



Perspective: G20 BRAZIL 2024

For Prelims: [G20 Climate Finance](#), [UNFCCC COP 30](#), [COP29](#), [Climate Change](#), [Global Tax](#), [National Sovereignty](#), [Multilateral Development Banks \(MDBs\)](#), [Renewable Energy](#), [Global Governance](#), [Combating Hunger](#), [Global Governance Reform](#), [Middle East](#), [Developing Nations](#), [Trade Liberalization](#), [Russia-Ukraine War](#), [African Union](#), [Global South](#), [Middle East Tensions](#).

For Mains: Significance of G20 in Securing India's Strategic Interest.

Why in News?

Recently, the [G20](#) meeting concluded in **Rio de Janeiro**, highlighting core commitments such as **taxation of billionaires**, **energy transition**, and support for **global climate initiatives**, including [UNFCCC COP 30](#) in Brazil.

- India addressed the **G20 Summit** highlighting the need for efforts to reduce **poverty** and strengthen global **food security**.

G20

Founded in 1999 after Asian financial crisis to discuss global economic and financial issues

No permanent secretariat

Members: 19 countries, The European Union (EU) and The African Union

Permanent Guest: Spain

G20 Summit: Takes place annually

2023 Presidency: India (**Theme:** One Earth, One Family, One Future)

Sherpas: The agenda and work are coordinated by them as the representatives of the G20 countries

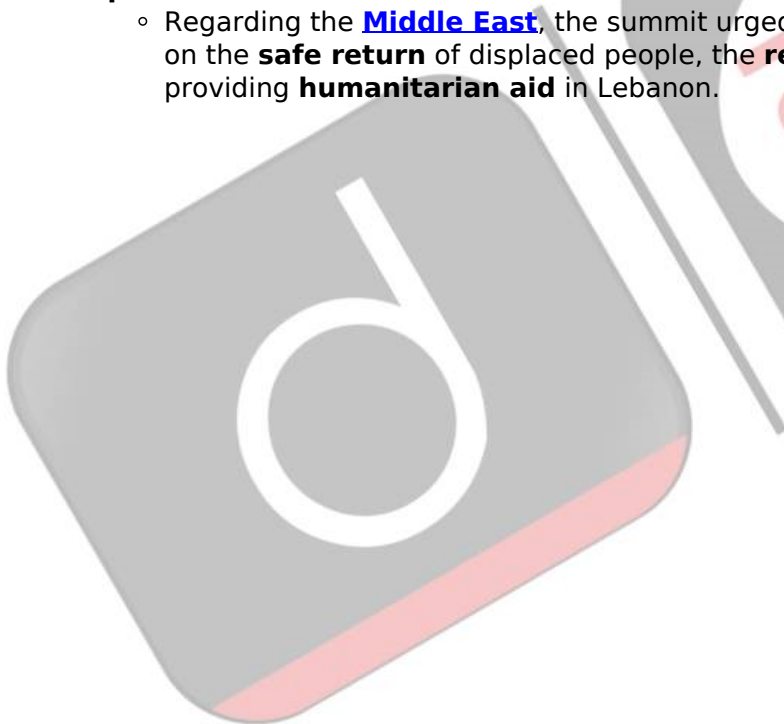
Troika: The Presidency is supported by the Troika (previous, current and incoming Presidency)



What are Major Outcomes of G20 Summit 2024?

- **Climate Finance Commitment:** The G20 recognized the urgent need to scale up **climate finance** “from billions to trillions”, but no concrete plan was established for the sources of this funding.
 - Leaders supported **COP29** in **Azerbaijan** and called for enhanced financing to help **developing nations** adapt to **climate change**, though consensus on the financial mechanisms remained elusive.
- **Taxation of the Billionaires:** A major achievement was the endorsement of measures to tax **ultra-high-net-worth individuals**.
 - **Brazil** led the charge, with discussions about a **global tax** on the **super-rich**, though concerns about **national sovereignty** and tax principles were not fully resolved.
- **Global Hunger and Poverty Alliance:** The **Task Force for a Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty**, proposed by **Brazil's G20 presidency**, aims to create a **Global Alliance** to mobilize resources and knowledge for effective policies and social technologies to reduce **hunger** and **poverty**.

