



Brief

# India at G20: Rio de Janeiro Summit

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*India's commitment to broader global engagement is demonstrated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's November 18–19 sojourn to Rio de Janeiro and his proactive participation in G20 Summit among world leaders.*

*Modi's participation in G20 summit demonstrates Bharat's commitment to multilateralism and enrolling diverse partners. His "productive" official visit to Nigeria was centred on improved relations with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Indian diaspora. As India's representative at G20 summit, Modi shouldered the responsibilities of the country's G20 leadership and her ambitious agenda for global transformation and inclusivity.*

# INTRODUCTION

Brazil, as the current leader of the G20, has taken on a significant role in tackling some of the world's most urgent challenges. Its presidency, which began on December 1, 2023, highlights President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's dedication to addressing hunger, poverty, and inequality while promoting sustainable development. Brazil's efforts are exemplified by its ambitious agenda, including over 130 meetings held across the nation's five regions, culminating in a major summit in Rio de Janeiro. Furthermore, the introduction of the innovative "G20 Social" platform demonstrates Brazil's strong commitment to involving civil society in global decision-making processes, fostering a more inclusive and democratic approach.

Brazil builds on the significant accomplishments of India's G20 leadership in 2023 as it forges ahead. India's term was revolutionary, establishing standards for inclusiveness and proactive leadership. India fought for the Global South's interests under the tagline "One Earth, One Family, One Future," gaining permanent membership in the African Union and elevating the voices of developing nations. Notwithstanding geopolitical difficulties, the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration was unanimously endorsed and used as evidence of India's diplomatic prowess. While addressing contentious topics like the situation in Ukraine, it remained focused on universal objectives like the growth of renewable energy, digital public infrastructure, and climate finance.



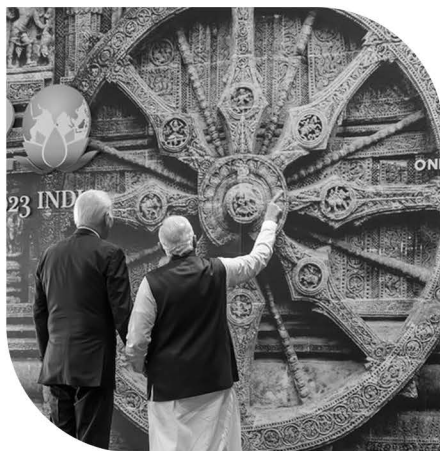
Through its "Jan Bhagidari" initiatives, the Indian presidency reached over 7 crore people, making it noteworthy for its grassroots involvement. It demonstrated India's capacity to combine local and global viewpoints through more than 200 meetings held in 60 places. India has shown its leadership in developing strategic and durable relationships through initiatives such as the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor and the Global Biofuel Alliance. Additionally, its focus on catastrophe risk reduction, digital transformation, and women-led development highlighted India's all-encompassing approach to global governance.



Brazil embraces this legacy, but it also faces unique difficulties. With the Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas conflict taking centre stage on the world agenda, the geopolitical scene is still tense. While President Lula places a high priority on socioeconomic justice and sustainable development, he must manage the complexity of international conflict without sacrificing Brazil's goals. His support of a billionaire wealth tax to finance programs tackling global inequality is an example of audacious leadership. Nations that are struggling with populism and internal budgetary restrictions, however, are opposing its implementation.

The G20's crucial position in global governance accounts for two-thirds of world's population, 75 per cent of worldwide trade, and 85 per cent of global GDP. These numbers had their telling significance on Brazil's presidency to promote practical remedies. A roadmap for sustainable advancement is provided by initiatives such as India's initiative to triple the amount of renewable energy by 2030. In keeping with international calls for climate action, Brazil is intensifying its environmental focus by hosting COP29 concurrently. Western developed countries retracting on taking responsibility for funding 'Climate Action' and seamless transfer of related technologies has had its impact on G20 negotiations.

India's revolutionary leadership has given Brazil a stronger platform to work with while it leads the G20. Collectively, these presidencies show how inclusiveness, creativity, and pragmatism can help rising economies reshape global government. Brazil's presidency has the chance to spur global growth by resolving current problems and establishing the framework for long-term sustainability and equity, building on India's heritage.



### India's G20 Presidency: A Legacy to Build Upon

- India's G20 leadership in 2023 left an extraordinary impact, as seen by the unanimous approval of the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration and the unprecedented inclusion of the African Union as a permanent member. This established a new benchmark of inclusivity in global government.
- India successfully managed geopolitical issues, such as the crisis between Russia and Ukraine, by promoting unity among severely divided countries. Its aggressive and creative attitude was demonstrated by projects like the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor and the Global Biofuel Alliance.

- Yet maintaining the pace of international changes and making sure that India-led projects continue during Brazil's presidency continue to be major challenges, particularly in consideration of new geopolitical and economic pressures.

