

**Original Article****Reform, Resilience and Responsibility: India's G20 Vision and Beyond****Dhumal Trupti Dadasaheb¹, Kshirsagar Sarthak Subhash²**¹Assistant Professor, Dept of Political Science, Modern College of Arts, Science & Commerce (Autonomous), Shivajinagar, Pune²MA II Political Science, Modern College of Arts, Science & Commerce (Autonomous), Shivajinagar, Pune**Manuscript ID:**
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Abstract

International relations have evolved through various power structures from the Westphalian nation state system to contemporary multilateralism—driven by the pursuit of national interest and state survival. In this dynamic global order, the formation of regional and international organizations like SAARC, BRICS, ASEAN, IMF, NATO, and particularly the G20, reflects the need for collective action amidst economic interdependence and global crises. Established in 1999, the G20 emerged as a pivotal platform to stabilize the global financial system and has since expanded its agenda to include trade, health, climate change, digital economy, and inclusive development. India's G20 Presidency in 2023 marked a transformative moment, guided by the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumaba—"One Earth, One Family, One Future." India emphasized human-centric globalization, digital public infrastructure, climate resilience, cultural diplomacy, and the voice of the Global South. Key initiatives included the inclusion of the African Union, launch of the Global Biofuels Alliance, promotion of renewable energy, and advancement of sustainable development goals. India also leveraged the platform to showcase strategic autonomy, civilizational soft power, maritime diplomacy, and health cooperation, reflecting its aspiration for a balanced and inclusive global governance structure. Despite structural challenges within the G20, India has positioned itself as a bridge between the Global North and South, reinforcing its role as a responsible, rising power shaping the emerging world order.

Keywords: Global Governance, World order, Vishva guru, Multilateralism**Introduction**

International Relation is characterized by constant flux and dynamism. It has evolved from Westphalia nation state system, collective security, balance of power, unipolarity, multi polarity to recent multilateral state system. In this evolutionary journey, national interest and state survival was the igniting fuel for the nations to sustain in the international anarchic arena. In order to maintain the international peace and order, Nations subscribes to various strategic arrangements and power polarity. The formation of Regional, Transnational, and international organizations was also a calculative measure to balance the power matrix. The situational circumstances like regional instability, economic backwardness, trade deficit, conversion of interest, common threat perception led to the formation of various regional, international organizations as SAARC, BRICS, ASEAN, IMF, and NATO. Globalization created the interconnected and interdependent world in which political economy emerged as a prime factor. Continuous economic crisis in the last decade of 20th century led to the disruption in global supply chain. In response to that, those it created a global platform where developed and emerging economies come together to resolve these persistent economic challenges. The Group of Twenty (G20) was formed in 1999 with 19 countries plus the European Union making a total of 20 members. Those 20 members are as follows: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States and European Union as a supranational organization. Its major work includes stabilizing the global financial system, particularly during the 2008 financial crisis, when it coordinated stimulus packages, strengthened international institutions like the IMF and World Bank, and introduced stricter

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banking norms. Beyond finance, it promotes free and fair trade, investment, and reforms in the WTO while also supporting development and poverty reduction through the G20 Development Agenda and alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The group has played a key role in global health, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, by supporting vaccine distribution and health system preparedness. Climate change and energy transition remain central areas of work, with the G20 advancing commitments under the Paris Agreement and encouraging renewable energy adoption. It also emphasizes digital transformation, introducing frameworks for a fair digital economy, cybersecurity, and taxation of multinational corporations. Other important areas include anti-corruption efforts, food and energy security, gender equality, and inclusive growth, with initiatives aimed at empowering women, youth, and SMEs.

Objectives:

1. To understand India's vision of multipolar world order through the lens of G20.
2. To examine Resilience of G20 in regional stability and inclusive growth
3. To analyse India's capacity-building approach in addressing global crises such as climate change, health emergencies, food and energy security, and financial instability.
4. To study India's strategic use of the platform of G20 for resolving global issues.
5. To assess India's role as a bridge between developed and developing countries within the G20 framework and beyond.
6. To evaluate India's contributions in promoting multilateralism and strengthening global cooperation through initiatives like Digital Public Infrastructure, Voice of Global South, and green transitions, economic corridors.
7. To identify challenges and opportunities for India in positioning itself as a responsible global leader while balancing national interests with global responsibilities.
8. To critically explore the long-term implications of India's G20 vision for shaping the future of international economic and political order.
9. To study India's emphasis on responsibility in global governance, focusing on sustainable development, equitable growth, and ethical use of technology.

