2023)

Sustainable Development: Green energy and sustainable agriculture are areas where India may lead the way in driving initiatives for sustainable development. The Delhi Summit reiterated its commitment to significant deliverables in light of the sluggish development of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), of which 88% of objectives are out of reach. These include the UNSG's proposal on an SDG Stimulus of US \$500 billion per year, the adoption of the G20 High-Level Principles to Accelerate Progress on SDGs to guide the next seven years of action, Data for Development, the Analytical Framework for SDG Aligned Financing, and the acknowledgment that US \$1.2 trillion (ex-China) in SDG funding is required by 2030, with US \$260 billion coming from Multilateral Financial Institutions.(UN 2023 Water Conference)

The organization embraced the Deccan High-level Principles on Food Security and Nutrition, committed to promoting resilient, climate-smart, sustainable agriculture, tackled the impact of volatile food and energy prices, and expanded the International Fund for Agricultural Development resources.(Cooper,2023)

Affirmation of Global South

The G20 High-Level Principles on Lifestyles for Sustainable Development evolved from PM Modi's life mission. Along with private funding and a resolute commitment to developed nations sharing, deploying, and financing climate-friendly technology, as well as putting the Multiyear Technical Assistance Plan (TAAP) into action, an ambitious second replenishment of the Green Climate Fund was demanded for the Global South to go from billions to trillions—US\$ 5.9 trillion for the Global South before 2030 to implement their Nationally Determined Contributions and set ambitious climate adaptation targets, US\$ 4 trillion for clean energy technologies alone, and annual incremental investment of US \$1.8

trillion, and scaling up of blended finance.(MENA Report)

Climate Financing

Climate financing for the Global South was increased from US\$ 5.9 trillion for the Global South before 2030 to implement their Nationally Determined Contributions and set ambitious climate adaptation targets. The NDLD called for implementation of the US \$100-billion Paris Commitment and set an ambitious, traceable, transparent New Collective Quantifiable Goal—NCQG—with developed countries and Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to raise their game on this; agreed on peaking of emissions by 2025 on a differential basis for developing countries; acceleration of progress on early warning systems on climate-triggered disasters and agreed to peg the global net-zero target by 2050 with Common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) and national capacity determined policy space retained for developing countries.(MENA Report) The G-20 adopted an action plan for doubling the rate of energy efficiency, low-cost financing for developing countries, increased market stability and energy security; provided developing countries with necessary policy space regarding inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, and green-signaled cooperation in small to medium nuclear reactors—a first for India and the Global South. Creating the Global Bio Fuels Alliance, the High-Level Principles for Collaboration on Critical Minerals for Energy Transitions, and the Green Hydrogen Innovation Centre, led by the International Solar Alliance (ISA), were three tangible initiatives. (UNCC, 2024)

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)

The Delhi Summit initiated the 'evolving concept of technological transformation and DPI for ending digital divides, welcomed India's plan to build and maintain a Global DPI Repository for sharing with the G20 and beyond, and acknowledged the Indian proposal of "One Future Alliance" to assist developing countries. (Report of India's G 20 Task Force on Digital Public Infrastructure (2024). India can teach the world about the digital economy and robust digital infrastructure.

Reform of Multilateral Institutions

The G20 brought UNSC reform to the forefront and strengthened the hands of India and the Global South when they jointly recalled UNGA Resolution 75/1 for renewed multilateralism and reforms. This was the

first time that the G20 had done this. Regarding MDBs, it pledged to pursue reforms for more extensive and more functional MDBs in order to enable them to significantly increase their financial capacity and improve their operating models, which should allow for a swifter and more substantial mobilization of funds for developing nations.

Digital Transformation: Other G20 members might learn from India's success stories in implementing digital public goods, such as Aadhaar, UPI, and Digital India.

AI Partnership and Diplomacy: Taking Part in International Projects To develop strong international collaboration mechanisms and contribute to establishing standards for responsible deployment, India is actively engaging in international forums on AI, such as the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI). India is collaborating with other countries to research and develop to demonstrate its artificial intelligence (AI) supremacy. (GPAI)

One of the original members of the G20, a leading group for global economic cooperation, is India. India's priorities were to work for equitable and sustainable growth, enhance technology accessibility and digital infrastructure, and fortify the international trade system. "One World One Sun One Grid" was India's G20 presidency motto, signifying the country's dedication to using solar energy for a more environmentally friendly future.

