



## G7 Summit

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The three days G7 summit was concluded on August 26, 2019, at Biarritz, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France.

Although **no joint communique** was issued at the end of the summit, the French President released a statement stating that the seven industrialized nations were committed to open and fair world trade, and global economic stability.

## Key Takeaways

- Discussion on forest fires in the **Amazon rainforests**. G7 countries pledged \$20 million help to fight fires in the Amazon rainforests.
- US trade conflicts with France over **GAFATax** & other related issues, Iran over the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)**, US-China **trade wars**.
- G7 leaders backed the existence and importance of the **Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984** on Hong Kong and called for violence to be avoided.
- The United States of America offered a better deal after UK's **Brexit**.
- There was a call for **reinstating Russia** back into the group. Russia was removed from the group after it **annexed Crimea in 2014**. But the consensus for the same was not achieved.
- As a reflection of **strong bilateral relations between India & France**, a **special invitation** was sent to India to become a part of this summit.
  - On the sidelines of this summit, India highlighted its large-scale efforts to address various environmental issues like, reducing biodiversity, climate change, water stress & ocean pollution.
    - India highlighted the steps taken in this regard which include, vow to **eliminate single-use plastic**, harnessing solar energy, saving water, and protecting flora and fauna.
    - On a session on **Digital transformation** at G7 Summit, Indian PM remarked, "India's usage of technology for enhanced & innovative digital payment initiatives." India is putting enormous efforts in leveraging digital

technology to fight social inequalities through empowerment and inclusion.

- Indian Prime Minister also had a brief discussion with the US President over the **Kashmir** issue, reiterating that, *'it is an internal matter of India & any related issues on it will be resolved bilaterally with Pakistan'*.
- The need for a dedicated multilateral **Green Bank** was demanded. The purpose of this bank would solely be to finance the projects supporting renewable energies and mitigating environmental challenges.
  - This bank will complement and collaborate with other existing multilateral-regional & national institutions in co-financing the projects.

## G7

- The Group of Seven (G7) is a forum of the **world's seven largest developed economies** whose government leaders **meet annually** to discuss international economic and monetary issues.
- The G-7 has its roots in an **informal meeting of the finance ministers** of France, West Germany, the U.S, Great Britain, and Japan (the **Group of Five**) in the wake of the **1973 oil crisis**. That, in turn, inspired the French President to invite the leaders of those countries, and **Italy**, to Rambouillet in 1975 for further discussions on global oil.
- The next year, **Canada** was also invited to join the group and the first meeting with all **G-7 nations was hosted by the United States which was held in Puerto Rico in 1976**.
- Summits are held annually and hosted on a rotation basis by the group's members.
- The 2018 summit was hosted by Canada in Quebec from June 8-9.
- The 45th G7 summit was hosted by France from August 24-26, 2019, in Biarritz in Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France.

## Members

The G7 members are recognized as the seven **wealthiest** and **most advanced** nations in the world. The members are:

- France,
- Germany,
- The United Kingdom,
- Italy,
- The United States of America,
- Canada,
- Japan
- The **European Union** is sometimes considered an eighth member of the G-7, since it holds all the rights and responsibilities of full members except to chair or host the meeting.

## **Expansion to G-8 (the Group of Eight)**

- The G-7 responded as the global economy evolved. In 1991, the Soviet Union pledged to create an economy with freer markets and held its first direct presidential election.
- Following the 1994 G7 meeting in Naples, Russian President held meetings with G-7 member countries, in what became known as the P-8 (**Political 8**).
- In 1998, after urging from leaders including U.S. President, Russia was added to the G-7 group as a full-time member, creating a formal G-8.
- However, in 2014, Russia was suspended from the group after the annexation of Crimea and tensions in Ukraine.

## **Purpose**

- The major purpose of the G-7 is to discuss and deliberate on **international economic issues**. It sometimes acts in concert to help resolve other global problems, with a special focus on economic issues.
- G7 fills out numerous global top lists:
  - Leading export countries,
  - Largest gold reserves,
  - Largest nuclear energy producers,
  - Top contributors to the UN budget.

## **Source: TH**