



Monthly News Wrap – #10/October 2023

## The New Delhi Declaration: From G20 to G21

The final meeting of the Indian G20 Presidency was held on September 09-10, 2023, in New Delhi. The inclusion of the African Union (AU) into the G20 represents a significant stride taken during the Indian Presidency, aligning with the theme "One Earth, One Family, One Future."

The G20 Summit 2023 Delhi Declaration, a remarkable achievement, witnessed unanimous agreement among participating nations on crucial subjects spanning climate action, food security, energy, sustainable development, public health, and digital transformation. This historic declaration was duly adopted by all countries in attendance.

Moreover, the New Delhi Leaders Declaration, firmly endorsed by the leaders of these nations, underlines the paramount importance of promoting inclusive growth as a central focus for the future. In a significant development during the G20 Presidency, a visionary proposal, the India-Middle East-Europe-U.S. Corridor, gained unanimous approval from global leaders. Furthermore, the G20 Presidency made a resounding impact by placing considerable emphasis on the maximised use of biofuels. This commitment materialised through the adoption of the Global Biofuel Alliance, signalling a concerted effort to advance sustainable energy solutions.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaways
<p><b>Human-centric Globalisation: Taking G20 to the last mile, leaving none behind</b>  <i>Prime Minister Narendra Modi</i>                      The Times of India                      September 07, 2023</p>	<p>Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — these two words capture a deep philosophy. It means ‘<a href="#">the world is one family</a>’. This is an all-embracing outlook that encourages us to progress as one universal family, transcending borders, languages, and ideologies. During India’s G20 Presidency, this has translated into a call for human-centric progress. As One Earth, we are coming together to nurture our planet. As One Family, we support each other in the pursuit of growth. And we move together towards a shared future — One Future — which is an undeniable truth in these interconnected times.</p>
<p><b>Elevating consumer protection on G20 agenda for a balanced future</b>  <i>Pradeep S Mehta</i>                      Livemint                      September 07, 2023</p>	<p>In spite of the fact that consumer protection did not feature in the G20 deliberations in India this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not allow it to slip through the cracks. Addressing the B20 summit on August 27, he called for businesses to care for their consumers and also organise an <a href="#">International Consumer Care Day</a>.</p>

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<p><b>Why G20 must work to restore WTO's dispute settlement system</b>  <i>Pradeep S Mehta</i>  The Economic Times  September 07, 2023</p>	<p>It will soon be four years since the Appellate Body (AB), the second tier of the two-stage dispute-settlement mechanism of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), became defunct, thus affecting developing countries adversely. One hopes that Prime Minister Narendra Modi can impress upon U.S. President Joe Biden at the G20 summit to restore it and help the global south and multilateralism. Under <a href="#">India's G20 Presidency</a> (Paywall), it was hoped that G20 economies would demonstrate their collective commitment to AB's restoration.</p>
<p><b>From G20 Summit to democratisation of technology</b>  Livemint  September 30, 2023</p>	<p>Ahead of the <a href="#">G20 Summit</a> in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about various areas of governance during an interview with news agency Press Trust of India's Editor-in-Chief Vijay Joshi and senior editors. He touched range of topics from India becoming third largest economy in 2047 to China's objection to G20 events in Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh.</p>
<p><b>G20 univ-connect event tomorrow, PM Modi to join in</b>  The Times of India  September 25, 2023</p>	<p>Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 24, 2023, said India had turned the G20 summit into a "people's G20" as a large number of people became part of the year-long programmes across the country. He said there would be a <a href="#">G20 University Connect Programme</a> on September 26 and he would participate in it. He urged college students to participate in it while mentioning that many prestigious institutions like IITs, NITs and medical colleges would also participate.</p>
<p><b>'There's a US\$4 trillion gap in development funding for poorer countries'</b>  <i>Shashank Mattoo</i>  Livemint  September 19,2023</p>	<p>Developed countries can no longer afford to be cautious in providing financing for achieving sustainable development goals, the UN's Resident Coordinator in India Shombi Sharp said in an interview. He said the world faces a US\$4-trn <a href="#">financing gap for the Sustainable Development Goals</a> (SDGs) and called for greater political will to provide this funding. India was uniquely placed between developed and developing countries, which allowed it to deliver a consensus at the G20.</p>
<p><b>The G20 showed India's foreign policy is exploring new territory</b>  <i>Harsh V. Pant</i>  Observer Research Foundation  September 18, 2023</p>	<p>As the <a href="#">G20 summit successfully concluded</a> in New Delhi, it managed to generate some positive headlines for India globally. Even India's staunchest critics had to concede that contrary to their expectations, New Delhi managed to pull off a successful summit at a time when geopolitical and developmental fault-lines have been sharpening by the day. Despite the absence of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin (and perhaps because of it), a large part of the world agreed and put its stamp on India's global developmental priorities.</p>
<p><b>'The credit will go to Modi': India's PM seeks G20 boost in upcoming elections</b>  <i>Benjamin Parkin and John Reed</i>  Financial Times  September 16, 2023</p>	<p>India is entering a busy political season, with five state polls due in the coming months and a national vote in early 2024, when Modi's BJP will seek a third term in power. No sooner had the <a href="#">G20 concluded</a> (Paywall) on September 10, 2023, than the BJP began strategising.</p>

