

G20 Summit at New Delhi: Sept 9

September 10, 2023

Note: Please see

- *a Brief Backgrounder on G20 Summit at New Delhi on page 10.*
- *Africa Union as a Member of G20 on pages 3-4.*
- *Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) & India-Middle East-Europe Economics Corridor (IMEC) on pages 4-6*
- *Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) on pages 6-7*
- *President Draupadi Murmu's Dinner for G20 Summit Guests on pages 7-10*

September 9, 2023: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, India: The G20 Summit was held on September 9-10, 2023, in New Delhi, India. The Summit was attended by 43 Heads of Delegations, including the leaders of the world's 20 largest economies, including the United States, China, Japan, Germany, and India. The summit's theme was **"One Earth, One Family, One Future"** and it aimed to address global issues such as climate change, economic growth and international trade.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi began the proceedings of the 18th G20 Summit at Delhi by saying that he was extremely pained by the loss of lives due to an **earthquake in Morocco**, about 30 hours earlier. He said that in the tragic hour, his thoughts were with the people of Morocco. He offered condolences to those who had lost their loved ones. He said that India was ready to offer all possible assistance to Morocco in the difficult time.

The summit, on 9th September 2023, comprised five elements that the delegates experienced over the whole of the day. The **first** element was the **opening ceremony**, which included speeches by **Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and other world leaders. The **second** element was the **"One Earth"** session, which focused on climate change and environmental issues. The **3rd** element was the **"One Family"** session, which focused on social issues such as poverty and inequality. The **4th** element was **bilateral meetings** between the leaders of different countries. *(These started on 8th September and continued on 9th and 10th also).* The **fifth** element was the **President of India Draupadi Murmu's Dinner** for the guests. The dinner presented a 3-course specially-curated **all-vegetarian cuisine from different States of India**, with a stress on use of millets. The dinner featured a special

performance titled '**Bharat Vadya Darshanam: Musical Journey of India**' by the '**Gaandharva Aatodyam**' group, consisting of over 70 artists.

In his Opening Remarks, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** referred to an inscription in 'Prakrit language' on 2,500 year-old **Ashoka Pillar**, at Mehrauli, a few Km from the venue of the Summit:

हेवम लोकसा हितमुखे ति,
अथ इयम नातिसु हेवम'

It means: '*The welfare and happiness of humanity should always be ensured.*'

PM Modi called upon all the participants to remember the **ancient message from King Ashoka**, as the Summit discussed the issues before it.

Another important issue, which **PM Modi** identified was **lack of trust among nations in one another**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said," After Covid-19, a huge crisis of lack of trust has come in the world. Conflict has deepened this trust deficit." As the President of the G-20, **PM Modi** called on the entire world to come together and, first and foremost, transform this Global Trust Deficit into **Global Trust and Confidence**.

The summit saw India **forging a compromise** among **divided world powers** in a **diplomatic win for Modi**.

The leaders of G20 advanced and emerging economic powers reached an **Agreement on a Joint Communique** despite differences in views on the conflict in Ukraine. Without directly condemning Moscow for its invasion, the leader called on all states to "act in a manner consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN charter in its entirety".

In an interview with Time.com on 6th September 2023, Michael Kugelman, the director of the **South Asia Institute at the Wilson Center in Washington**, had said that a key test of whether Modi could manage relations with rival powers would be to see if G20 at New Delhi was able to produce a joint communiqué or Leaders' Declaration. **Michael Kugelman is no well-wisher of Modi or India**.

***Note:** Please see page 3 of “G20 New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration” at <https://diginews360.com/g20-new-delhi-leaders-declaration/> to see how Prime Minister bridged the differences, among Europe on one side and Russia & China on the other side. (Such differences had not permitted a Joint declaration in 2022 at the 17th G20 Summit in Indonesia.) Please also see the Addenda on the “Ukraine War” on page 3 and on “Ukraine War and High Foodgrain Prices” on page 4.*

AFRICAN UNION (AU) as a MEMBER of G20: PM Modi said that in the spirit of 'Sabka Saath (Co-operation of all)' that India had proposed permanent membership for the African Union in the G-20. The Assembly adopted the proposal. Thereupon, **PM Modi invited the Chairperson of the African Union** to take his place as a permanent member of the G-20.



