

Remarks by Ambassador of India to Japan, Mr. Sibi George  
at the Event on 'India's G20 Presidency: Urban 20',  
Embassy of India, Tokyo, 26 June 2023

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen,

- I am delighted to address you today as we discuss the unfolding and transformative journey of India's presidency of the G20. It is an historic occasion, marking the first time a G20 summit will be held in India, a testament to the country's growing global influence and the promising future that lies ahead.
- As the world faces geopolitical conflict, financial uncertainty, and climatic stress, the need for coordinated policy responses from the local to the global level has never been more crucial. The theme of India's G20 summit, 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – One Earth, One, Family, One Future.' perfectly encapsulates this need.
- India's G 20 Presidency has been focused on promoting global cooperation and resilience in the face of unprecedented challenges. India's G20 agenda has been defined by six strategic priorities: Green Development, Climate Finance & LiFE; Accelerated, Inclusive & Resilient Growth; Accelerating progress on SDGs; Technological Transformation & Digital Public Infrastructure; Multilateral Institutions for the 21st century; and Women-led development. These priorities reflect our commitment to sustainable growth, gender equality, and the pursuit of a more inclusive and resilient future for all.
- The G20 Presidency has also provided an opportunity to showcase India's vibrancy and diversity. India is hosting over 200 G20-related meetings in different places and showcasing its achievements in a diverse range of areas, including culture, science & technology, tourism and innovation.
- Today's event is on Urban 20 or U20 which is a city diplomacy initiative, comprising cities from G20 countries. It brings together Mayors from 20 cities under a common framework and coordinates a

joint position to inform discussions of national leaders. The inaugural event of U20, under India's Presidency, took place in Ahmedabad, which is the city in the state of Gujarat chairing U20. Over 70 delegates from 42 cities participated at the meeting, marking it the largest gathering since the inception of U20.

- We look forward to the participation of Japanese side and their valuable contribution at the U20 Mayors' Summit being held in Ahmedabad next month, which will offer an opportunity to U20 city leaders to share experience and deliberate on joint priorities, ideas and collective actions for sustainable development of cities.
- Today we are joined virtually by Mr Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) & National Coordinator for U20 event in India, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, who will be giving an overview of the Urban 20 Engagement Group. We are also joined by Mr. Nilesh Rajadhyksha and Ms. Kanak Tiwari, Programme Directors from National Institute of Urban Affairs, who would be presenting details of various activities of U20 and priorities of U20 Chair and its alignment with the priorities of the G20.

I thank you all for joining us today.

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