



27-28 FEBRUARY 2023

CHHATRAPATI  
SAMBHAJINAGAR

# W20 INDIA INCEPTION MEETING 2023

In pursuit of Gender Equality, Equity and  
Dignity for Women-Led Development





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# ABOUT W20



The Women 20 (W20) is the official G20 engagement group, created in 2015 under Türkiye’s Presidency of the G20, with the objective of focusing on gender equity. The primary objective of W20 is women's empowerment, advocating for the rights of women, and raising their voices in society. It was founded on the idea that domestic initiatives needed to be incorporated into an international strategy to see any appreciable changes because progress toward gender equality had been too slow and peripheral. Additionally, it aims to ensure that the G20 Leaders’ Declaration includes commitments and measures that support gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

W20 India is committed to its vision “to create a world of equality & equity where every woman lives with dignity”. It is dedicated to its mission of “removing all barriers to women-led development and ensuring an enabling environment and ecosystem for women to thrive, transcend and transform their lives as well as others.”

W20 India is focused on empowering women by working on 5 key priority areas that include Women Entrepreneurship, Grassroot Women Leadership, Bridging the Gender Digital Divide, Education and Skill Development, and Climate Change.



# ABOUT THE W20 INCEPTION MEET

The Women 20 Engagement Group, under India's Presidency, organized its Inception Meeting in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (formerly known as Aurangabad), Maharashtra on 27-28th February 2023. The theme of W20 Inception Meet 2023, in line with the vision of the honorable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, was 'In pursuit of Gender Equality and Equity for Women-Led Development'.

The Inception Meet began with a Jan Bhagidari (People's Participation) event, which mobilized over 1000 grassroots-level and local women of Aurangabad. Several insightful sessions consisting of enriching deliberations on the five key priority areas of W20 were held. The meeting saw the fervent participation of international as well as Indian delegates, who shared their insights, knowledge, and experiences.

The Women 20 Inception Meeting officially initiated the work of the task forces under India's presidency of W20. W20 reiterated its commitment to bring out various knowledge products - white papers, policy briefs, video documentaries, opinion pieces, handbooks, and communique to influence G20 nations and leaders to set women's agenda at the core of the G20 Leaders' Declaration.

W20 works with various stakeholders, which includes grassroots-level rural and urban women, the W20 delegates from G20 nations, policymakers, and other engagement groups as well as organizations from the G20 countries to develop policy recommendations that are submitted directly to the G20 leaders for consideration. It promises to play a crucial role in economically empowering women across the world by reducing the gender pay gap and undertaking efforts for the creation of a more equitable world by disrupting patriarchal stereotypes and mindsets.

# OPENING SESSION

In pursuit of Gender Equality, Equity and Dignity  
for Women-Led Development



W20 India held its inception meeting on February 27-28, 2023, in Chatrapati Sambhajinagar (formerly Aurangabad), Maharashtra. The inauguration session was attended by 150 delegates comprising W20 delegates from the G20 nations, representatives from international organizations, and knowledge partners of W20 India.

**Dr. Sandhya Purecha, Chair of W20 India** welcomed the international delegates to the “Land of Vedas”. Her welcome address focused on the role that Indian women have played in shaping Indian society over the years. Dr. Purecha said, “W20 intends to build upon the tremendous efforts and progress made by Türkiye, China, Germany, Argentina, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Italy, and Indonesia under their Presidency.”

She also highlighted various schemes launched by the Government of India over the last decade to empower women and girls.

**Mr. Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa** emphasized the need of bridging the gender gap, extremely essential in the aftermath of the COVID pandemic and the ongoing geopolitical complexities. The Sherpa emphasized, “If you want to transform the world, there is no better way than women-led development.”

Moreover, the Sherpa urged the W20 delegates to deliberate transformational recommendations and promised that the G20 Leaders’ Declaration will include the reformist and progressive suggestions proposed by Women 20.

**Dr. Gülden Türktan, Founder Chair of W20, Under the G20 Presidency of Türkiye in 2015** conveyed her joy and delight at W20’s contribution to the lives of women across the globe. She spoke about the journey of Women 20, from its inception under Turkey’s presidency to its evolution under countries such as Italy, Indonesia, Argentina, and others, and was hopeful for its future under India’s presidency and said, “ Now, it is the time for Magnificent, Incredible India.”



