

G 20 Delhi declaration



Four take aways

1. Africa Joined the G20 Organization and became a member from this year.
2. New Delhi Leaders Declaration has been signed by the country heads as per which Inclusive Growth will be emphasised.
3. India-Middle East-Europe-USA Corridor has been proposed and passed by the leaders of these countries.
4. Global Biofuel Alliance has been created by the member countries which will emphasise on the maximum use of Biofuel.

G 20 commit to:

- Accelerate strong, sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth.
- Accelerate the full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Pursue low-GHG/low-carbon emissions, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable development pathways by championing an integrated and inclusive approach. We will urgently accelerate our actions to address development and climate challenges, promote Lifestyles for Sustainable Development (LiFE), and conserve biodiversity, forests and oceans.
- Improve access to medical countermeasures and facilitate more supplies and production capacities in developing countries to prepare better for future health emergencies.

- Promote resilient growth by urgently and effectively addressing debt vulnerabilities in developing countries.
- Scale up financing from all sources for accelerating progress on SDGs.
- Accelerate efforts and enhance resources towards achieving the Paris Agreement, including its temperature goal.
- Pursue reforms for better, bigger and more effective Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to address global challenges to maximize developmental impact.
- Improve access to digital services and digital public infrastructure and leverage digital transformation opportunities to boost sustainable and inclusive growth.
- Promote sustainable, quality, healthy, safe and gainful employment.
- Close gender gaps and promote the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of women in the economy as decision-makers.
- Better integrate the perspectives of developing countries, including LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, into future G20 agenda and strengthen the voice of developing countries in global decision making.

G 20 recognize the critical role of private enterprise in accelerating growth and driving sustainable economic transformations. To this end, we resolve to work with private sector to:

- Create inclusive, sustainable, and resilient global value chains, and support developing countries to move up the value chain.
- Facilitate investments including Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) towards sustainable business models.
- Devise pipelines of investible projects in developing countries, by leveraging expertise of MDBs to mobilize investments.
- Promote the ease and reduce the cost of doing business.

The G20 digital agenda introduced a notable innovation in the form of proposals for enhancing digital public infrastructure. These proposals are designed to address the digital infrastructure disparities in numerous developing nations, making use of India's advanced technology and expertise.

Artificial intelligence (AI) as somewhat expected has found its place in the declaration, with calls for international discussions on AI governance. Parties agreed to:

- Reaffirm our commitment to G20 AI Principles (2019) and endeavour to share information on approaches to using AI to support solutions in the digital economy.
- Will pursue a pro-innovation regulatory/governance approach that maximizes the benefits and considers the risks associated with the use of AI.
- Will promote responsible AI for achieving SDGs.

Furthermore, the Declaration underscores the importance of addressing the gender digital divide, highlighting specific proposals and initiatives.

The discussion surrounding data primarily centers on its role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Recent concerns regarding cryptocurrencies have refocused attention on the security of financial systems.

Green Development, Climate Finance and LiFE: Climate finance and technology, along with “ensuring just energy transitions for developing nations across the world”, are key priority areas for India during its presidency.

Accelerated, resilient and inclusive growth: India is concentrating on areas that can usher in structural transformation, such as promoting labour rights and secure labour welfare, addressing the global skills gap and so on.

Accelerating progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): India has already had success in getting the G20 members, which includes 19 countries and the European Union, on board with this goal.

Technological Transformation and Digital Public Infrastructure: According to MEA, India endorses a “human-centric approach to technology and facilitate greater knowledge-sharing in priority areas like digital public infrastructure, financial inclusion, and tech-enabled development in sectors ranging from agriculture to education”.

Multilateral Institutions for the 21st Century: India pushes for a “more accountable, inclusive just, equitable and representative multipolar international system” that can address the concerns of this century.

Women-led development: Not just women empowerment and representation, India emphasises bringing women to leading positions to bolster socio-economic development.

Pendency of cases with courts India



India now has more than 5 crore pending cases across all courts in the country. As per a 2018 report from the PRS Legislative Research, one-fourth of all cases with High Courts were pending for more than ten years, with an aggregate number of over one million.

There is a delay in processing both civil and criminal cases. In the lower judiciary, between 70 and 80 per cent of the pending cases are criminal ones, but the ratio is reversed in the higher courts. One of the pernicious effects of pendency is on those who are in prison and are called “undertrials.” These are all technically innocent people since they have not been proven guilty. Nearly 4 out of the 5 lakh people who are thus incarcerated are undertrials, i.e., held without a conviction.