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<p><b>The African Union has been made a permanent member of the G20 – what does it mean for the continent?</b>  <i>Chido Munyati</i>  World Economic Forum  September 14, 2023</p>	<p>The <a href="#">African Union</a> (AU) has been made a permanent member of the G20, in a move that has been broadly welcomed for giving the continent an important voice on key global issues. The G20 represents around 85 percent of global GDP and 75 percent of global trade, as well as two-thirds of the world’s population, prior to the AU joining.</p>
<p><b>We need the G20 – but what is it for?</b>  <i>Martin Wolf</i>  Financial Times  September 12, 2023</p>	<p>If the <a href="#">G20 did not exist</a> (Paywall), we would have to invent it. Some would counter that the world is so divided that this grouping is unworkable. Yet this fact merely makes the G20, or something like it, even more essential: one does not have to talk to people one already agrees with. A still stronger justification for its existence is that we are no longer able to live in isolated pockets: the health of our planet and our economy depends on our co-operation. Since global challenges are more pressing than ever, so is the need to work together in such a group.</p>
<p><b>Western nations accept ‘climdown’ on Ukraine to salvage G20’s relevance</b>  Financial Times  September 10, 2023</p>	<p>It took until close to midnight on September 08, 2023 for a handful of leading developing countries to propose their compromise. Accept this, was the pitch, or bear the consequences of a fractured G20. After five days of gruelling discussions, the Western delegates took the deal. The U.S., EU and other Western allies had agreed to remove condemnation of Russian president Vladimir Putin’s <a href="#">war against Ukraine</a> from the meeting’s communique, in exchange for pledges from all 20 states including Russia and China to respect territorial integrity and work towards a “just peace” for Kyiv.</p>
<p><b>G20 summit: Global consensus, Made In India</b>  Times of India  September 10, 2023</p>	<p>India on September 09, 2023, scripted history and stamped its authority on the <a href="#">global stage, securing a consensus</a> on more than 100 issues on the agenda, including the most contentious one, the Russia-Ukraine war, as G20 leaders adopted the New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration. "United in consensus and spirit, we pledge to work collaboratively for a better, more prosperous and harmonious future.</p>
<p><b>India-Middle East-Europe mega economic corridor: What is the project and why is it being proposed?</b>  The Indian Express  September 10, 2023</p>	<p>Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of the <a href="#">India-Middle East-Europe mega economic corridor</a>. The project includes India, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, the European Union, France, Italy, Germany and the U.S. He said, “Today we all have reached an important and historic partnership. In the coming times, it will be a major medium of economic integration between India, West Asia and Europe.”</p>
<p><b>G20 Summit: ‘Game-changing regional investment,’ says Joe Biden on India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor</b>  Livemint  September 10, 2023</p>	<p>Regarding the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, established during the G20 Summit in New Delhi, U.S. President Joe Biden described it as a <a href="#">transformative regional investment</a>. Biden emphasised that this initiative extends beyond mere infrastructure development. "I am proud to announce that the U.S., India, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), France, Germany, Italy and European Union (EU) finalised a historic agreement for a new India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor," the U.S. President posted on twitter.</p>