**Mr. Atul Save, Minister of Co-operation and OBC Welfare, Government of Maharashtra** applauded the efforts undertaken by Honourable PM Narendra Modi for the economic empowerment of women in India. He acclaimed the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme and the measures taken by the Government of India and the Government of Maharashtra to facilitate women entrepreneurs.

**Dr. Bhagwat Krishanrao Karad, Minister of State for Finance, Government of India** expressed his elation and pleasure to host W20 in the historical city of Chatrapati Sambhajnagar. Recounting the rich cultural history of the city, Dr. Karad recalled the crucial role played by women across all spheres from Indian mythology to the freedom struggle. He iterated that India remains committed to the social and economic upliftment of women in our society.

**Mr. Raosaheb Danve, Minister of State for Railways, Coal & Mines** spoke about the Maharashtra government's efforts to elevate the position of women such as the increase in reservation quota for women in leadership roles to make policies more inclusive and comprehensive.



**Mrs. Smriti Z Irani, Minister of Women & Child Development and Minority Affairs, Government of India,** reiterated the Prime Minister's vision of reimagining women's role as the core architects of society rather than limiting themselves to the sidelines of the decision-making process. She further emphasized that W20 India, under the leadership of Dr. Purecha, must work to carve out an inclusive, decisive, and action-oriented agenda. She admired the Modi government's efforts to promote women in entrepreneurship through the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana. Emphasizing the growth of women entrepreneurs in India in the past 10 years, Mrs. Irani said to the International Delegates, " Welcome to the country of 230 million women entrepreneurs." Mrs. Irani proposed the creation of a first responders framework for helping women who are vulnerable to climate change.

Mrs. Irani recommended leveraging technology and the Internet of Things(IoT) for the public good and women's empowerment instead of limiting it to a few areas and utilizing education and skill development programs to elevate women in our society.



**Ms. Dharitri Patnaik, Chief Coordinator, W20** proposed the vote of thanks. She thanked Smt. Smriti Irani and G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant for their continued support of the W20. Ms. Patnaik expressed her immense gratitude towards Dr. Sandhya Purecha for her leadership and guidance to the Women 20. She also thanked the various stakeholders of W20, the delegates from 15 countries, international organizations, media, and others.

# SESSION - 1

## Empowering Women in Nano, Micro, and Startup Enterprises



Women represent two out of every five early-stage entrepreneurs that are active globally. Globally, women represent about one in three high-growth entrepreneurs and one in three innovation entrepreneurs that are focused on national and international markets. Women entrepreneurs in upper–middle–income countries represent some of the most innovative, high-growth entrepreneurs globally, and are at parity with men with regard to international market focus. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, women experienced similar declines to men in entrepreneurial intentions (to start a business) but sharper declines in startup rates in 2020. However, this was not the case in upper–middle–income countries, where both startup intentions and rates for women actually rose, by 4% and 11%, respectively, from 2019 to 2021.

Some of the common challenges and problems faced by women entrepreneurs are that fewer sectors are Women friendly, Lack of Social and Institutional Support, Poor Funding Prospects, a Lack of Access to Professional Networks, Pressure to Stick to Traditional Gender Roles, Lack of Entrepreneurial Environment, Limited Mobility, Lack of Education, Low Risk-Bearing Ability, Balancing Responsibilities between Family & Business, Stiff Competition, Limited Industry Knowledge, Missing Role Models, Social Construct and Safety Concerns.

### **Session Objectives:**

- To deliberate on women's entrepreneurship
- Share best practices and measures to advance female participation in entrepreneurship
- To discuss policy recommendations that allow for women-led development.

The session focused on the challenges faced by “Womenpreneurs” across the world such as poor institutional support, lack of funding prospects, professional networks, and quality education, and focused its attention on establishing an inclusive framework and configuration allowing women to set up their enterprises without any discrimination and prejudice.