The average time taken to dispose of cases in India is 30 months, compared to 6 months in the European Union, as per the Economic Survey of 2019, published by the Union Finance Ministry. India’s ease of doing business record is tarnished because of the shoddy speed of dispute resolution.

Across the board, there are an average of 20 per cent unfilled vacancies, and these numbers are even higher in the higher judiciary.

About 6.3 million cases have been considered delayed due to the non-availability of counsel. And another 1.4 million cases are delayed as they await some kind of document or record.

Another reason for delay could be the arbitrary discretion in the listing order of cases. There is an impression that the elite can jump queues and get instant hearings while the masses must

wait.

It is also worth noting that piling up of cases is the absence of arbitration and mediation as a credible first option. In fact, in developed countries like the US (which is quite litigious), if a criminal case goes to trial, there is a 90 per cent chance that the defendant will be found guilty, and that too in quick time. Hence, many cases do not go to trial and end up with out-of-court settlements.

Libyan floods- a wakeup call



The unambiguously higher death toll in Libya compared with Greece underscores how climate change disproportionately harms the unprepared.

The floods in Libya spotlight how climate threats are amplified in conflict zones lacking resilience and infrastructure. Other nations in the Mediterranean basin threatened by climate change also lack resilience and adequate infrastructure and struggle with conflict and political and economic instability. In Syria, the civil war has weakened critical infrastructure and disaster preparation, while Egypt faces rising seas and increasing extreme weather in the context of economic turmoil.

The fragmented governance has also meant poor regulation and enforcement of construction codes, which led to civilian housing appearing within and near the flood plain of an intermittent river that cuts through the city.

Climate change is expected to strengthen Mediterranean tropical-like cyclones, also known as Medicanes, and bring them to the eastern and southern Mediterranean shores, according to the United Nations' IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report. Climate change is already weakening jet streams, stalling pressure systems, and extending both heatwaves and storms. Hotter seas are enhancing cyclone moisture uptake, while hotter air holds more water, spurring more intense downpours.

Longer droughts that precede more intense rainfall make matters worse. When parched land finally receives rainfall, it is less able to absorb it, which worsens flooding.

The three months preceding the floods have been the warmest on record, by far. Sea surface temperature in the eastern Mediterranean this summer was also 2-3 degrees warmer than usual, reaching a record 28.7 degrees Celsius.

Third phase of the e-Courts project

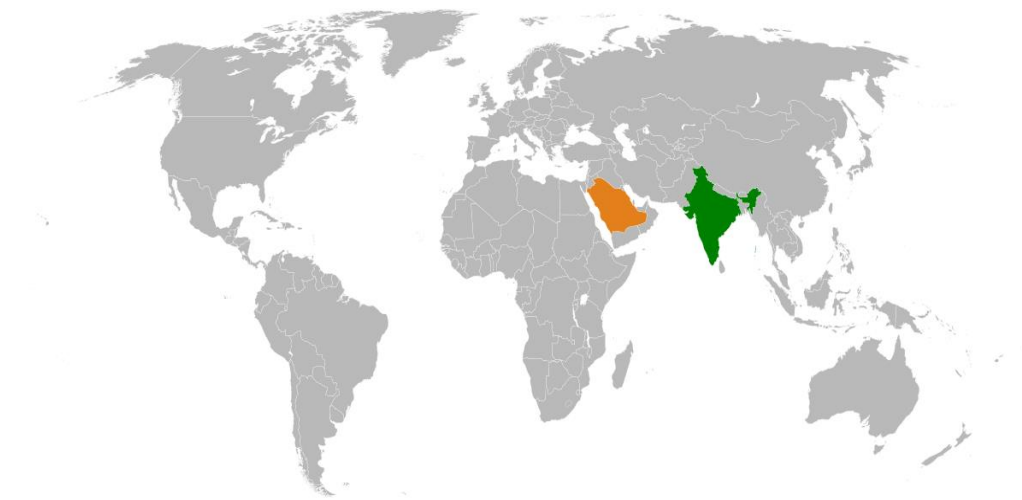


The e-Courts project that began in 2007 is a centrally sponsored scheme that is part of the National e-Governance Plan. The Supreme Court is responsible for the policy planning, strategic direction and implementation while the Department of Justice (DoJ) provides the funding.

The Phase II of the project that had a budget outlay of Rs 1,670 crore saw a major technological upgrade in courts during the Covid crisis. The National Judicial Data Grid, a repository of over 23-crore cases from district courts to SC level was part of the Phase II.