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<p><b>G20 Summit: Global Biofuels Alliance led by India takes form</b>  <i>Sanjay Dutta</i>  The Times of India  September 10, 2023</p>	<p>Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 09, 2023 launched the <a href="#">Global Biofuels Alliance</a> (GBA), an India-led 'field-to-fuel' initiative to develop and deploy biofuels as a green pathway for energy transition, job creation and economic growth. The launch of the Global Biofuels Alliance marks a watershed moment in our quest towards sustainability and clean energy.</p>
<p><b>G20: India's new soft power is digital public infrastructure</b>  <i>Nalin Mehta</i>  Times of India  September 09, 2023</p>	<p>UPI services for foreign delegates, a VR cycle depicting India's digital journey and a showcasing of India's <a href="#">digital public infrastructure</a> (DPI) like Aadhaar, direct-benefit-transfers and Digi Locker formed a key part of India's diplomacy at the Bharat Mandapam in Delhi. India's soft power was once limited to the strength of its ancient culture, traditions and hospitality. Its digital revolution has added a powerful new lever of influence to this quiver.</p>
<p><b>The G20 has flaws but the world still needs it</b>  Financial Times  September 08, 2023</p>	<p>In the dark days of April 2009, the <a href="#">G20 summit</a> became a turning point in the global financial crisis. Leaders agreed on joint initiatives and measures worth US\$1.1tn to boost trade and bolster struggling economies. The group of 19 big developed and developing markets and the European Union (EU) was hailed as a forum for economic co-operation that could supplant the Western-dominated G8.</p>
<p><b>Too much government in G20 – people matter too</b>  <i>Sanjaya Baru</i>  The Indian Express  September 07, 2023</p>	<p>In preparing to host the G20 Summit in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has claimed credit for converting a heads of government meeting into “<a href="#">a people's festival</a>” (Paywall). The government did well to popularise the Indian G20 agenda among people across the country and the world, even if this was sometimes done a la Bollywood style. It is, therefore, striking that in the run-up to the summit, there has been considerable criticism of the Prime Minister's leadership style in international media.</p>
<p><b>G20's finance track agenda: Leveraging capital for MDBs, crypto norms, climate transition to be key talking points</b>  The Indian Express  September 07, 2023</p>	<p>A greater leveraging of capital for Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), common norms for <a href="#">crypto, financial inclusion action plan, and climate transition</a> (Paywall) involving pricing and non-pricing tools are going to feature as the key discussion points in the upcoming G20 Leaders' Summit starting September 9, sources said.</p>
<p><b>Trade pacts with G20 member countries can help India boost exports: CII EXIM panel chairman Sanjay Budhia</b>  Financial Express  September 06, 2023</p>	<p>Negotiating <a href="#">trade pacts</a> with certain G20 countries and diversifying exports to regions like Brazil and Mexico could help India boost outbound shipments and manufacturing in the years to come, Chairman, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) national committee on EXIM, Sanjay Budhia, said. He also said that tapping into opportunities in G20 countries is crucial for India's economic growth and global influence.</p>
<p><b>India's G20 millets initiative MAHARISHI faces roadblock from China</b>  <i>Asit Ranjan Mishra</i>  Business Standard  September 06, 2023</p>	<p>India's G20 millets initiative, <a href="#">MAHARISHI</a> (Paywall), has encountered a Chinese roadblock, hindering its inclusion in the G20 declaration aimed at strengthening research collaboration for millets. 'China has raised objection to the Sanskrit short form of the millets initiative though they don't have a problem with the proposal per se'.</p>



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<p><b>G20 technical workshop on ‘Climate Resilient Agriculture’ discusses scientific and innovative solutions</b> The Economic Times September 06, 2023</p>	<p>The G20 technical workshop on “<a href="#">Climate Resilient Agriculture</a>” held here deliberated on issues related to climate resilient agriculture needs and innovations, case studies and experiences, policy, finance, and institutional needs for climate resilient agriculture.</p>
<p><b>Making multilateralism work for all constituents</b> <i>Nripendra Misra</i> Hindustan Times September 05, 2023</p>	<p>India assumed the <a href="#">G20 Presidency</a> in December 2022, at a time when the world stood on the precipice of a climate emergency, grappling with the pandemic’s impact, and torn by escalating polarisation, geopolitical conflicts, and power dynamics. Compounded by the setback in the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), governments and policymakers faced an added burden. In this complex landscape, the role of multilateralism encountered challenges to its effectiveness, becoming an ongoing struggle to cultivate and strengthen international relations.</p>
<p><b>G20 presidency: Taking financial inclusion to the next level</b> <i>V Anantha Nageswaran and Monica Thind</i> Financial Express September 04, 2023</p>	<p><a href="#">Financial inclusion</a> promotes development and inclusive growth by empowering individuals, especially the vulnerable, to tap economic opportunities. Greater access to financial services is a key enabler of seven out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Significant progress towards advancing financial inclusion has been made globally. Yet, a lot more needs to be done.</p>
<p><b>Can the G20 Mend the World’s Geopolitical Fractures?</b> <i>Thomas A. Bernes, Rohinton P. Medhora, Paul Samson and Hector Torres</i> Centre for International Governance Innovation September 04, 2023</p>	<p>On September 09-10, 2023, leaders of the world’s 20 largest economies will gather in New Delhi for the <a href="#">eighteenth meeting of the G20</a> Heads of State and Government Summit, under the Indian presidency. U.S. economic policy measures (setting aside their merits) have caused other countries to seek means to strengthen their leverage.</p>

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