

Y20 India 2023

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Youth 20 (Y20) is the youth engagement group of the G20, serving as the official consultation forum for youth from all G20 member countries to dialogue with each other. Y20 encourages youth as future leaders to raise awareness of global issues, exchange ideas, argue, negotiate, and reach consensus. It serves as a valuable platform for global youth to reflect on global issues and suggest policy recommendations for G20 member states' consultations. During India's presidency of G20 in 2023, Y20 focused on five main themes:

1. Peace-building and Reconciliation: Ushering in an Era of No War
2. Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation & 21st Century Skills
3. Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a Way of Life
4. Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance
5. Health, Well-being, and Sports: Agenda for Youth.

Leading up to the final summit, a series of events were organised, including the Y20 Curtain Raiser in New Delhi, Inception meeting in Guwahati, Y20 Pre-Summit at Leh, Ladakh, 14 Y20 Consultations at various universities across the country, and 50 brainstorming sessions each by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). In addition, Y20 India collaborated with Yuva Manthan to disseminate E-modules aimed at helping students understand the functioning of G20 and organised model G20 Summits in educational institutions across India.

The Y20 Final Summit took place in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, from August 17th to 20th, 2023, under the aegis of Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. The summit was organised at the Rudraksha International Cooperation and Convention Centre in Varanasi. Over 100 delegates from G20 member states, guest countries, and international organisations participated in the final summit.

On the first day of the summit, delegates and participants visited Banaras Hindu University (BHU), where faculty members from IIT BHU showcased the advancements made in the Country's research and development landscape, particularly in science and technology, through the Super Computing Centre. Following the visit, sessions and presentations curated by IIT-BHU were held at the Rudraksh International Cooperation and Convention Centre (RICCC) in Varanasi. The presentations commenced with an overview of the dynamic institution of IIT BHU and its pivotal role in bolstering technical education in India. Delving deeper, sessions by IIT BHU shed light on ongoing research endeavours, placement activities, innovation, incubation, and the thriving startup culture. The programme also featured captivating cultural performances, including musical renditions and classical dances presented by the students of IIT BHU. Later in the evening, delegates and participants visited the Sarnath temple, which offered them a glimpse into the rich cultural tapestry of Varanasi. At

Sarnath, delegates visited the Archaeological Museum, which exhibited the Buddhist Culture, recovered from the site of Lord Buddha's first sermon at deer park Mrigadava in Sarnath. The day concluded with a Light & Sound show, narrating the profound life journey of Gautam Buddha.

On the second day, the summit was inaugurated by Shri Yogi Adityanath, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, and Shri Anurag Thakur, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (MoS) for Youth Affairs & Sports. Following this, discussions on the Y20 Draft Communique took place in the respective conference halls dedicated to the five different themes. The issues deliberated in the Peace-building and Reconciliation track echoed the broader ethos of the summit. Delegates acknowledged a spectrum of issues, including deepening global military crises, strains on the economic order, and the resurgence of great power rivalry, all posing significant risks to global peace and prosperity. From conflict and pandemics to climate change and unconventional warfare, these challenges have disrupted global security and widened the gap between developed and developing nations. Effectively tackling these issues demands a prioritisation of multilateral engagement, dialogue facilitation, and fostering mutual understanding among diverse cultures. The discussions highlighted India's exemplary democratic peace-building model, marked by inclusivity and empowerment.

The track also took up the significant role of youth in promoting a culture of peace and nonviolence and the importance of full, effective, constructive participation of youth in the prevention and resolution of conflict, peacebuilding, and reintegration. The track advocated for youth inclusion in decision-making processes within global multilateral institutions like the Antarctic Treaty System. It was gathered that this inclusion can be achieved through open governance models, implementation of United Nations Resolution 2250. Additionally, there was a call for the establishment of a youth advisory group on Peace and Security within the United Nations. Emphasis was also placed on the proper implementation of Women, Peace, and Security principles to ensure women-led processes in conflict prevention.

During the third day of the Y20 Summit, a session titled 'Empowering the Amrit Generation through Participatory Governance' was organised, led by Ashish Khare, Director, and Renu Singh, Senior Manager, from MyGov India. The session commenced with the screening of a video highlighting the importance of 'Yuva Shakti', the youth force of India, followed by an insightful overview of the MyGov platform. MyGov serves as the Government of India's Citizen Engagement Platform, collaborating with various government bodies and ministries to involve citizens in policy formulation and gather public opinion on matters of public interest and welfare.

A visit to Kashi Vishwanath temple was organised on the early morning of the last day of the summit. India's rich art, culture, and heritage left a long-lasting impression on the delegates from across the world. A plenary session was held later that day at the Rudraksh International Cooperation and Convention Centre. Sh. Sharad Vivek Sagar, Sh. Anmol Sovit, Y20 India; Sh. Pathikrit Payne, Coordination Head, Y20 India; Sh. Falit Sijariya, Head of Delegation, Y20 India, and Smt. Aditi Narayani Paswan, Track Chair, Y20 India led the session.

The Y20 Final Summit concluded with the issuance of a formal statement, encapsulating the consensus among participating nations, known as the Y20 Communique. This statement synthesised discussions from the five different themes into a joint communique, reflecting the global youth's perspective on G20 priorities. The finalisation of Y20 communique was the result of several months of recommendations, ideations, brainstorming sessions, youth consultations, and discussions that created a dialogue on global matters.

The recommendations outlined in the communique highlighted several key areas of focus, including advocating for full African Union membership in the G20, establishing a mechanism for permanent Y20 representation in G20 Sherpa and finance tracks to ensure the consideration of Y20 policy recommendations in policy-making processes, and setting up a climate assembly in G20 member states. Additionally, the communique emphasised the importance of promoting youth leadership in government entities to drive fair decision-making processes and long-term equitable solutions for the future. Furthermore, the communique addressed a range of other critical issues, such as nuclear disarmament, fostering collaboration between the Global North and South in decision-making, improving refugee welfare, reforming the United Nations Security Council, and preventing violence by non-state actors through concerted efforts.

Signed by Heads of Delegation, the communique marked the culmination of months of discussions and deliberations. Its successful approval represented a significant milestone, with youth representatives from each member state's delegation endorsing the document. The release of the communique was overseen by the troika countries, comprising of Chair Y20 India, along with representatives from the Indonesia and Brazil Organising Committee. The summit concluded with the ceremonial transfer of the Y20 flag from India to Brazil, which is symbolic of a continued commitment to youth diplomacy and global collaboration.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

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