It is learnt that in Phase III, a smart scheduling system is in the works to recommend but not decide an appropriate schedule for listing based on availability of judges, lawyers, witnesses; nature of the case; and caseload of the judge. This system can be extended to enable lawyers and litigants to get a definitive estimate of the next hearing. It appears that this system will address the crucial problem of delays and deter lawyers from seeking adjournments. The DoJ has an outlay of Rs 50 crore for technological advancements and Rs 33 crore for re-engineering judicial processes in Phase III.

Prospects of Saudi – India relations



The growing trends in the bilateral engagements between India and Saudi Arabia today constitute defence, strategy, security, investments, science and technology, education alongside trade, energy, and Diaspora factors.

Saudi Arabia is increasingly looking to deepen ties with India due to its market potential, demographic structure, infrastructure, defence capabilities, soft power capabilities and strategic relevance. Evidently, today Saudi economy is more accommodative towards Indian investors, companies, labour force and skilled professionals, attracting them to enter the growing sectors of hospitality, tourism, housing, IT etc., under the ambitious Vision 2030 project. Also, India's development programmes such as 'Skill India', 'Digital India', 'Smart Cities', and of Infrastructure development are potential initiatives, especially in the context of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 programme.

India and Saudi Arabia share robust bilateral trade relations, which has risen steadily since the mid-2000s. India is a huge market and largely an import-oriented country. The signing of economic and investment pacts has portrayed Saudi Arabia's appetite to enhance its economic footprint in India. Indian businesses are vital for Saudi Arabia for joint ventures and large-

scale investments. Also, investments and expatriate manpower has offered mutually advantageous partnership in economic sphere between India and Saudi Arabia. India-Saudi trade stands at \$27.48 billion in 2017-18. The two countries have also identified nearly 40 potential areas for collaboration and investments across various sectors. In order to eliminate trade barriers, the two countries have focused on relaxation of rules for business and trade investments for export and to gain access in both domestic and regional markets.

India's interests in West Asia are mainly due to the presence of large Indian Diaspora and energy security. Saudi Arabia's strategic location in West Asia and the political and economic power that it leverages alongside global oil reserves makes it an important partner for India. Given India's growing energy demands, the two sides have focused on continuation of the India-Saudi Arabia energy consultations and investment and joint ventures in petrochemical complexes.

There are over 2.8 million Indian expatriates gainfully employed in the Kingdom who send valuable foreign exchange remittances. The Indian Diaspora has a significant presence in various skilled and unskilled occupations in Saudi Arabia as entrepreneurs, teachers, doctors, lawyers, engineers, chartered accountants and managers. The Diaspora also plays a significant role in strengthening the bilateral ties between the two countries. Saudi leadership too has acknowledged the contribution made by Indian community to the development of Saudi Arabia.

In the defence sector, both India and Saudi Arabia are largely import-oriented countries. There is, however, a growing realisation to not only diversify defence markets but also achieve self-sufficiency through indigenisation of their respective defence industrial complex.

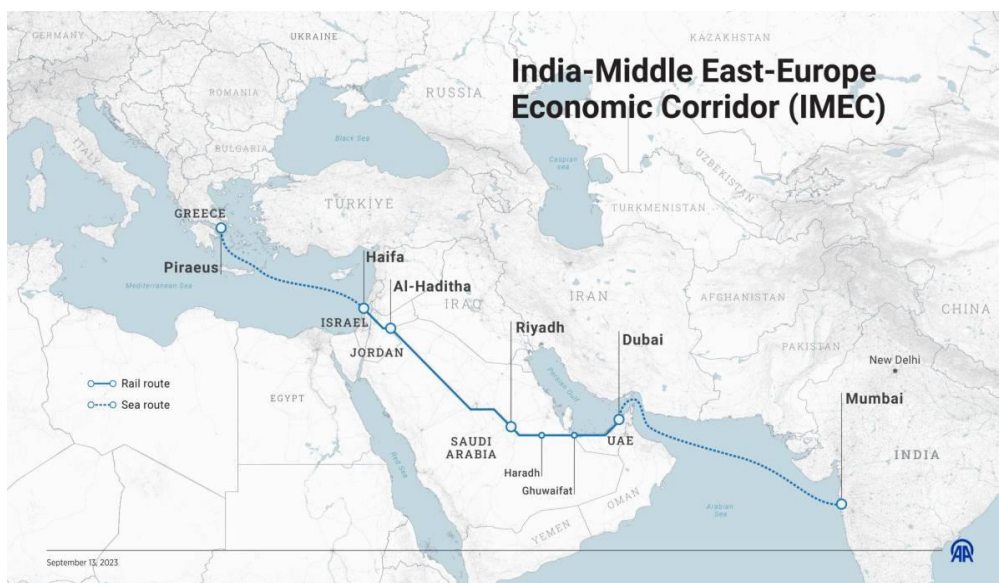
While the two countries are yet to achieve the full potential in this direction, at the bilateral level the two countries aim to elevate the defence engagement. This has prompted both sides to have closer security and defence related contacts, such as sharing of information, military exercises, and military training, etc.

