



Ending the Logjam over WTO’s Appellate Body

The Appellate Body (AB) of the WTO has stopped hearing appeals since 2019, when the U.S. blocked appointment of members. The AB, set up in 1995, is a standing committee of seven members that presides over appeals against judgments passed in trade-related disputes brought by WTO members.

Despite repeated calls to resolve the logjam resulting from its non-functioning, little progress seems to have been made. During the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12), members committed to resuming discussions with a view to have a fully functional two-tiered dispute settlement system, by 2024. The outcome document of another meeting of trade ministers in September, 2022 in Bali, too, acknowledged the urgency to address concerns resulting from the AB paralysis. It is critical to note that the U.S. is due to have presidential polls in 2024 and therefore, a failure to resolve the issue by then could lead to inordinate delays thereafter.

India has stated that it will also take up the issue of WTO dispute settlement reform, during its G20 Presidency, this year. The G20’s Trade and Investment Working Group, under India’s presidency has identified WTO reform as one of the five priority areas. As concerns around the need to reform the multilateral trade dispute settlement architecture and revive the AB strike a chord with most countries, it must be pursued as a priority agenda.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>A shared G20 vision for the ocean commons <i>Shailesh Nayak</i> The Hindu March 28, 2023</p>	<p>India’s G20 presidency (Paywall) would play an important role in promoting individual and collective actions to facilitate the transition towards a sustainable blue economy. The G20 countries together account for around 45 percent of the world’s coastlines and over 21 percent of the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs). The oceans are reservoirs of global biodiversity, critical regulators of the global weather and climate, and support the economic well-being of billions of people in coastal areas.</p>
<p>How India’s G20 presidency can set an example in prioritising water action <i>Nitin Bassi, Ekansha Khanduja</i> The Indian Express March 27, 2023</p>	<p>India is already on a mission to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 6 targets. India announced its “Water Vision” as a part of the prime minister’s “Vision India @ 2047” plan. This comes at a momentous time - the recent 2023 Synthesis Report finalised by the IPCC for the Sixth Assessment Report confirms the adverse impacts of human-caused climate change on water availability.</p>
<p>G20 meeting echoed importance of digital public infrastructure but there are four challenges <i>Lakshay Narang</i> The Print March 25, 2023</p>	<p>The recently concluded first G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, held in Bengaluru, reiterated the importance of leveraging Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) to enhance service delivery efficiency. Although DPIs have only recently become a part of mainstream policy discourse, their development and use in delivering welfare benefits have been monitored for some time.</p>