India's G20 Presidency – Vision for a New, Inclusive World Order-

Building on the idea propagated by India's age-old spiritual traditions, G20 presidency will function around the principles of the universal sense of one-ness – 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' – based on the adage Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, meaning 'that all of the world, universe or reality is one'. PM Modi highlighted in his address the greatest challenges that the world faces today – climate change, terrorism, endemics, and pandemics – and how they can be resolved not by fighting but, rather, by supporting each other. There will also a focus on the use of technology to formulate digital solutions which can be implemented at a global level to create lasting and meaningful changes.

India's Presidency is all about human-centric: -

Globalization is expected to have large-scale impact on the intergovernmental policyformulations and discussions that will influence the New World order and set the global post-pandemic economic agenda. PM Modi has reinforced and percolated the image of India as a responsible rising power that seeks to lead through the strength of its ageless wisdom that had once radiated across most of the civilized world. The 2023 G20 Summit in New Delhi, under India's presidency, marked a significant moment in global politics, enhancing collaborative efforts and focusing on inclusive growth.

- Inclusion of the African Union: This move significantly bolstered the representation of developing nations within the G20, aligning with India's advocacy for a more balanced global governance system.
- Global Biofuels Alliance: Initiated by India, the US, and Brazil, this alliance is dedicated to promoting sustainable biofuel development, aiming to enhance global energy practices and facilitate technology transfer.
- Digital and Economic Policies: The summit introduced frameworks to advance the digital economy and improve cybersecurity, including regulating cryptocurrencies and enhancing digital trade infrastructure, aiming to boost global economic growth through digitalization.
- Environmental and Social Commitments: India's G20 presidency saw commitments to triple global renewable energy capacity and significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Additionally, new policies were introduced to support gig and platform workers, enhancing social inclusivity and economic security.
- Economic Corridors: The proposed India-Middle East-Europe Corridor was highlighted as a strategic effort to enhance connectivity and economic integration, positioning it as a counterbalance to China's Belt and Road Initiative. Overall, the summit showcased India's role in driving global discussions towards more inclusive and sustainable development, reinforcing its position as a leader of the Global South, and setting a precedent for future international relations and economic policies.

Beyond the G20 Framework: India's Quest for Inclusive, Sustainable, and Equitable Global Governance

Playing a key role in the international institutions:

India has played a key role in the G20, and has been a vocal critic of protectionism and other global challenges. India's role in the G20 is seen as a way to increase India's influence in global affairs.

Global South Advocacy: During India's G20 presidency, Modi positioned India as a voice for the Global South, focusing on inclusive development, digital public infrastructure, and climate action. This approach aimed to bridge the gap between developed and developing nations, emphasizing India's role as a leader among emerging economies. During its G20 Presidency (2023), India launched the "Voice of Global South Summit", which brought together over 120 developing countries to ensure their concerns are heard in global governance forums. This move emphasized inclusivity and equitable development in line with the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam ("One Earth, One Family, One Future"). Voice of global south- As India envisions a greater role for itself

in shaping global governance, it must actively engage with diverse global challenges, and the G20 serves as a vital platform to channel this vision into collective action. India, with its rising global stature, is strategically utilizing the G20 platform as a bridge between developed and developing nations, seeking to resolve contemporary global challenges while simultaneously advancing its vision as a responsible leader and the authentic 'Voice of the Global South'. Through its commitment to sustainable development and climate leadership, India utilizes the G20 platform to advance a model of sustainability that addresses the priorities of the industrialized North while empowering the aspirational South.

Strategic Autonomy: Modi's leadership highlighted India's strategic autonomy by balancing relations with major powers without aligning too closely with any bloc. This was evident in India's nuanced stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, maintaining dialogue with both sides and promoting peace. Under its G20 presidency, India has advanced discussions on key issues affecting the Global South like climate change and digital infrastructure, aiming to amplify their voices in global forums. India uses the G20 to maintain strategic autonomy by engaging with both Western powers (US, EU) and non-Western actors (Russia, China, BRICS members) without aligning exclusively with any bloc. This reflects India's long-standing non-alignment tradition updated for the multipolar era. Deliberation, Discussion, and Debate is the very essence of India's democratic culture thus the global intergovernmental platform like G20 plays the important role in India's democratic vision.

Digital Public Infrastructure: For the first time, DPI was included in the G20 agenda as a key driver of sustainable development. The declaration highlighted DPI as essential for financial inclusion, service delivery, innovation, and bridging the digital divide. At G20, India pushed for multilateral financing and partnerships to scale DPI globally.