The most relevant achievement from the overview was the agreement to a transformative climate financing necessity for the global south to attain the trajectory needed to go from billions to trillions and do so rapidly. Of the US 5.9 trillion that the Global South needs before 2030 to implement their Nationally Determined Contributions and set ambitious climate adaptation targets, US 4 trillion is required for clean energy technologies alone and annual incremental investment of US \$ 1.8 trillion by 2030, with scaling-up blended finance.(Raisina Debates,2023)

Global Health Preparedness

Neither India nor the world is prepared for a pandemic: In the post-COVID-19 world, health priorities were prioritized. It advocated for fair access to vaccines and health resources. The African Union Permanent Seat in G20- The G20 summit 2023 in New Delhi was an important event in global diplomacy. Granting the African Union a permanent seat in the G20 signified Africa's growing relevance and an expansion

of the forum's geographic dimensions. It was a shift in the forum's approach to international governance. India played the role of the host nation and demonstrated deft diplomatic skills in guiding a heterogeneous assembly of countries towards a common understanding.

The Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) was introduced by the leaders of India, Singapore, Bangladesh, Italy, the US, Brazil, Argentina, Mauritius, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on September 9th while attending the G20 Summit. As the G20 Chair, India launched the Alliance with the goal of promoting international cooperation and the use of biofuels worldwide. India's delicate balancing act between its historical ties to Russia, strategic alignment with the United States, and complex relationship with China placed it at the center of this shifting geopolitical tableau.(GBA)

As an important platform for global economic governance, the G20 includes major economies in the world. It is a debating area for international economic cooperation involving financial stability, climate change, and sustainable development.

There was a reaffirmation of strategic partnerships, such as with the US, recognizing India-US strategic and Quad partnership, or Indo-Saudi Arabia Partnership and India-EU partnership.

Cyberspace Security: Leaders pledged to ensure cyber security. Leaders at the Group of 20 conference agreed not to conduct cyber-enabled economic espionage. Though not legally binding, the agreement may restrict countries from doing so. Also, it would provide moral justification for responding to economically motivated cyber espionage in the future. India reiterated to the international community that security challenges that have progressed from "dynamite to metaverse" and "hawala to cryptocurrency" are unconventional and a bane of technological growth. Union Home Minister Amit Shah requested G20 member nations to rise above traditional boundaries and share information in real-time to check all cybercrimes. (Business Standard, 2023)

The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) Project, signed at the G20 Summit in New Delhi, was a masterstroke of India's diplomatic endeavors. It is part of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), a high-impact infrastructure partnership to meet the infrastructure needs of low and middle-income countries. The

project consists of Railroad, Ship-to-Rail networks, and Road transport routes extending across two corridors: the East Corridor connecting India to the Arabian Gulf and the Northern Corridor connecting the Gulf to Europe. It will also include an electricity cable, a hydrogen pipeline, and a high-speed data cable. The project aims to create a comprehensive transportation network connecting India, the Middle East, and Europe, enhancing transportation efficiency, reducing costs, increasing economic unity, generating employment, and lowering greenhouse gas emissions. It is expected to transform the integration of Asia, Europe, and the Middle East by facilitating trade and connectivity.

The geopolitical implications of IMEC include:

Being a potential counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Strengthening ties and integration across continents and civilizations.

Breaking Pakistan's overland connectivity veto.

Deepening India's strategic engagement with the Arabian Peninsula.

Promoting intra-regional connectivity and peace.

Strengthening India's strategic role in Africa.

Analysing India's G20 Multilateralism and Challenges

India's G20 was a People's G20, with 67 million people, including officials, corporations, civil society, and community leaders. The G20 theme, "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," was inscribed into the New Delhi Leaders Declaration (NDLD), reflecting India's commitment to acting on behalf of the Global South and pursuing the development agenda. A Virtual Summit concluded on 22 November 2023 to take forward crucial, select outcomes/action points from the New Delhi Summit and review developments since then. The deliberations of the 2nd Voice of Global South Summit, held on 17 November 2023, also fed into the discussions. The Virtual G20 Summit pushed for the effective implementation of various G20 decisions, including through relevant national and international platforms. (G 20 Summit, 2023)

India's democratic spirit was reflected in its G20, perhaps the most extensive and inclusive participation and networking of countries, governments, and economic, financial, and social actors, especially from

the Global South. The number of ministerial meetings, Sherpa meetings, working group meetings, and side events attended by 100,000 participants was impressive.

The first-ever Voice of the Global South Summit was convened before the Delhi Summit, with 125 countries participating. India made the Delhi Summit most inclusive by inviting many guest countries from the Global South. PM Modi secured the African Union's admission into the G20 as a permanent member, solidifying India's role as a partner of Africa.