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<p>Global summits to mass movements: Creating G20 that reaches all <i>Pradeep S Mehta</i> Deccan Chronicle March 24, 2023</p>	<p>The world is facing many challenges, including a global debt crisis, the impact of climate change on livelihoods, global supply chain disruptions, and increasing conflicts between countries. Thanks to the social media and fast digital news, people across the world are aware of every small or big problem. The sphere of international politics and decision-making seems like a place far away from an ordinary person's reach. However, as India has so far highlighted through its G20 Presidency, every challenge presents an opportunity.</p>
<p>Xi, Putin synchronise G20 stand The Telegraph Online March 23, 2023</p>	<p>China and Russia have in one voice made it clear that they are opposed to any attempt to impose political issues on the agenda of multilateral for a. In the joint statement issued in Moscow after the meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, the two sides said they both “firmly condemn the politicisation of multilateral platforms and the attempts of certain countries to insert irrelevant issues on the agenda of multilateral platforms and dilute the primary tasks of relevant mechanisms”.</p>
<p>G20 Presidency: How India can shape the global agenda for health <i>J.V.R. Prasada Rao</i> Forbes India March 23, 2023</p>	<p>India should use the G20 opportunity to draft a model policy focusing on primary healthcare that commits to a universal, affordable, inclusive, and a just healthcare system. India's efforts to contain the COVID-19 pandemic shows its potential in fighting health emergencies. It can now build on that capability to become a global leader to influence international policies on public health, epidemic control, and better access to healthcare for underprivileged and unreached populations.</p>
<p>New working group on disaster risk reduction in G20 is timely <i>Ajita Agarwala</i> The Times of India March 22, 2023</p>	<p>The creation of a new Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Working Group within the G20 under India's Presidency is a timely and welcome development. Disasters have the potential to devastate communities, economies, and infrastructure, causing loss of life, injury, and damage on a large scale, and hindering progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The establishment of the new DRR Working Group within the G20 coincides with the mid-term review of the intergovernmental Sendai Framework.</p>
<p>India, Japan discuss stronger cooperation to foster peace in Indo-Pacific region <i>Sanjay Kumar</i> Arab News March 20, 2023</p>	<p>Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida met on March 20, 2023 for wide-ranging bilateral talks and discussed ways to strengthen cooperation for peace in the Indo-Pacific region. The two Prime Ministers addressed issues ranging from security to climate and energy during their meeting and discussed ways to converge priorities of India's presidency of the Group of 20 biggest economies and Japan's G7 leadership.</p>
<p>Brazil sees G20 Presidency as diplomatic 'World Cup' Folha De S.Paulo March 13, 2023</p>	<p>Brazilian diplomacy has been treating the rotating presidency of the G20, which will be assigned to the country next year, as a kind of "World Cup". The group brings together industrialised and emerging nations. The idea is to have a whole year of summit events in various areas, culminating with the meeting of the heads of state in December, after the U.S. election.</p>
<p>India-led G20 and the ensuing troika: A test of time in the Global South <i>Pradeep S Mehta and Aratrika Deb</i> The Economic Times March 12, 2023</p>	<p>While it may be purely coincidental, the next troika of G20 will comprise India, the current chair, Brazil, the successor, and South Africa, the next in line. Each of them are situated in three different continents, comprising the Global South. Expectedly, the troika will enable the countries to continue to coordinate their plans.</p>

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<p>Despite slight turbulence, G20 makes progress <i>Rajiv Bhatia</i> Hindustan Times March 07, 2023</p>	<p>The G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting (FMM) in Delhi on March 1-2 was a milestone for India's G20 presidency. The participation of almost all Foreign Ministers lent it weight, and the host nation, which made meticulous preparations, hoped the meeting might produce a perfect outcome. Foreign Ministers' deliberations are autonomous of the two tracks of the G20, namely the Finance and Sherpa tracks.</p>
<p>The Indian way for a secure earth <i>Pradeep S Mehta and Purushendra Singh</i> The Economic Times March 04, 2023</p>	<p>Hopefully, India would be forming many headlines around the globe this year, as it hosts two of the major summits; the G20 (Group of twenty largest economies inclusive of the European Union) and SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation), a Eurasian political, economic and security forum. Both these groupings are of prime significance and hold key relevance for India to host them and churn the geo-economic and geo-political scenarios globally.</p>
<p>Chinese FM makes key proposals at G20 FMM Global Times March 02, 2023</p>	<p>Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang made the proposals on March 02, 2023 when attending the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi, where all parties believe enhancing multilateralism is much more important than ever given the general concerns on the current international situation. China supports the African Union to join the G20, and urges multilateral financial institutions and commercial creditors to actively engage in the debt disposal for developing countries.</p>
<p>Russia accuses west at G20 of blackmail and claims it has China's support The Guardian March 02, 2023</p>	<p>Russia has accused the west of blackmail and threats and claimed it had China's support for its position at a stormy meeting of G20 Foreign Ministers in India, dominated by the war in Ukraine. The event broke up with no joint communique, only a summary of the meeting prepared by the host, India, the group's current chair.</p>
<p>India can still be a Bridge to the Global South <i>Sanjaya Baru</i> Foreign Policy March 02, 2023</p>	<p>As G20 President this year, New Delhi must secure greater climate financing and a debt restructuring plan for developing countries. Since Russia invaded Ukraine more than a year ago, India has refused to take sides in what it views as essentially a power struggle between the East and West. New Delhi has instead opted to walk the middle path: preserving its time-tested relations with Moscow, seeking to improve relations with Beijing, and strengthening relations with Washington and Tokyo.</p>

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