India's primary interest in West Asia is its willingness to coordinate with the major regional and extra-regional players for stability and security of the Gulf region. To enhance strategic cooperation between the two countries, Saudi military cadets have also engaged with the India's NDA for military training.

Both countries are focusing on knowledge-based economies. They are considering their respective strengths in, for instance, information technology, space science and other frontier technologies. This opens enormous opportunities for mutually beneficial collaboration.

India possesses one of the largest pools of scientific and technical manpower in the world and is well-known for their technological prowess. Many Indian expatriates, who are specialists in IT, can contribute further to the growth of Saudi IT and knowledge-based industries. Education, vocational training, and promotion of tourism are other areas where the two countries focus to jointly work and mutually benefit.

India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor



A multinational rail and shipping project linking India with the Middle East and Europe has been announced on the sidelines of the G20 summit in New Delhi in a step seen as a challenge to China’s economic ambitions in the region.

The corridor, which would include India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Israel, and the European Union, would help boost trade, deliver energy resources and improve digital connectivity. It will consist of railway lines and shipping lines that will pass through the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel.

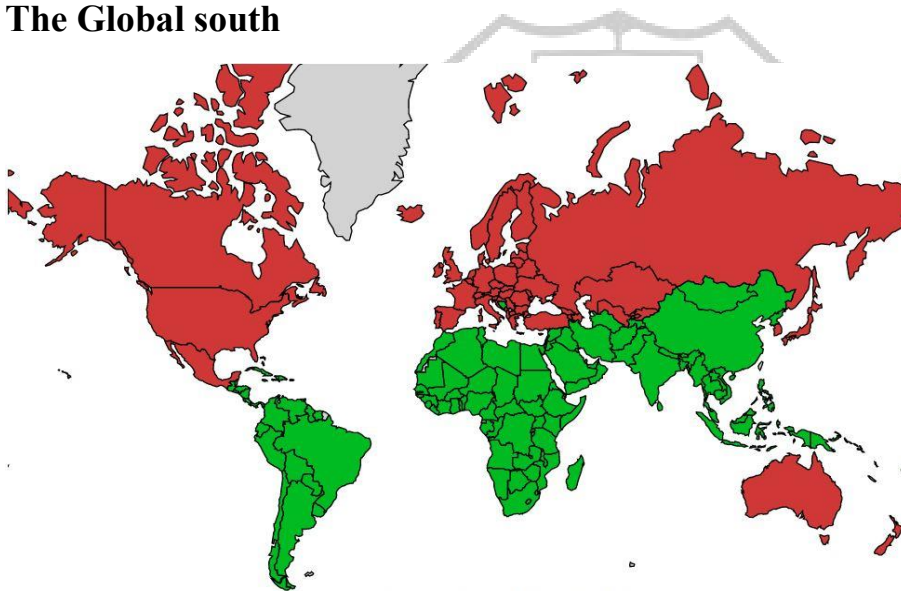
The enhanced infrastructure would boost economic growth, help bring countries in the Middle East together and establish that region as a hub for economic activity instead of as a “source of challenge, conflict or crisis” as it has been in recent history.

The deal will benefit low- and middle-income countries in the region, and enable a critical role for the Middle East in global commerce and aims to link Middle East countries by railway and connect them to India by port, helping the flow of energy and trade from the Gulf to Europe by cutting shipping times, costs and fuel use.

The project, called the Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment, could speed up trade between India and Europe by 40% and help normalise relations between Israel and the Gulf states.

The initiative would also provide a counterbalance to China's vast infrastructure corridor, the Belt and Road project, which currently stretches across Asia, Africa and Latin America and has given China sizeable influence over countries that have struggling economies.

The Global south



The phrase “Global South” refers broadly to the regions of Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Oceania. It is one of a family of terms, including “Third World” and “Periphery,” that denote regions outside Europe and North America, mostly (though not all) low-income and often politically or culturally marginalized. The use of the phrase Global South marks a shift from a central focus on development or cultural difference toward an emphasis on geopolitical relations of power.