### Opening Remarks:

**Mr. Jayen Mehta, Managing Director, GCMF, India** gave the introductory address and iterated how women from across the spectrum have helped Amul transform the Indian Dairy Industry. He highlighted the role of education and skill development in empowering women to bring about socio-economic development in India through women dairy farmers. Mr. Mehta also enumerated the measures undertaken by Amul to help W20 make progress in its key priority areas.



### Panel Moderator:

**Ms. Andrea Gobocopatel, Economist and President of FLOR Foundation and Resilience SGR, Argentina** moderated the session. She underscored the importance of education in bringing about a change in society and focused on the labor and financial inclusion of all, especially women.

### Panelists:

**Virginia Littlejohn** commented on the importance of knowledge partnerships in progressing women. She urged the W20 to work on actions and recommendations mentioned in the previous W20 communique and pursue funding to help drive their implementation. She emphasized continuing work with OECD on developing a women's entrepreneurial policy framework and a roadmap for ecosystem development. She encouraged W20 to work with the World Bank We-Fi program and the financial alliance for women to get W20 countries to adopt a women entrepreneurs' finance code based on the UK best practice.



**Ms. Jahnabi Phookan, Director of JTI Group, India**, spoke on the importance of Tourism from the Gender perspective as women's participation in this sector is largely in the informal sector and only with certified training and mentoring, can be raised to the formal sector of tourism. This was taken up by Jahnabi as President, of Ficci FLO, with the Ministry of Tourism, GOI in an MOU in August 2020 on Tourism as a Sustainable Livelihood Model for Women's Economic Upliftment. She further asserted that "High Value, Low Impact" tourism can safeguard the fragile ecosystem of India's Northeast which comprises eight states in the Eastern Himalayas. Her company's three decades of Responsible Tourism practices have supported communities and encouraged nano entrepreneurship around their river cruising operations in the two great Himalayan rivers of Ganges and Brahmaputra. ([www.jtigroup.co.in](http://www.jtigroup.co.in))

**Natasha Majumdar, India Representative, Amfori** suggested empowering Gender-Responsive Procurement to encourage women entrepreneurs and called for the establishment of a Code of Conduct to enhance their share and role in supply chains encouraging more women to rise above the social hierarchy and carve out their path.

**Sevim Zehra Kaya** established the importance of innovation for women entrepreneurs and how innovation helps to establish themselves within the real world. She talked about the Women in Innovation project of KADEM which involves providing women entrepreneurs with consultancy services for business development for increasing the labor force participation rate of women.

**Satoko Kono, CEO of Arun, Japan** explained how historical prejudices against women have restricted them from truly fulfilling their potential and

suggested proactive governance and fair financial regulations for promoting women in business. She then talked about potential solutions and key recommendations that might provide a much-needed boost to the female community of our society to spread their wings and realize their dreams within the domain of entrepreneurship and business.

### **Key Recommendations:**

- Create an open gender database within G20 countries and a national strategy on gender equality and equity and implement a women entrepreneurship policy for promoting women in fintech and entrepreneurship.
- To establish a Code of Conduct for Gender-Responsive Procurement to encourage women entrepreneurs to enhance their share and role in supply chains encouraging more women to rise above the social hierarchy and carve out their own paths.
- Provision of proactive governance, fair financial regulations, and ensuring an equitable platform for all.
- Ensuring quality education and modern-day skills to arm women to break the glass ceiling and acquire the financial independence necessary to institute SMEs.
- Incorporation of gender analysis into investing and promoting practices that support women in their endeavors of achieving financial independence while entering a male-dominated sector.
- We need to work on empowering the tourism industry, as it contributes strongly to fragile economic ecosystems and helps women sustain their livelihoods. Understanding the role of traditional industries such as handloom and handicrafts in providing women a sustainable livelihood model, especially within the informal sectors.

Dr. Sandhya Purecha, Chair of W20 India pioneered this session by launching iWIN365, a women's startup initiative by iCreate that is developed to aid and assist women in setting up their own enterprises and achieving financial freedom.