India worked to build trust and convince both sides of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The diplomatic endeavors leading up to the G20 summit were marked by complexities and challenges, making it difficult to reach a unified position. An area of concern and tension was Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which divided the forum's members into distinct ideological camps. Key leaders Xi Jinping of China and Vladimir Putin of Russia did not attend, which symbolized missed opportunities. The Summit raised questions about the shifting landscape of global alliances and power structures.

India remarkably steered the G20 as an Economic Security Council, ensuring that the country's interests were not pursued aggressively. This approach allowed India to emerge as a leader of the Global South and contribute to strengthening global digital public infrastructure. The G20's focus was on economic growth and global financial stability. It has redirected countries to issues like climate change and sustainability. It reiterated India's choice of strategic autonomy, non-alignment, and a commitment to multilateralism, which is the foundation stone of India's foreign policy. However, the dominant concept of growth and development is causing climate catastrophe, economic disparities, and extremism. The 2024 summit was a watershed event in India's diplomatic trajectory, symbolizing its strategic imperative and claim to multilateral diplomacy. While geopolitical tensions and economic disparities continue to obstruct its prospects, the case of digital cooperation in which India is making a significant contribution alongside issues such as sustainable development and global health shows that this process is underway where it can potentially shape future world governance.

The New Delhi Summit marked India's emergence as a global system shaper, from a non-aligned country to a system shaper. From being on the periphery, it

became the center of global economic and sustainable development decision-making. It took on responsibilities and made contributions and down payments in climate change and environment, digital public infrastructure, and disaster risk reduction and response, including the historic setting up of a working group.

New Delhi was committed to representing the Global South with insistence on inclusivity.

The report of India's G20 Task Force on Digital Public Infrastructure, released on 15th July 2024, emphasized the potential use of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in modern business. The study claims that by breaking down business transactions into their parts—inventory searching, order booking, fulfillment, and post-fulfillment resolution—DPI solutions may offer more equitable alternatives. The event also clarifies the function of DPI in India, where UPI is widely utilized and accounts for over 46% of all digital transactions conducted worldwide. It also highlights the benefits of DPI in other nations, such as its ability to scale up more quickly to influence development across industries and significantly boost the economy. (NASSCOM Community)

Another example of India's G-20's commitment to gender equality is The Alliance for Global Good: Gender Equity and Equality, launched in Davos 2024, a global initiative aimed at women's and economic empowerment. The alliance, by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and anchored by the CII Centre for Women Leadership, aligns with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aims to bring together global good practices, knowledge sharing, and investments in women's health, education, and enterprise. The logo, "e," stands for equality and equity, with the tricolors symbolizing strength, courage, truth, growth, prosperity, and Lord Ganesh. (MENA report, 2024)

Brazil took over the G20 presidency from India in December 2023, establishing a troika with India, Brazil, and South Africa. It aimed to prioritize the needs of the Global South, addressing challenges like climate change, geopolitical turmoil, inequality, and indebtedness. South Africa has been awarded the next G20 Presidency.

Brazil had declared a three-point agenda focusing on combating hunger, poverty, inequality, sustainable development, and global governance reform. The goal was to reduce disparities, reflecting the Brazilian

presidency's motto, 'Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet.' It emphasized upon social inclusion and inequality, advocating for policies supporting developing nations and marginalized groups.

Conversely, India focused on digital transformation and technology, promoting sustainable development, inclusive growth, and global South representation. Both countries are strong proponents of the Global South, advocating for fair trade, debt relief, and inclusive economic policies.

Despite their differing global roles and political contexts, Brazil and India shared overlapping priorities of social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and fair global governance, making their presidencies complementary in addressing global challenges.

India advocates for grouping countries, especially within the G20, BRICS, and SCO, showing its commitment to worldwide equity and justice. It strives to connect with worldwide powers like the US, Russia, and China, displaying its conciliatory artfulness and expertise. This includes keeping up essential independence in decision-making, which locks in with critical control alliances. India is also working out vital independence in decision-making, keeping up its autonomy and sway while locked in with major control coalitions. G20 is a platform to advocate for worldwide financial changes, including restructuring international money-related education. India is advancing activities like the 'India Stack, a computerized framework and administrations set up by Aadhaar (a biometric recognizable proof framework) and UPI (an advanced installment framework) as worldwide open merchandise. India is also working on geopolitical engagements, such as improving territorial networks through ventures like the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). India cultivates participation within the Indo-Pacific through systems like the 'QUAD' (a key discourse between the Joined together States, Japan, Australia, and India) and 'IORA,' a territorial gathering for improving financial participation and security within the Indian Sea locale. India is leveraging its social legacy, yoga, and Ayurveda to make a worldwide impact.