The idea of the South was placed firmly on the table by the famous Italian Marxist Antonio Gramsci whose essay “The Southern Question” began with the idea that southern Italy had, in effect, been colonized by capitalists from northern Italy. Gramsci explored the difficulties southern peasants and northern workers faced in forging an alliance with one another.

Developing countries (mainly former colonies), began to articulate the idea of a Global South whose interests conflicted with those of the industrialized powers, both capitalist and communist cutting across Cold War divisions.

With the Cold War winding down, the terms “Global North” and “Global South” spread in academic fields like international relations, political science, and development studies. The North- South language provided an alternative to the concept of “globalization,” contesting the belief in a growing homogenization of cultures and societies.

The idea of a powerful Global North and a resistant Global South was promoted by the Zapatista revolt in Mexico, the “African Renaissance,” and the World Social Forum launched in Brazil. Industrial growth in Asia, and the emerging BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China) group in world politics, complicated the North-South picture. But other changes in the global economy, especially the huge growth of finance capital centered in New York, London, Frankfurt, and Tokyo, reinforced the economic advantage of the old imperial centers.

The Global South has multiple definitions. The Global South has traditionally been used to refer to underdeveloped or poor nations. These countries are those who tend to have unstable democracy, are in the process of industrializing, and have historically frequently faced colonization by Global North countries (especially by European countries). The second definition uses the Global South to address populations that are negatively affected by capitalist globalization. Based on either of these definitions, the Global South is not the same as the geographical south. Still, to avoid confusion, inaccuracy, and possible offense, many scholars prefer to use the terms “developing countries” or low-income economies.

Global stock take



The global stock take is a critical turning point in our battle against the escalating climate crisis – a moment to take a long, hard look at the state of our planet and chart a better course for the future.

The global stocktake is a process for countries and stakeholders to see where they're collectively making progress towards meeting the goals of the Paris Climate Change Agreement – and where they're not.

It's like taking inventory. It means looking at everything related to where the world stands on climate action and support, identifying the gaps, and working together to chart a better course forward to accelerate climate action. The stocktake takes place every five years, with the first-ever stocktake scheduled to conclude at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) at the end of this year.

The global stocktake is unfolding in a critical decade for climate action. Global emissions need to be nearly halved by 2030 for the world to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. In addition, transformational adaptation is also needed to help communities and ecosystems cope with the climate impacts that are already occurring and are expected to intensify.

In March this year, the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its latest Synthesis Report, which summarizes all the scientific reports it has published during its sixth assessment cycle. This marked the first comprehensive IPCC report in nine years. It highlighted just how far off-track the world is, reinforcing last year's UN Climate Change report, which stated the combined climate pledges of 194 Parties under the Paris Agreement

could put the world on track for around 2.5 degrees Celsius of warming by the end of the century.

The IPCC Synthesis Report clearly demonstrates that it is possible to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius with feasible, effective, and low-cost mitigation and adaptation options to scale up across sectors and countries. This report underscores the urgency of taking more ambitious action and shows that, if we act now, we can still secure a liveable, sustainable future for all. The next few years will be critical in determining whether we can make the necessary changes in time to prevent the worst impacts of climate change.

RBI decides to withdraw ICRR in phased manner.



Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to discontinue the incremental cash reserve ratio (ICRR) in a phased manner.

RBI had earlier said that banks have to maintain a 10 percent incremental cash reserve ratio (ICRR) as part of the central bank's efforts to drain excess liquidity from the banking system following the withdrawal of the Rs 2,000 currency note.

Further, RBI Governor Das highlighted that the central bank considered imposition of ICRR desirable in interest of financial and price stability and banks will have enough liquidity to do their lending operations.

Prospect of Global Biofuel Alliance



The Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) was formally launched during the G20 Summit in New Delhi. It includes a group of 30 countries and several international institutions, all working towards the adoption of biofuels to increase access to bioenergy in developing economies.

The alliance is led by India, the United States, and Brazil, and it aims to tackle important energy and economic problems by using eco-friendly biofuels.

The alliance presents a promising solution. By promoting the utilisation of biofuels derived from sources like sugarcane, grains, and agricultural waste through this way oil-dependent countries can diversify their energy portfolio and reduce dependency on expensive oil imports.