# SESSION -2

## Role of Women as Changemakers in Climate Resilience Action



The climate change crisis coupled with gender inequality is a challenge and it poses threat to health, safety, and livelihood for women and girls around the world. Climate disasters have been shown to increase gender-based violence. Around 21.5 million people are displaced each year globally because of climate-related issues, and children and women are 14 times more likely than men to die or be injured due to a natural disaster. The changing weather patterns affect rural women's labor force participation in agriculture and their agricultural production. Women comprise 43% of the agricultural labor force in developing countries.

Therefore, women are impacted by any strains on agricultural production in terms of managing household poverty and food scarcity. During periods of drought and erratic rainfall, women, as primary procurers, work harder to secure food, water, and cooking fuel for their families. This puts added pressure on girls, who often have to drop out of school to help their mothers manage the increased burden. Around the world, girls are the first to leave school to support their families and take on extra domestic chores created by new climate conditions. Girls are also less likely to re-enroll in school than boys. It has also been observed that women often have a strong body of knowledge and expertise that can be used in climate change mitigation, disaster reduction, and adaptation strategies.

Furthermore, women's responsibilities in households and communities, as stewards of natural and household resources, positions them well to contribute to livelihood strategies adapted to changing environmental realities. Hence it is high time we talk about the impact of climate change and the linkages between women's empowerment & how global climate action encourages women to become Eco Changemakers and bring the revolutionary change which is the need of the hour.

### **Session Objective:**

- To strengthen women and adolescent girls' participation in ensuring environmental sustainability to elevate their role in decision-Making into all areas of climate change action
- Mainstream gender in mitigation, technology adoption, and capacity development and create Women Eco Changemakers.



The session on 'Role of Women as Changemakers in Climate Resilience Action' underscored the need for introducing a gendered lens to policy designing at the global level. The session shed light on how gender inequalities coupled with climate change and natural disasters severely impact the vulnerable sections of society, especially children and women, and was aimed at utilizing their broad base of knowledge and expertise for disaster mitigation efforts and climate resilience action. The session was based on India's five key priorities and desires to strengthen women's and adolescent girls' participation in environmental sustainability to elevate their role as decision-makers in areas of climate action and diminution efforts by mainstreaming gender in mitigation, technology adoption, and capacity development that helps in executing and implementing policies that reduce the threat of climate change and its impact on endangered sections of society.



#### **Panel Moderator:**

**Ms. Martina Rogato, Chair W20 Task Force on Climate Change** moderated the session and emphasized the detrimental and disproportionate effects of climate change on women. She stated that “Climate change is no longer a theory. It is sadly now a reality.” She further explained the implications of climate change in society and our personal lives and how it impacts our physical, mental, and economic well-being.

#### **Panelists:**

**Ms. Angela Joo-Hyun Kang, Founder & Executive President of, the Global Competitiveness Empowerment Forum(GCEF)** iterated on the challenges faced by women due to climate change and emphasized the role of multilateral institutions like W20 in bringing about change in society.

She recommended increased participation and representation of women in multilateral forums such as COP. She urged G20 leaders to collaborate and establish a high-level panel on gender and climate change and advocated for the inclusion of W20 in the Environmental Ministers meeting of the G20.



**Ms. Samantha Jane Hung, Chief of the Gender Equality Thematic Group at the Asian Development Bank** set forth the various measures undertaken by ADB to achieve the twin goals of climate and gender. She underscored the projects initiated by ADB which are centered around women and sets targets to ensure women’s training and their representation at the decision-making table. She highlighted the efforts of ADB of incorporating a gendered perspective in the national climate policies of governments. She advocated for scaling up the investment in women’s resilience at the community level, the creation of green jobs and investment in STEM education, and the creation of a gender-responsive climate policy.

**Ms. Natasha Zarine, Co-Founder & MD of, Center for Applied Research and People’s Engagement, Aurangabad, India** recommended every gender work together, collaborate and tackle climate change together. She emphasized the need for systematic solutions and urged the W20 to work with grassroots organizations to bridge the gap between the community and the government.

**Ms. Elena Myakotnikova, CEO advisor SIBUR & Russia** demonstrated the path towards climate action by enumerating measures taken by SIBUR to reduce carbon emissions. She called attention to the impact of small steps undertaken during Indonesia’s presidency such as releasing fish into Lake Toba and planting trees.