September 9, 2023: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, India

PM Narendra Modi and AU Chairperson President Azali Assoumani of Comoros

AU had been trying to become a Member of G20 at Indonesia in 1922. Since G20 Members at that Summit could not come to any consensus, due to differences on Ukraine war, among the West on one side and Russia & China on the other side, AU could not become a member of G20. At that time,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had told **Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal** and the then **Chairperson of AU,** "It is **Modi's Guarantee** that in 2023, at Delhi, AU would be enrolled as a Member of G20."

PM Modi said that AU's Membership would **strengthen the voice of the Global South.**

AU's membership of G20 has been welcomed widely in Africa. **President Bola Tinubu of Nigeria** said that the inclusion of AU as a permanent G20 member is a **pivotal moment for unity and progress.** He said that Nigeria was eager to collaborate with India and the rest of the world for the enhancement of the Global South.

President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa expressed delighted that G20 had accepted AU as a member of G20. He called for an enhanced and expanded Global Partnership for Sustainable Development in Africa. He espoused implementation of concrete policies and actions outlined in the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development.**

Please see the Tweet from the **President of Republic of Kenya:**



US President Joe Biden unveiled plans for a project that would see enhanced rail and shipping connections linking India with Europe via the Middle East. The project

would include **India, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Israel** and the **European Union**. **European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen** said that the planned rail link would speed up trade between India and Europe by 40%.

PGII is a West-led initiative for funding infrastructure projects across the world, seen as a counter to China's **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**. On the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi, a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed between the **Governments of India, the US, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, the UAE, France, Germany** and **Italy** to establish IMEC, which will be a part of PGII. The IMEC is being envisioned as a network of transport corridors, including railway lines and sea lanes, that is expected to aid economic growth through integration between Asia, the Arabian Gulf, and Europe.



*September 9, 2023: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, India: G20 Summit: Event on **Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) & India-Middle East-Europe Economics Corridor (IMEC)***

The event on PGII and IMEC was co-chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **US President Joe Biden** on September 9th, 2023, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi. The event was attended by **Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud** and other world leaders. The United States and its partners intend to **link both continents to commercial hubs** and facilitate the development and export of clean energy; **lay undersea cables and link energy grids and telecommunication lines to expand reliable access to electricity**; enable innovation of advanced clean energy technology; and **connect communities to**

secure and stable Internet. Their approach aims to unlock new investments from partners, including the private sector, and spur the creation of quality jobs. (Reference: <https://tinyurl.com/yc4n2xpa>)



PGII: East Corridor from Mumbai to Dubai/JebelAli, through Indian Ocean; Railway Line from Dubai/Jebel Ali to Haifa; From Haifa to Piraeus through Mediterranean Sea; Northern Corridor -connecting Europe from Piraeus

9th September 2023: **PM Narendra Modi** launched **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)** along with the leaders of **Singapore, Bangladesh, Italy, USA, Brazil, Argentina, Mauritius** and **UAE** on the sidelines of the G20 Summit. **12 International Organizations** have also supported GBA.



GBA aims to expedite the global uptake of biofuels through facilitating technology advancements, intensifying utilization of sustainable biofuels, shaping robust standard setting and certification. The Alliance will also act as a central repository of knowledge and an expert hub. GBA will serve as a catalytic platform, fostering global collaboration for the advancement and widespread adoption of biofuels.

Higher use of Biofuels will reduce India's dependence on fossil fuels and promoting sustainable development. India has set for itself a **target of 20% ethanol blending with petrol**.

GBA will help reduce carbon emissions and mitigate climate change by promoting the use of biofuels for creating a sustainable future for generations to come.