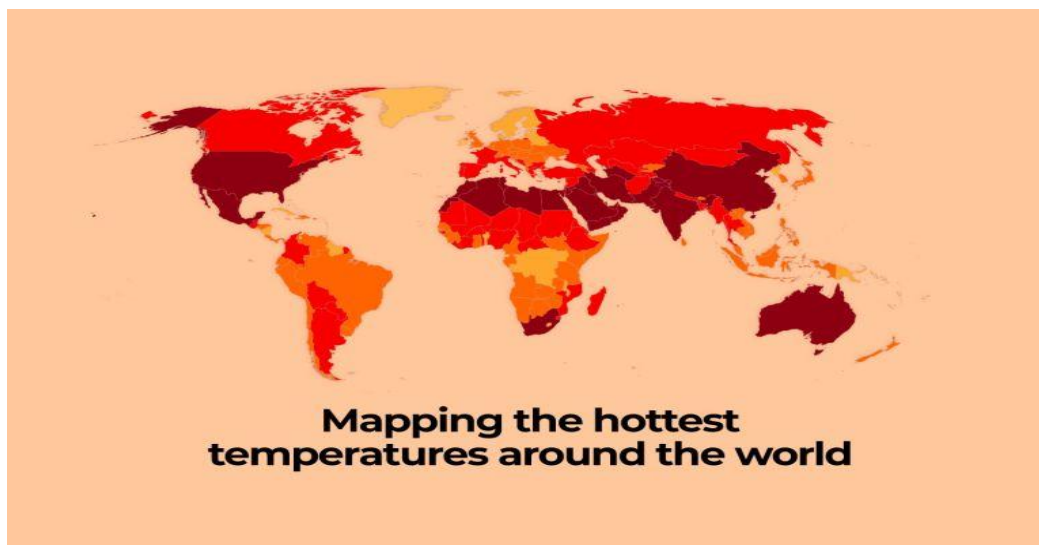
This Alliance will be aimed at facilitating cooperation and intensifying the use of sustainable biofuels, including in the transportation sector. It will place emphasis on strengthening markets, facilitating global biofuels trade, development of concrete policy lesson-sharing and provision of technical support for national biofuels programs worldwide. It will also emphasize the already implemented best practices and success cases.

In 2022, the worldwide ethanol market had a value of USD 99.06 billion, and it is expected to experience steady growth with a compound annual growth rate of 5.1% by 2032, reaching a projected value exceeding USD 162.12 billion by that year.

Members of the GBA are significant players in both the production and consumption of biofuels. Specifically, the USA accounts for 52%, Brazil for 30%, and India for 3%, making up a substantial 85% of global ethanol production and 81% of its consumption.

The Alliance shall work in collaboration with and complement the relevant existing regional and international agencies as well as initiatives in the bioenergy, bioeconomy, and energy transition fields more broadly, including the Clean Energy Ministerial Biofuture Platform, the Mission Innovation Bioenergy initiatives, and the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP).

2023summer, the hottest ever recorded in the world



Summer of 2023 was Earth's hottest since global records began in 1880, according to scientists at NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies (GISS) in New York. The months of June, July, and August combined were 0.23 degrees Celsius (0.41 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than any other summer in NASA's record, and 1.2°C (2.1°F) warmer than the average summer between 1951 and 1980. August alone was 1.2°C (2.2°F) warmer than the average. June through August is considered meteorological summer in the Northern Hemisphere.

This new record comes as exceptional heat swept across much of the world, exacerbating deadly wildfires in Canada and Hawaii, and searing heat waves in South America, Japan, Europe, and the U.S., while likely contributing to severe rainfall in Italy, Greece, and Central Europe.

Exceptionally high sea surface temperatures, fuelled in part by the return of El Niño, were largely responsible for the summer's record warmth. (El Niño is a natural climate phenomenon characterized by warmer than normal sea surface temperatures (and higher sea levels) in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.)

El Niño is associated with the weakening of easterly trade winds and the movement of warm water from the western Pacific toward the western coast of the Americas. The phenomenon can have widespread effects, often bringing cooler, wetter conditions to the U.S. Southwest and drought to countries in the western Pacific, such as Indonesia and Australia.

Justice Rohini panel recommendations on OBC reservation



In 2017, the central government established a commission under the leadership of retired Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, G Rohini. The primary objectives of this commission were threefold:

1. To identify all Other Backward Castes (OBCs) and categorise them into sub-categories.
2. To investigate the disparities among different castes and communities within the OBC, which comprises about 3000 castes, in terms of benefiting from reservation policies.
3. To formulate the method, basis, and criteria for a fair distribution of benefits among OBCs.