She recommended undertaking small steps to make difference at the global scale, involving youth in G20 and sharing best practices and best solutions among the G20 countries.

**Ms. Prachi Shevgaonkar, Young Climate Changemaker & Advisor Climate Leadership Coalition**, gave an inspirational and detailed description of her journey and encouraged every global citizen to take small steps towards sustainability. She recommended the W20 set up a G20 fund for women-led climate innovations and an advisory committee of young climate leaders to increase the participation of women in the decision-making process.

### **Key Recommendations:**

- Call to increased attention to climate issues within important multilateral institutions.
- Greater women's participation in climate and environment forums such as COP and promotion of the idea of Women-led development to transform women into climate changemakers.
- Reimagine women as a part of the solution and of focused gender-responsive resiliency interventions to prevent the disproportionate brunt of climate degeneration.
- Ensuring women's involvement in energy transition efforts to allow the equitable distribution of its benefits for all
- Gender-inclusive policies can play a role in mitigating the impacts of climate change for the marginalized sections of society.
- The need for collective action and youth involvement to protect the environment and prevent climate change.
- Promoting women within green jobs, investing in skilling programs, adopting climate-smart agricultural practices, and striving for nature-based solutions.

# SESSION - 3

## Creating an Enabling Ecosystem for Women Leaders at the Grassroots



Women leaders and their achievements are recognized around the world, but often this recognition focuses on women in high-profile political and industrial leadership. For many women—particularly those who are marginalized by mainstream opportunities and decision-making—change needs to occur at the community level to deliver a positive impact on their everyday lives. In this context, the question of women’s leadership within their own communities becomes critical. But what form does grassroots leadership by women take? How does it develop? And, what changes do women bring about at the grassroots level that can positively impact their peers and the world?

The connection between grassroots action led by women and sustainable development is a powerful one. Practices to promote well-being and economic development at the local level are shown to align with the Sustainable Development Goals. If properly implemented, therefore, policies and processes formulated at national and international levels can empower women at the grassroots to improve living conditions for their families and communities, and enable them to emerge as leaders. With this in mind, we as a society must pursue gender equality in leadership at the grassroots thus empowering all women and girls to contribute fully to sustainable development.

**Session Objective:**

To identify challenges and pathways in ensuring equal participation by girls and women in political and public leadership at the grassroots level, in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The third session of the W20 Inception Meet was focused on identifying challenges and pathways to ensuring equal participation by girls and women in political and public leadership at the grassroots level. In order to change the ground realities, there is a need to promote leadership at a smaller community level that is capable of delivering a positive impact on the everyday lives of normal citizens.

The need for gender equality in leadership cannot be understated as it plays a crucial part in empowering women by pushing for gender-inclusive policies and also contributes to SDG goals.

**Panel Moderator:**

**Dr. Farahdibha Tenrilemba, Co-Chair of the W20 Task Force on Grassroots Leadership**, emphasized the W20 Indonesia communique which enlists the action plan to achieve the objectives of W20 and moderated the session.

**Panelists:**

**Professor Shamika Ravi, Member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, Government of India** spoke about the bottom-up approach to women empowerment in India, referring to the reservations for women in Panchayat elections. She stressed the role of women as voters, referring to them as “agents of change”. She applauded the quotas and reservations in political parties and the Asha workers, the backbone of India’s public health.

**Ms. Bharati Ghosh W20 Delegate & Chair of Taskforce on Grassroots Leadership** elaborated on the schemes undertaken by the Indian government for the economic and social empowerment of women in India, especially since 2014. She appreciated the Prime Minister’s efforts for redefining the concept of women’s development to demolish gender inequalities that persist within the social consciousness of our society. She also discussed the progress of Indian women in the past 10 years in the parliament, panchayats, cooperatives, IPS, and defense sector.

**Mrs. Sudhaben Sureshbhai Patel, Vice-Chairperson of Valsad District Cooperative Milk Producers Union Limited-Vasudhara Dairy**, spoke about the role of animal husbandry business in the economic empowerment of women. She iterated her inspirational story and the impact made by her at the grassroots level.