Maritime connectivity and Diplomacy: India always emphasizes on multilateralism and multipolar world order where every country contributes to the collective decision making. India's vision of democratic decentralization reflects the idea of every country having the fundamental right of being treated equally and fairly, with help of global platform like G20. India will achieve its goal of global decision-making structures should reflect the balance of the 21st century, not the hierarchies of the past. The Centre of gravity of international relations is shifting from Atlantic to Asia Pacific, thus the conflict and instability in the Indian Ocean region needs to tackle with collective efforts. As the 90% of India's trade by volume and 70% by value is seaborne, Maritime connectivity has emerged as a vital dimension of India's foreign policy and economic strategy. For India, enhancing maritime connectivity means securing trade routes, developing ports, boosting the blue economy, and strengthening regional and global linkages. The G20 platform provides India with a crucial space to highlight the importance of maritime cooperation, sustainable ocean governance, and resilient supply chains.

Health: Since its inception, the G20 has primarily concentrated on financial matters, addressing disruptions in the global supply chain. Yet, as the platform matured, its scope began to widen—marked most notably in 2017, under Germany's presidency, with the first-ever G20 Health Ministers' Meeting, signalling a transition towards global health priorities. This evolution became even more critical during the COVID-19 crisis, when India, through its Vaccine Maitri initiative, embodied the ancient ethos of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family). Today, India envisions the G20 as a conduit for sharing technology, resources, and expertise ensuring that no nation is left behind in building robust health systems.

Regional connectivity and Economic corridors: India's journey to becoming a Vishwa Guru relies on strengthening regional and economic connectivity, developing strategic economic corridors, forging strong trade partnerships, promoting free trade, opening new markets, and enhancing energy and digital linkages. Through active engagement on the G20 platform, India can drive inclusive and sustainable development, improving the lives of people across nations. By combining strategic economic initiatives with global cooperation, India can foster resilient partnerships, encourage shared growth, and assert its role as a pivotal leader in the evolving global order.

Cultural diplomacy and Civilizational soft power: India organized G20 meetings across 60+ cities, giving delegates exposure to the country's diverse regional cultures, cuisines, languages, music, and art. Iconic venues like Konark, Hampi, Varanasi, and Khajuraho were chosen to highlight India's ancient architectural and spiritual traditions, reinforcing its image as a cradle of civilization.

Theme and Symbolism: The official G20 logo incorporated the lotus, a symbol of purity and resilience rooted in Indian tradition, and the Earth, representing India's commitment to global harmony. The Sanskrit phrase "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (The world is one family) underpinned India's diplomatic narrative, projecting ancient Indian values of unity, coexistence, and peace.

1. Yoga, Ayurveda, and Spirituality: India used platforms within the G20 to promote Yoga, Ayurveda, and holistic well-being as global public goods. Events and wellness sessions were held for delegates, positioning India as a thought leader in sustainable and balanced living, rooted in spiritual traditions.

2. Millets and Culinary Diplomacy: Declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets, India promoted traditional grains as a symbol of sustainable, healthy living. Millet-based meals were served at G20 events, blending culinary diplomacy with environmental messaging and showcasing India's agricultural heritage.

3. Art, Music, and Literature: Cultural performances, exhibitions, and traditional art forms like classical dance, folk music, and handicrafts were prominently featured. These not only entertained but also conveyed India's pluralism, creativity, and centuries-old traditions of storytelling.

4. Promotion of Indian Languages and Knowledge Systems: India emphasized Indigenous knowledge systems, Sanskrit texts, and traditional ecological wisdom in G20 dialogues, especially around sustainability and climate change. This highlighted India's contribution to global intellectual heritage. Through these initiatives, India used the G20 not just as a geopolitical platform, but as a stage to project its soft power, civilizational depth, and cultural confidence reinforcing its identity as a modern nation deeply rooted in an ancient and diverse heritage.

Data and Methodology:

India's Initiatives Beyond G20: A Sectoral View

SR NO.	SECTOR	G20 INITIATIVES	INDIA'S INITIATIVES (BEYOND G20)
1	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launched Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH) with WHO. - Promoted One Health approach and pandemic preparedness. - Access to medical countermeasures mechanism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vaccine Maitri: Supplied vaccines globally. - WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (Jamnagar). - Engaged in AMR, zoonotic disease surveillance via global health bodies
2	Climate & Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreed to triple global renewables by 2030. - Launched Global Biofuels Alliance and supported green hydrogen. - Promoted Mission LiFE and Green Development Pact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-founded International Solar Alliance. - Led Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). - Promotes climate action via NAPCC and global partnerships.
3	Trade & Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on resilient global value chains. - Launched India-Middle East-Europe Corridor. - Pushed inclusive and sustainable trade practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiated Supply Chain Resilience Initiative with Japan, Australia. - Signed FTAs (e.g., India-EFTA TEPA). - Investment promotion via Make in India and PLI schemes.
4	Digital Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Endorsed Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). - Focused on digital trust, standards, and innovation governance. - Launched GIDH with digital components. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exported India Stack (Aadhaar, UPI) to other nations. - Supports global digital inclusion through partnerships. - Aligns with global norms on data and cyber governance.
5	Culture & Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hosted Culture Working Group under G20. - Launched Kasi Cultural Pathway. - Emphasized traditional medicine and heritage preservation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Established WHO's Traditional Medicine Centre. - Active in artifact repatriation (e.g., US, UK). - Promotes Indian culture globally via festivals, tourism, academia.