### **Strengthening the Global South Agenda**

- India's persistent backing of the Global South is particularly compelling because it advocates for fair global governance through programs like UNSC reform and greater representation of emerging economies.
- India's presidency advocated for developing countries' interests by assuring the African Union's G20 membership and prioritising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- One of the ongoing challenges for the Global South agenda is getting through established powers' opposition to structural reforms in organisations like the UNSC.

### **Addressing Geopolitical Tensions With A Call for Peace and Dialogue**

- Global debates are dominated by the Israel-Hamas conflict and the Russia-Ukraine war, which divides G20 members deeply and makes reaching an agreement challenging.
- India has continuously promoted dialogue and peace, using its reputation as a diplomat to act as a mediator in various disputes.
- Divergent priorities among G20 countries and a lack of influence over relevant parties make it difficult to reach significant accords.



## Bilateral Diplomacy at the Forefront

- In order to manage strategic obstacles like China's border disputes, India actively pursues bilateral diplomacy, strengthening its connections with significant economies.
- Contemporary agreements, like the India-China agreement to patrol the Line of Actual Control, demonstrate India's capacity to strike a balance between strategic prudence and collaboration.
- There are constant diplomatic difficulties in ensuring the long-term execution of agreements and striking a balance between regional interests and larger global involvement.

## Climate Focus: A Priority among Priorities

- Under Brazil's G20 presidency, climate change has become a major concern, with a focus on climate justice and sustainable development.
- India's climate-focused measures are being built upon by initiatives including merging environmental goals with poverty reduction and tripling renewable energy by 2030.
- Environmental dialogues may be side-lined by conflicts, and progress as a whole may be hampered by fast-developing countries' opposition to greater financial obligations.



## Global Inequalities: The Wealth Tax Proposal

- Brazil has suggested a 2% wealth tax on billionaires in an effort to alleviate global inequality and give low-income countries that are heavily indebted financial support.
- The initiative offers a bold attempt for resource transfer to lessen gaps, building on India's emphasis on financial inclusiveness.
- The implementation process might be complicated by opposition from wealthier countries and worries about the efficient use of taxes collected.



## Climate Commitments

- G20 countries are still at odds over important topics like increasing the use of renewable energy sources and phasing out fossil fuels, despite their bold pledges.
- India's LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment) campaign gained prominence, and Brazil has incorporated climate goals into its broader agenda of inequality.
- Significant advancements on global climate goals are impeded by the absence of legally binding agreements and financial contributions from countries with greater resources.
- Western developed economies will have to shoulder responsibility for pollution, climate change and concretize plans to fund the 'corrective measures and projects' apart from seamlessly transferring technologies.



## The Way Ahead

India's and Brazil's G20 presidencies offer a range of innovative policies aimed at tackling global issues in a comprehensive and inclusive manner. Brazil's leadership expands on India's presidency, which set a high standard for inclusivity, diplomacy, and innovation by placing a strong emphasis on socioeconomic justice and sustainable development.

India's presidency promoted reforms in global governance frameworks and secured the African Union's G20 membership, thereby championing the goals of the Global South. It ensured both strategic and lasting results by striking a balance between these aspirations and realistic projects like the Global Biofuel Alliance and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. Millions of people were able to access international diplomacy through widespread grassroots involvement, demonstrating its dedication to inclusion and people-centred governance. The New Delhi Leaders' Declaration was unanimously adopted, demonstrating India's capacity to reach an agreement in a divisive geopolitical landscape and offering a model for productive international cooperation.

Despite inheriting these achievements, Brazil's presidency presents several difficulties. President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's focus on poverty, hunger, and inequality strikes a deep chord, particularly while Brazil holds COP29 at the same time, tying climate action to more general development objectives. Though their viability in a divided global economy is still up for debate, novel ideas like the wealth tax on billionaires seek to redress systemic injustices. Brazil's agenda is complicated by the backdrop of ongoing conflicts like the Israel-Hamas dispute and the Russia-Ukraine war, which call for skilled diplomacy to prevent these problems from overshadowing advancements in other areas.

When taken as a whole, these presidencies highlight emerging economies' capacity to govern with pragmatism, inclusion, and vision. They show that equitable governance, creative diplomacy, and sustainable development are not antagonistic but rather complementary. Brazil continues the momentum created by India as it leads the G20, providing the world with an example of cooperative, forward-thinking governance that strikes a compromise between short-term goals and long-term objectives. The Global South's revolutionary role in altering global governance is reaffirmed by this dual leadership.

As the G20 transitions to South Africa's presidency in 2025, the baton of leadership passes to another pivotal Global South nation. South Africa will have the opportunity to further solidify the representation of emerging economies and drive progress on shared objectives.

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