She emphasized focusing on village cooperative society to actualize the vision of women-led development. She also elaborated on the sustainability measures adopted by grassroots women to further the cause of climate action.

**Ms. Farah Arabe, Co-President of Harvard Kennedy School's Women Network & Founder of itotheN** highlighted the role of mothers as change-makers in society and the impact of gender-sensitive upbringing in shaping the world. She stressed the gender pay gap and cultural norms that limit women's freedom of choice between paid and unpaid work.



**Ms. Sibulele Poswayo, Gender Specialist, Border Rural Committee, South Africa** emphasized the hidden capacities of women. She spoke about the challenge of unpaid care work and stressed including solutions to economic discrimination and gender-based violence. She also urged for discussion on issues of patriarchy and toxic masculinity to bring about cultural change and improve women's access to productive resources. She recommended local governments include women in asset-based community development by embracing hidden capacities in the indigenous knowledge and ensuring progressive gender strategies in all international funding institutions with clearly defined social and environmental safeguards that put the rights of women and the girl child at the forefront.



**Ms. Rimjhim Gour, Founder & Director at Sapiens Research and Analysis & Founder & Director at GRAMYA** accented women's empowerment through women-led development and by promoting women's grassroots leadership, especially in North-east India. Through the medium of inspirational stories of grassroots women leaders in India, she highlighted the sustainability efforts being made by women at the grassroots level. She applauded the use of radio to ensure public participation and efficient outreach to women of India by the Honorable PM Narendra Modi.

### Key Recommendations:

- The increased use of financial instruments for the financial inclusion of women.
- Improved women's representation at executive and legislature levels.
- The importance of collaboration, cooperation, and communication to promote women at grassroots leadership.
- The need for progressive gender strategies that put women and girls at the forefront.
- Creation of a time-stamp and a framework to bridge the gender digital divide and promote women as leaders at the grassroots level.
- The creation of a feminist ecosystem aimed at equal participation for women in various spheres.

# SESSION - 4

## Improving Access Through Infrastructure & Skill to bridge the Gender Digital Divide



While Information Communication Technology (ICT) is recognized as having the potential to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, a digital gender divide has been identified, whereby women and girls access and use ICTs less than men and boys, which exacerbates gender inequalities.

The digital divide can be explained as the inequalities between the digital haves and the have-nots in terms of their access to the internet and the ICTs. With the onset of unprecedented technological and digital advances in today's time, there is a widening inequality between digital haves and have-nots. This leaves a significant knowledge gap in the digital realities for today's generation of girls.

Women are more likely to have simpler feature phones that do not support mobile internet use, and women are 20% less likely than men to own a smartphone. The NFHS data reflects that a higher percentage of urban women own mobile phones as compared to rural women. Women are more likely than men to borrow or share mobile phones (often within a household or from a male family member) and are rarely the primary owners of a mobile device. Women also use digital services less often and less intensively, and they access the internet less frequently, for fewer reasons as compared to their male counterparts. These disparities in usage limit women's access to the full range of opportunities offered by digital technology.

### **Session Objective:**

- To identify the reason and causes for Gender Digital Divide.
- To work towards mitigating the causes and close the gaps and foster an environment that would translate into the adoption and frequent use of Digital Technology by Women and Girls.

The fourth season was focused on bridging the gender digital divide, leveraging technology and the internet of things to enable women to break the barriers and institute themselves as core architects of human society.

The panelist narrowed their attention on the cause of this long-standing gender digital divide, potential solutions to bridge this divide, and promoting the uptake of digitization and technology for women and girls, which is extremely necessary in a modern digitized world. The delegates emphasized finding solutions to the serious problem of accumulation of resources in the hands of a few giving them unreasonable power while others struggle for their survival.



### **Introductory Remarks**

**Mr. Nagaraja Naidu, IFS, India Co-Chair Developing Working Group G20**, re-emphasized India's exponential transformation in the digital infrastructure, allowing the citizens to realize their potential, and has been utilized for the public good. He focused on the efforts of the G20 to bridge the gender digital divide and requested everyone to work collectively towards promoting the endeavor of women-led development.