September 9, 2023: New Delhi, India: Launch of Global Biofuels Alliance
(Reference: <https://www.g20.org/en/media-resources/press-releases/september-2023/gba/>)

September 9, 2023: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, India: **President Draupadi Murmu's Dinner for G20 Summit guests**: The formal dinner by India's President Draupadi Murmu was attended by nearly 300 guests, including heads of states and those invited by the Indian government.

The guests who arrived here were given a grand welcome by President Draupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a special stage. The ruins of Nalanda University of Bihar were shown in the background of this stage. The theme of G20 - 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - One Earth, One Family, One Future' was also highlighted. The ruins of Nalanda University are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. This university was one of the oldest universities in the world.



President Draupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcome Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and his wife Yuko Kishida



President Draupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcome Indonesia President Joko Widodo and his wife

The menu for the all-vegetarian dinner was carefully curated to showcase India's diverse culinary heritage and included dishes, with a focus on "Shree Anna" (millets) – considered as superfoods. The menu paper of the dinner stated that "Taste connects us. We celebrate 'Sharad Ritu', the autumn season of abundance in this menu. It showcases the wealth of ingredients across

Bharat, expressing our rich culinary heritage in a modern mosaic dedicated to the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' - 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'".

The delicacies served to the dignitaries included dishes such as Foxtail millet leaf crisps topped with a yoghurt sphere and spiced chutney (Paatram), jackfruit galette served with glazed forest mushrooms, little millet crisp and curry leaf tossed Kerala red rice (Vanavarnam), Mumbai Pao (onion seed-flavored soft bun), Bakarkhani (cardamom-flavored sweet flatbread), and Pot of gold (cardamom-scented barnyard millet pudding, fig-peach compote and ambemohar rice crisps).



*September 9, 2023: President Draupadi Murmu's Dinner for G20 Summit Guests:
Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with PM of UK Rishi Sunak*

The dinner was accompanied by a musical performance that showcased India's rich musical heritage using **Hindustani, Carnatic, and folk instruments**, presented by 78 artists. The musical arrangements encompassed the usage of various rare instruments showcasing India's unparalleled and unique musical heritage. These instruments include **Sursingar, Mohan Veena, Jaltarang, Jodiya Pawa, Dhangali, Dilruba, Sarangi, Kamaicha, Matta Kokila Veena, Naltarang, Tungbuk, Pakhawaj,**

Rabab, Ravanhattha, Thal Dana, Rudra Veena among others. The key highlight was '**Gandharva Atodyam**', a unique musical medley featuring an exquisite symphony by an ensemble of classical instruments. (Reference: with thanks from **zeebiz.com** at <https://tinyurl.com/5csmx6>)

----A Brief BACKGROUND on G20----

G20 was founded in 1999 as an intergovernmental forum to bring together finance ministers from 19 nations and the European Union to address issues related to the global economy. Since 2008, it has annually brought together heads of state, establishing the G20 Leaders' Summit as one of the most high-profile geopolitical assemblies.

GUEST MEMBERS: India has extended invitations to the leaders of 11 nations to participate as guests in the G20 Summit held in New Delhi from September 8 to 10.

- i. **Bangladesh**- Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister
- ii. **Comoros**- Azali Assoumani, President
- iii. **Egypt**- Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, President
- iv. **Mauritius**- Pravind Jugnauth, Prime Minister
- v. **Netherlands**- Mark Rutte, Prime Minister
- vi. **Nigeria**- Bola Ahmed Tinubu, President
- vii. **Oman**- Haitham bin Tariq, Sultan
- viii. **Rwanda**- Paul Kagame, President
- ix. **Singapore**- Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister
- x. **Spain**- Pedro S nchez, Prime Minister
- xi. **United Arab Emirates**- Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: India has also requested the attendance of the regular International Organizations like:

1. **UN**- (United Nations)
2. **IMF**- (International Monetary Fund),
3. **WB**- (World Bank Group),
4. **WHO**- (World Health Organisation),
5. **WTO**- (World Trade Organisation),
6. **ILO**- (International Labor Organisation),
7. **FSB**- (Financial Stability Board), and
8. **OECD**- (The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development)