- The initiative was launched and gained support from **82 countries** and aims to help **500 million people by 2030**, marking a significant success for the **G20** agenda, as it focuses on concrete social actions.
- **Financial Reform and MDB Cooperation:** The G20 reaffirmed the need to reform **Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)** to better address global challenges, including **climate change** and **poverty**.
 - Leaders agreed on strengthening **cooperation** within MDBs to ensure resources are effectively mobilized for high-impact projects.
- **Energy Transition and Fossil Fuel Subsidies:** The summit highlighted the need for continued **investment in renewable energy** and **clean technologies** but did not reaffirm the previous **COP28** commitment to phase out **fossil fuel subsidies**.
 - Emphasis was placed on reducing **food loss** and **waste** as part of broader climate action.
- **Global Governance and Social Inclusion:** The G20 called for reforms in **global governance** to address **global inequalities**.
 - The **G20 Social Summit** culminated with declaration, emphasizing **combating hunger, poverty, and inequality**, advocating for **sustainability, climate change action, just transition**, and **global governance reform**, while highlighting **tax justice** and **inclusive decision-making**.
- **Inclusion of Sustainable Development Goal 18 (SDG 18):** A new SDG, focusing on **ethnic-racial equality**, was officially included as a key element among the G20 priorities.
 - The goal addresses **systemic discrimination** and promotes policies for the social, economic, and political inclusion of marginalized ethnic groups. It aligns with the broader agenda of **sustainable and equitable global development**.
- **Ukraine and Middle East Conflicts:** The G20 supported initiatives for a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in Ukraine, emphasizing **diplomatic efforts**, with members advocating for **peace talks**.
 - Regarding the **Middle East**, the summit urged **ceasefires** in **Gaza** and **Lebanon**, focusing on the **safe return** of displaced people, the **release of captives** in Gaza, and providing **humanitarian aid** in Lebanon.



G20 Summit 2024 Outcomes



How does India's Leadership Within the G20 Impact Global Issues?

- **Championing Food Security:** India has prioritized **global food security**, leveraging its expertise in **agriculture and technology** to mitigate food crises.
 - Through the **Millet Initiative** during the **2023 G20 Summit** in New Delhi, India promoted millets as **climate-resilient crops**, highlighting their potential to address **global hunger and malnutrition**.
 - India has supported programs enhancing **food supply** chains and advocated for **resilient agricultural** practices.
- **Reforming Multilateral Platforms:** India has actively championed the reform of global multilateral platforms, including the **United Nations** and financial institutions like the **IMF** and **World Bank**.
 - During its presidency, **India** called for greater inclusivity, pushing for the representation of developing nations in decision-making processes.
 - The adoption of the **G20 Roadmap for Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)** in 2023 was a key outcome influenced by India's leadership.
- **Supporting the Global South:** India has emerged as a strong advocate for the **Global South**,

amplifying its voice on critical issues such as [sustainable development](#), **climate finance**, and **equitable vaccine distribution**.

- Through initiatives like the [Voice of Global South Summit](#), India has ensured that the needs and priorities of developing nations remain central to the G20 agenda.
- India's expertise in **innovation and technology** has been shared with developing nations to advance collaborative solutions in healthcare, education, and energy.
- **Bilateral Talks and Strategic Partnerships:** On the sidelines of the **2024 G20 Summit in Brazil**, India held significant bilateral discussions with countries like **Australia, Norway, Indonesia, Portugal, Italy, the UK, and France**.
 - These talks underscored India's role in fostering **strategic partnerships** to address shared challenges and explore trade and investment opportunities.
 - For instance, [India-UK Free Trade Agreement \(FTA\)](#) and **extradition issues** were discussed between **India and UK**, strengthening economic and judicial cooperation.

What are the Major Challenges Faced by the G20 Grouping?