The primary motivation behind creating the Rohini Commission was the significant presence of OBC voters in the country. The OBC category encompasses thousands of castes and sub-castes, some of which have substantially benefited from reservations, while others have remained marginalised due to their limited economic, educational, and social status.

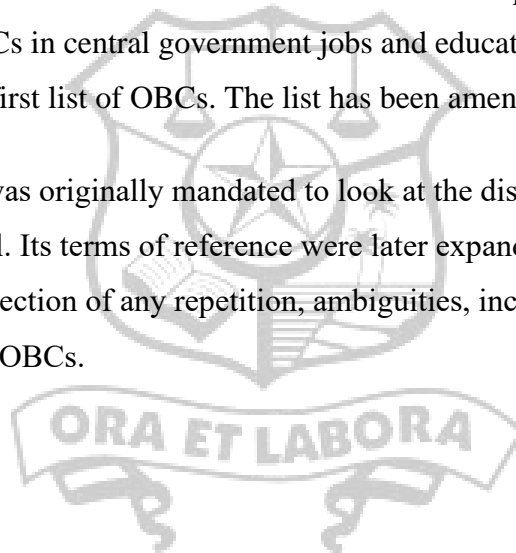
Sub-categorisation of OBCs — a category that comprises thousands of communities and castes — has been a long-standing demand from some sections of society to ensure better distribution of reservation benefits.

The First Backward Class Commission, set up in 1953 and chaired by Kaka Kalelkar, had also proposed sub-categorisation of the OBCs into two groups of backward and extremely backward communities.

In the Second Backward Class Commission, set up in 1979 and headed by B.P. Mandal, sub-categorization was proposed in the dissenting note of L.R. Naik, who divided the list of backward classes in the main report into intermediate and depressed backward classes.

It was in 1980, soon after the Mandal Commission submitted its report recommending 27 percent reservation to OBCs in central government jobs and educational institutions, that the Centre came out with the first list of OBCs. The list has been amended many times since.

The Rohini Commission was originally mandated to look at the distribution of reservation benefits at the central level. Its terms of reference were later expanded to include examining of and recommending correction of any repetition, ambiguities, inconsistencies and spelling errors in the central list of OBCs.



Simultaneous polls



In 2015, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, headed by E M Sudarsana Natchiappan, compiled a report on 'Feasibility of Holding Simultaneous Elections to House of People (Lok Sabha) and State Legislative Assemblies'.

"The holding of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and state assemblies would reduce: (i) the massive expenditure that is currently incurred for the conduct of separate elections; (ii) the policy paralysis that results from the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct during election time; (iii) impact on delivery of essential services and (iv) burden on crucial manpower that is deployed during election time," the report observed.

Also in 2017, in a discussion paper, 'Analysis of Simultaneous Elections: The "What", "Why", and "How"', Bibek Debroy and Kishore Desai of the NITI Aayog wrote that the elections of 2009 had cost the exchequer about Rs 1,115 crore, and the 2014 elections about Rs 3,870 crore. The total spent on the elections, including the expenses incurred by parties and candidates, was several times more.

In a draft report on August 30, 2018, the Law Commission headed by Justice B S Chauhan held that simultaneous elections could not be held within the existing framework of the Constitution. These could be held together "through appropriate amendments to the Constitution, the Representation of the People Act 1951, and the Rules of Procedure of Lok Sabha and state Assemblies". At least 50% of the states may ratify the constitutional amendments. The Commission recommended that all elections due in a calendar year be conducted together. Since a no-confidence motion, if passed, may curtail the term of Lok

Sabha or an Assembly, the Law Commission recommended replacing the “no-confidence motion” with a “constructive vote of no-confidence” through appropriate amendments — a government may only be removed if there is confidence in an alternative government.

A NITI Aayog paper in 2017 argued for ‘one nation one election’. It reasoned that since in the parliamentary system the legislative bodies do not have a fixed tenure, the two sets of elections could be synchronised in two phases between the 2019 17th general election and the midterm of the 17th Lok Sabha in 2021, by adjusting the tenure of legislative assemblies. In case of a midterm dissolution of the Lok Sabha, “there could be a provision for the President to carry out the administration of the country, on the aid and advice of his Council of Ministers to be appointed by him till the time the next House is constituted”. With the local bodies’ elections added this time in the suggested process, major constitutional issues are at stake in the initiative, whatever the proposed panel of loyalists suggests.