Secondary Data: -

- The study uses a secondary data methodology, relying on existing sources rather than primary data collection.
- Data are collected from official government documents, G20 communiques, international organizations (UN, IMF, World Bank, WHO), peer-reviewed journals, and credible media outlets.
- Both quantitative data (statistics, trends) and qualitative data (policies, reports, case studies) are analysed.
- Content analysis is applied to identify key themes and patterns.
- Comparative analysis examines India's G20 initiatives relative to other member nations.
- Data visualization using tables, charts, and diagrams supports interpretation of findings.
- Limitations include reliance on pre-existing data and potential inconsistencies in reporting or recency.

Result and Discussion: -

Sr No	Sector	India's Quantitative Achievements
1	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under Vaccine Maitri, India supplied over 235 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to 98 countries by mid-2022. - As of ~Feb-2022, ~16.3 crore (163 million) doses delivered to 96 countries; of this ~1.43 crore (14.3 million) doses were gifts to 46 countries; others via commercial/COVAX routes. - The WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar: USD 250 million invested. - WHO-designated Collaborative Centre for Ayurveda (ITRA, Jamnagar) trains fellows from various countries; is unique among WHO centres globally for Ayurveda.
2	Climate and Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In FY 2024-25, India added 25 GW of renewable energy capacity —a record annual increase. - As of March 2025, India's non-fossil fuel installed capacity reached about

		<p>222.86 GW out of total installed capacity ~483.26 GW.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solar PV module manufacturing capacity: doubled from 38 GW (Mar 2024) to ~74 GW (Mar 2025). Solar PV cell manufacturing capacity tripled from ~9 GW to 25 GW. Decrease in transmission & distribution (T&D) losses: from ~23% in 2014-15 down to ~17% in 2023-24. - Renewable energy potential estimated at ~2,109,655 MW as of 31 March 2024; wind potential ~1,163,856 MW, solar ~748,990 MW, large hydro ~133,410 MW, etc. <p>India has already crossed 50% non-fossil fuel capacity ahead of 2030 target (includes hydro and nuclear) 2025</p>
3	Trade and Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between FY 2018-19 and FY 2023-24, India's imports from its Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners increased by 38%, reaching USD 187.92 billion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the same period, exports to those FTA partners rose by 14.48%, to USD 122.72 billion. Specifically, exports to Australia more than doubled (from ~USD 3.52 billion to ~USD 7.94 billion) in that period; imports from Australia rose by about 23.06% to ~USD 16.16 billion. With the UAE (India-UAE FTA effective since May 2022), imports rose ~61.21% (from USD 29.79 billion to USD 48.02 billion), exports rose ~18.25% (to USD 35.63 billion). In FY 2024-25, the number of certificates of origin (CoO) issued under FTAs grew: 720,996 certificates in FY 2024-25 compared to 684,724 in FY 2023-24.
4	Digital Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India Stack / Digital Public Goods: <i>India expects 5-7 countries</i> to formally adopt India Stack components (Aadhaar, Digi Locker, UPI, Co-Win, etc.) by March (of a given year) as announced by the government. - Several countries are already using or piloting parts: e.g., Sierra Leone is implementing an Aadhaar-like digital ID pilot. Other countries in Africa, Caribbean etc showing interest. - Digi Locker usage inside India: ~ 144 million citizens have used the platform.
5	Culture and Heritage	<p>The National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) has documented 16.8 lakh (1.68 million) antiquities out of an estimated total of 58 lakh (5.8 million) antiquities in India – about 30% documentation completed.</p>

Conclusion:

G20 faces challenges like lack of consensus, legitimacy crisis, trust deficit, lack of inclusivity, hegemony of dominated economies, policy paralysis, implementation gap, etc. It is mostly a crisis driven platform rather a sustain driven vision. Though G20 faces many challenges, India always looks beyond these limitations and uses this Platform for the betterment of globe. While several regional and international organisations exist, the G20 holds its own unique strengths and potential, making it a significant forum for addressing global issue and advancing collective progress.

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The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper

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