



G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting

Why in News

Recently, Saudi Arabia hosted the **first-ever Ministerial Meeting of the [G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group](#)** (ACWG) virtually.

- Currently, [Saudi Arabia holds the presidency of G-20](#) and is the first Arab nation to do so.

Key Points

▪ G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group:

- It was set up in **June 2010 at the Toronto Summit of G-20**. The year **2020** marks its **10th anniversary**.
- **Objective:** To prepare "comprehensive recommendations for consideration by leaders on how the G20 could continue to make practical and valuable contributions to international efforts to combat corruption".
- ACWG has **led the G-20 anti-corruption efforts** coordinating the collective and national actions taken by its members.
- It actively works with the [World Bank Group](#), the [Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development](#) (OECD), the [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#) (UNODC), the [International Monetary Fund](#) (IMF), the [Financial Action Task Force](#) (FATF), etc.
- The World Bank and the UNODC are also involved in the ACWG through the active participation and contribution of **Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative** (StAR) to its work, which **plays an advisory role** on asset recovery, anti-money laundering/counter-terrorism financing, transparency and beneficial ownership, etc.

▪ G-20 on Corruption:

- In recent years the **G-20 has played a critical role in global and national anti-corruption efforts**.
- It **recognises the negative impact of corruption** which, 'threatens the integrity of markets, undermines fair competition, distorts resource allocation, destroys public trust, and undermines the rule of law'.
- It is **committed to ensuring that member countries lead by example and add value to existing international instruments and commitments**.
- The G-20 agreed on the **Anti-Corruption Action Plan, 2019-2021** in **Buenos Aires in 2018**. In the framework of this action plan, G-20 members look forward to developing targeted actions where the **G-20 can best add value in promoting international efforts** in the fight against corruption.

Initiatives in India

▪ [Central Vigilance Commission:](#)

- Though **created in 1964**, it became an **independent statutory body in 2003**.

- Its mandate is to oversee the vigilance administration and to advise and assist the executive in matters relating to corruption.

▪ **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988:**

- The Act aims at **checking corruption in big places and striking hard against corporate bribery**. It seeks to establish a vicarious liability so that the actual bribe giver is also exposed.
- It was **amended in 2018** to introduce a number of new provisions including **criminalizing the act of giving bribes** also in addition to taking the bribe and at the same time putting in place an effective deterrence for such actions by individuals as well as corporate entities.

▪ **Lokpal and Lokayuktas:**

- The **Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013** provided for the establishment of Lokpal for the Union and Lokayukta for States.
- These institutions are operational in the country to **bring in more transparency, more citizen-centricity and accountability** in governance.

▪ **Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018:**

- It **empowers authorities for non-conviction based attachments and confiscation of proceeds** of crime and properties as well as assets of a fugitive economic offender.

▪ **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002:**

- **Money laundering** is the **process of making large amounts of money generated by criminal activity**, such as drug trafficking or terrorist funding, appear to have come from a legitimate source.
- The law was **enacted to prevent and control money laundering**, provide for confiscation and seizure of property obtained from laundered money and to deal with any other issue connected with money-laundering in India.

▪ **Other Related Legislation and Moves:**

- **Right to Information Act, 2005.**
- **Whistleblowers Protection Act, 2014.**
- **Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 2016.**
- **Ratification of United Nations Convention Against Corruption in 2011.**
- **Introduction of e-governance.**

G-20

- It is an **informal group of 19 countries** and the **European Union** (EU), with representatives of the **IMF** and the **World Bank**.

- The G20 membership comprises a **mix of the world's largest advanced and emerging economies**, representing about two-thirds of the world's population, 85% of global **gross domestic product** (GDP) 80% of global investment and over 75% of global trade.

▪ **Headquarter:**

- The G20 **operates as a forum and not as an organisation**. Therefore, it **does not have any permanent secretariat**.

▪ **Origins:**

- **1997-1999 Asian Financial Crisis:** This was a ministerial-level forum which emerged after G7 invited both developed and developing economies. The **finance ministers and central bank governors began meeting in 1999**.
- **Amid the 2008 Financial Crisis**, the world saw the need for a **new consensus-building at the highest political level** and it was decided that the G20 leaders would begin meeting once annually.

▪ **Members:**

- The members of the G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany,

- India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the USA, and the EU.
- **One nation holds the chair every year, known as the 'G20 Presidency'.**

[Source: PIB](#)

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