A significant challenge for India is adjusting relations with clashing powers like the US and China. India faces a critical challenge in exploring its connections with countries frequently clashing interfaces, such as

the US, Canada, China, and Russia, especially inside the worldwide gatherings and multilateralism system. Notably, India has a crucial association with the US, especially in defense, innovation, and the Indo-Pacific. At the same time, India depends on Russia for defense supplies and maintains a complex relationship with China, which is checked by border pressures and exchange conditions. Balancing these very dynamic relations takes time and effort.

As Cooper and Pouliot (2015) say, 'G-20 may reinforce the status quo. G20 diplomacy often reproduces many oligarchic tendencies in global governance while also relaxing club dynamics in some ways. G20 comprises self-appointed rulers with arbitrary rules of membership and many processes of co-option and discipline. Hence, while the Group of 20 (G-20) adopted and modified hegemony concepts, the primary question is whether groups like the G-20 will serve as the center of inclusion and cooperation or are also at risk of becoming instruments of the hegemonic alliance. India has to play a leadership role in deterring any structural dominance by developed countries of the West. On the other hand, the G-20 should not become a talking forum like the UN, where ideological differences and East-West differences obstruct meaningful actions.

Moreover, India has to walk a tightrope. India has been facing strained relations with Canada, strikingly over issues like Khalistani radicalism, adding another layer of complexity. India has been part of multilateral stages such as the G20, BRICS, and SCO, and it frequently finds itself exploring competing needs.

India works multilaterally through global climate change, exchange, and security forums. At the same time, India is working with regional territorial players like ASEAN and Africa to balance the impact of clashing worldwide powers.

G20 can reformulate growth and development and create alternative paradigms, like India's re-engagement with ancient knowledge, to address pressing concerns. G20's diplomatic practices are based upon multi-alignment and multilateralism, inhibiting any tendency to hegemony in global governance. On a serious note, we need to be cautious that leaders continuously need to be committed to significant issues related to the global economy, international economic stability, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development, with egalitarianism and multilateralism.

India has emerged as a significant economic and geopolitical power in a challenging global climate. As it leads the world in digital development, inclusive, sustainable economic growth, and climate action, India's moves clear the path for the country to become a developed nation by 2047 and the third-largest economy in the world within the next five years.

In a nutshell, India may utilize its unique position to mediate international crises, balance power dynamics, and promote economic growth through multilateral forums like the G-20. An example is a joint Declaration on Digital Public Infrastructure, AI, and Data for Governance during the G20 summit in Brazil. The G20 Troika (India, Brazil, and South Africa), a joint affirmation of the advanced open framework (DPI), fake insights, and information for administration, was endorsed by several G20 countries, guest countries, and international organizations. (PM India)