- **Global Hunger, Fuel, and Fertilizer Crisis:** The G20 faces the challenge of addressing the intertwined global crises of global hunger, food insecurity, and rising fuel and fertilizer prices.
 - Ongoing geopolitical conflicts, particularly the [Russia-Ukraine war](#), have exacerbated **food and fertilizer shortages**, impacting developing nations.
 - There is a significant gap in fulfilling commitments to **food security** and addressing the needs of vulnerable populations in the **Global South**.
- **Geopolitical Rivalries Among Key Members:** Political tensions, such as those between the **United States** and **China** or various geopolitical conflicts involving **Russia** and **Israel**, create significant barriers to consensus-building.
 - The [Russia-Ukraine war](#) has sparked divisions within the G20, with conflicting views on sanctions and neutrality, highlighted by the recent U.S. decision to allow Ukraine to use **long-range weapons** inside Russia.
 - These disputes frequently overshadow **core global issues**, shifting focus away from collaborative problem-solving.
- **Divergent Economic and Political Priorities:** The G20 encompasses a wide range of economies, from highly developed nations like the **United States** and **Germany** to developing ones like **India and Brazil**.
 - Developed countries prioritize **advanced technology, climate transitions, and geopolitical stability**, while [developing nations](#) emphasize **poverty alleviation, access to resources, and economic growth**.
 - These conflicting priorities often lead to disagreements on global issues such as **climate financing, trade liberalization, and equitable resource allocation**.
- **Weak Enforcement Mechanisms:** The **G20**, as an **informal forum**, produces **ambitious plans and agreements**, but its lack of a **legally binding structure** often results in a disconnect between **commitments** and **execution**, relying on **voluntary pledges** from **member states**.
 - Agreements, such as those on **climate finance or debt restructuring**, often remain unimplemented due to the lack of accountability frameworks.
- **Inadequate Representation of Global South:** While the G20 includes emerging economies like **India, South Africa, and Brazil**, **smaller and less-developed nations** are not directly represented.
 - Although initiatives like including the [African Union](#) as a member aim to address this gap, decision-making is still dominated by larger economies, limiting the influence of the [Global South](#).
 - This imbalance leads to criticisms that the G20 does not adequately prioritize the concerns of poorer nations, such as **debt relief** and **equitable development**.

Way Forward

- **Addressing Global Hunger, Fuel, and Fertilizer Crisis:** G20 nations must enhance collaboration with **international organizations** to ensure a united response to food, fuel, and fertilizer shortages, particularly in developing regions.
 - For instance, the **Global Hunger and Poverty Alliance** and the **Millet Initiative** serve as key examples of G20 efforts aimed at addressing food insecurity and promoting

sustainable agriculture to combat global hunger and poverty.

- The G20 should invest in **long-term solutions**, such as **sustainable farming** and **alternative fertilizers**, to reduce global dependence on unstable supply chains.
- **Inclusive Dialogues:** The G20 should prioritize **inclusive dialogues** focusing on **shared global goals**, balancing **climate action** and **economic growth**.
 - Clear frameworks for **climate finance** and **trade** should be developed to address diverse economic needs.
- **Diplomatic Engagement:** The G20 should encourage **diplomatic engagement** and **multilateral dialogue**, focusing on **conflict resolution**.
 - Creating **specialized working groups** could help build consensus on issues like the **Russia-Ukraine** conflict and [Middle East tensions](#).
- **Strengthening Enforcement Mechanisms:** The G20 must strengthen **accountability frameworks**, using **monitoring bodies** and **independent assessments** to ensure **climate finance** and **debt relief** pledges are implemented.
 - **Partnerships with multilateral institutions** can aid in improving enforcement.
- **Enhancing Representation of Global South:** The G20 should **broaden membership** to include more **Global South** nations, ensuring **greater representation** in decision-making.
 - **Special advisory roles** for underrepresented nations could improve input on **debt relief** and **climate justice**.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims:

Q. In which one of the following groups are all the four countries members of G20? (2020)

- (a) Argentina, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey
- (b) Australia, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand
- (c) Brazil, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam
- (d) Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and South Korea

Ans: (a)

Q. With reference to the “G20 Common Framework”, consider the following statements (2022)

1. It is an initiative endorsed by the G20 together with the Paris Club.
2. It is an initiative to support Low Income Countries with unsustainable debt.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (c)