The Law Commission’s 170th Report, quoted to justify the NITI Aayog’s proposals, lays greater emphasis on the reform of the party system in the perspective of the proliferation and weakening of the parties and deinstitutionalisation of the party system. Anomalies in party funding and its impact on the electoral and political processes are highlighted and streamlining is suggested. If undertaken, these would strengthen the party system and remove causes of instability.

Crypto regulation



India is working on a crypto regulatory framework based on the joint recommendations of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Financial Stability Board (FSB) that could result in legal legislation in a short time.

India recently concluded the G20 summit on a high with several key economic announcements; however, the most notable decision for the crypto community came in the form of the IMF–FSB joint recommendations for crypto regulations, which India and other G20 nations welcomed.

The IMF–FSB crypto recommendations call for regulating the crypto market rather than a blanket ban. The IMF–FSB recommendations are a set of regulatory guidelines and suggestions that the G20 countries can work on to formulate their independent yet collaborative crypto legislation.

the five-point framework the government is focusing on:

1. Setting up advanced Know Your Customer (KYC) for crypto companies, which covers the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act and existing Anti-Money Laundering standards.
2. Crypto platforms would be required to release proof-of-reserve audits on a real-time basis to regulators.
3. A uniform taxation policy across the nations.
4. Crypto exchanges could gain the same status as authorized dealers (similar to banks) under the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
5. Key positions may be mandatory, such as Money Laundering Reporting Officer for crypto platforms.

Digital Public Infrastructure



DPI is an evolving concept, but there is growing consensus on it being a combination of (i) networked open technology standards built for public interest, (ii) enabling governance, and (iii) a community of innovative and competitive market players working to drive innovation, especially across public programmes. Loosely defined, DPI is a set of technology building blocks that drive innovation, inclusion, and competition at scale, operating under open, transparent and participatory governance.

India's history with technology in the public domain began with disconnected applications developed in the '80s and '90s. State and central governments then developed infrastructure projects like state-wide area networks, Common Service Centres (CSCs), and State Data Centres (SDCs), along with several Mission Mode Projects (MMPs). The objective was to create the necessary infrastructure and software development in various domain.

Successful DPIs in India include Aadhaar, Unified Payment Interface (UPI), and CoWin, which managed the world's largest vaccination programme. Others like Unified Health Interface (UHI), Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), and Open Network for Digital Commerce are in the rollout stage.

India's approach to DPI is a beautiful blend of scalability, interoperability, innovation, and frugality. It's more than a technological advancement; it's a vision for a digitally inclusive future that resonates not only within the nation but also on the global stage.

DPI can advance many of the Sustainable Development Goals, the 17 global goals for 2030 adopted by all United Nations member states.

- DPI reduces inequality by making it easier for the public and private sectors to expand banking, credit, and payment services, especially to women and others who have traditionally been left behind.
- DPI promotes health and well-being. A child who gets a legal form of identity at birth that is linked via a data exchange system to clinics and pharmacies can receive better health care over a lifetime. Aggregated health data can help providers share information to improve patient care, and governments can better track illness and disease across communities.
- DPI promotes sustainable and inclusive economic growth. When smallholder farmers and rural entrepreneurs can access global weather forecasting data, digital early warning systems, and digital payments, they can better plan their cropping cycles, protect against pests and weather shocks, and find new markets. The increases in their crop yields can, in turn, improve their income while reducing food insecurity in the community.

African Union's inclusion means for G20



The AU now has an opportunity to use its G20 permanent seat to craft a win-win pathway for the entire world with an uncompromising demand to redesign the global trade, finance, and investment architecture. The African Union, a continental body of 55 member states, now has the same status as the European Union - the only regional bloc with a full membership. Its previous designation was "invited international organisation".

With full G20 membership, the AU can represent a continent that's home to the world's largest free trade area. It's also enormously rich in the resources the world needs to combat climate change, which Africa contributes to the least but is affected by the most.

The African continent has 60% of the world's renewable energy assets and more than 30% of the minerals key to renewable and low-carbon technologies. Congo alone has almost half of the world's cobalt, a metal essential for lithium-ion batteries, according to a United Nations report on Africa's economic development released recently.

The AU's 55 member states, which include the disputed Western Sahara, have pressed for meaningful roles in the global bodies that long represented a now faded post-World War II order, including the United Nations Security Council. They also want reforms to a global financial system - including the World Bank and other entities - that forces African countries to pay more than others to borrow money, deepening their debt.

Granting the African Union membership in the G20 is a step that recognizes the continent as a global power.