REFERENCES

- [1] Ministry of External Affairs, India (2023). India's G20 Presidency. Retrieved from <https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/35700/indias+forthcoming+g20+presidency>
- [2] Narlikar, Amrita (2013). India rising: responsible to whom? *International Affairs*, Volume 89, <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2346.12035>
- [3] Pressroom Today, India's G20 Presidency - Pressroom Today. <https://pressroom.today/2023/03/09/vasudhaiva-kutumbakam-indias-g20-presidency/amp/>
- [4] GPAI, The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, <https://gpai.ai/about/>
- [5] GBA, The Launch of Global Biofuels Alliance, [https://mopng.gov.in/en/page/66#:~:text=Global%20Biofuels%20Alliance%20\(GBA\)%20was,G20%20Summit%20in%20New%20Delhi](https://mopng.gov.in/en/page/66#:~:text=Global%20Biofuels%20Alliance%20(GBA)%20was,G20%20Summit%20in%20New%20Delhi).
- [6] Leadership (2023), G-20 Countries Tasked On Health, Wellbeing Of Women, Children Worldwide. <https://leadership.ng/g-20-countries-tasked-on-health-wellbeing-of-women-children-worldwide/>
- [7] Singh, G. (2022). How The Belt and Road Initiative Affects China-Bangladesh Relations. *Himalayan and Central Asian Studies*, 26(1/2), 154–171, V.
- [8] (2016). United Arab Emirates: Dubai SME supports the UN's sustainable development goals. *MENA Report*, (), n/a.
- [9] Saran, S. (2023). The G-20 Opportunity for India. *India Quarterly: A Journal of International Affairs*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09749284231203344>
- [10] Gautam, A. (2022). INDIA AND G20: STRENGTHENING AND SHAPING GLOBAL GOVERNANCE. *EPRA International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*. <https://doi.org/10.36713/epra11385>
- [11] UN 2023 Water Conference. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. <https://sdgs.un.org/2030age>
- [12] G20 Summit (2023). Highlights: G20 passes Delhi Declaration, India launches Global Biofuels Alliance, and more takeaways from Day 1 (Sep 2023) <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/newsblogs/g20-summit-2023-live-news-delhi-traffic-restrictions-xi-jinping-pm-narendra-modi-latest-updates-09-september-2023/liveblog/103522450.cms>
- [13] Detailed Overview of Priorities of India's G20 Presidency - STA Law Firm. <https://www.stalawfirm.com/en/blogs/view/priorities-of-indias-g20-presidency>
- [14] (UNCC)United Nations Climate Challenge, 'New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance,' <https://unfccc.int/NCQG>
- [15] Business Standard (July 2023). G20 must join hands to meet challenges from dynamite, metaverse: Amit Shah. https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/g20-must-join-hands-to-meet-challenges-from-dynamite-metaverse-amit-shah-123071300595_1.html
- [16] Ministry of Economic Affairs, Report of India's G 20 Task Force on Digital Public Infrastructure. (2024) <https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Report%20of%20Indias%20G20%20Task%20Force%20On%20Digital%20Public%20Infrastructure.pdf>.
- [17] Overview of G20 | Ministry Of Earth Sciences. https://moes.gov.in/hi/node/7138?language_content_entity=hi
- [18] Cooper, A. F. (2023). Between Rewards and Risks: India as Host of the 2023 G20 Summit. *India Quarterly*, 79(4), 476–487. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09749284231203307>
- [19] MENA Report (2024). India: Alliance for Global Good Gender Equity and Equality.

- [20] G20 Summit, New Delhi. <https://www.g20.in/en/g20-india-2023/new-delhi-summit/new-delhi-summit.html>
- [21] <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/what-made-india-s-g20-presidency-so-successful-a-deep-dive-into-the-new-delhi-leaders-declaration#:~:text=The%20biggest%20achievement%20was%20affirming,4%20trillion%20for%20clean%20energy>
- [22] Prime Minister addresses G 20 session on Social Inclusion and the Fight against Hunger and Poverty. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2074422>
- [23] Bhowmick, S., & Chatterjee, D. (2023). Reimagining Urban Infrastructure for G20: India's Mission LiFE for Sustainable Cities. *Environment and Urbanization ASIA*, pp. 14, 309–317.
- [24] Nasscom Community. [https://community.nasscom.in/communities/digital-payment-safety/learnings-indias-g20-task-force-digital-public-infrastructure#:~:text=In%20July%202024%20C%20the%20G20,adopted%20by%20other%20countries%20globally.International Energy Agency. \(2023\).](https://community.nasscom.in/communities/digital-payment-safety/learnings-indias-g20-task-force-digital-public-infrastructure#:~:text=In%20July%202024%20C%20the%20G20,adopted%20by%20other%20countries%20globally.International%20Energy%20Agency.(2023).)
- [25] World Health Organization. (2023). Health Promotion & Disease Prevention (including mental health) Maternal and Child Health Global Health and Pandemic Preparedness Retrieved from
- [26] Gautam, A. (2022). INDIA AND G20: STRENGTHENING AND SHAPING GLOBAL GOVERNANCE. *EPRA International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (IJMR)*. <https://doi.org/10.36713/epra11385>.
- [27] Ali, D., & Kamraju, M. (2023). The G20 Presidency of India in 2023: Achievements, Challenges, and Implications. *International Journal of Business and Management Research*. <https://doi.org/10.37391/ijbmr.110401>.
- [28] Declaration on Digital Public Infrastructure, AI and Data for Governance – Joint Communiqué by the G20 Troika (India, Brazil and South Africa), endorsed by several G20 countries, guest countries and international organizations. [https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/declaration-on-digital-public-infrastructure-ai-and-data-for-governance-joint-communique-](https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/declaration-on-digital-public-infrastructure-ai-and-data-for-governance-joint-communique-by-the-g20-troika-india-brazil-and-south-africa-endorsed-by-several-g20-countries-guest-countries-and-i/)