### **Panel Moderator:**

**Ms. Dharitri Patnaik, Chief-Coordinator W20 Secretariat, and Chair of the W20 Task Force on Bridging the Gender Digital Divide** moderated the session and requested the panelists to share the causes of the digital divide and what policy measures and recommendations can be utilized to traverse this divide. She said, “We hope that those who have been left behind in the digital and innovation space will be able to make up through the provision of adequate digital infrastructure, services, and skills”.



### Panelists:

**Ms. Juliane Rosin, Head of Division for International Affairs at the National Council of German Women's Organizations (DF), Germany, W20 Delegate** recommended ratifying convention 119 of IRO to protect women and girls in the workplace and ratifying regional conventions on combating violence against women such as the Istanbul Convention. She also recommended the G20 set up a National Action Fund for achieving a gender-just digital transformation.

**Giovanna Avellis, Chair of the Italian Research Staff Association, Italy** laid emphasis on the betterment of digital infrastructure to promote women's access to technology. She intensified the need for upskilling programs and awareness campaigns to transform the social mindset and the patriarchal stereotypes. She also stressed the need to develop gender-sensitive guidelines for AI.

**Nidhi Gupta, Program Head, i3 Access – Community of Practice on Financial Health and Resilience** demanded a concrete vision and action plan to realize the ambition of gender equality and economic empowerment. She urged global leaders to treat the digital divide as a crisis of the same magnitude as COVID-19, as it impairs individuals from substantiating their potential and hinders the growth of the nation, and treat it with the same avidity and eagerness. She also spoke of the importance of financial health and urged the G20 leaders to explicitly state the commitment of the G20 to promoting financial literacy and health.

**Ms. Cheryl Miller Van Dÿck, Founding Director of the Digital Leadership Institute, European Union, and W20 European Union,** spoke about how the European Commission, under the leadership of capable female leaders and commissioners, has made considerable progress in the realm of gender equality, implemented impactful policies that have ensured greater women participation in STEM fields and the workforce, and is still working on new goals to achieve gender parity and traverse the gender digital divide. She appreciated the efforts of ongoing movements that seek to promote digitization among women at the grassroots level and suggested the need for quotas to promote women within information and communication technology.

### **Key Recommendations:**

- G20 must set up a National Action Fund for achieving a gender-just digital transformation.
- Breaking the barriers that might prevent women from accessing technology and IoT such as data affordability and accessibility.
- Promoting access and usage of mobile content and digital services such as mobile banking to ensure the financial inclusion of women.
- Providing adequate infrastructure, digital services, and skills for ensuring technological accessibility for all.
- Specialized missions and programs to promote women's rights and improve their access to digital technology.
- The use of quotas to promote women within the digital sphere and information and communication technology.
- Improvement within digital infrastructure and the creation of a supportive framework that assists women to enter male-dominated industries and balance out the environments that are discriminatory and hinder their growth and development.

# SESSION - 5

## Creating Pathways for Women through Education & Skilling



Investing in women's Education & Skills development is one of the most urgent and effective means to drive progress on gender equality, poverty eradication, and inclusive economic growth. Despite growing evidence of the positive outcomes of women's economic empowerment, women continue to experience unequal access to education and skills development and face barriers to securing decent employment and opportunities to thrive as entrepreneurs.

Women's access to resources, including land and loans, may be restricted by discriminatory laws, for which they continue to shoulder an unequal share of unpaid care work, due to the persistence of traditional gender roles. Low skills perpetuate poverty and inequality, particularly with respect to women. When done right, women's skills development can reduce un- and underemployment, increase productivity, and improve standards of living. Helping women develop and update their skills makes economic sense.

A university-educated young woman is almost two times more likely to complete the labor market transition than a less-educated young woman. Yet, most countries continue to struggle in delivering on the promise of skills development. There are huge gaps in basic literacy and numeracy of skilled women & working-age populations. The development of skills amongst women can contribute to structural transformation and economic growth by enhancing employability and labor productivity and helping countries to become more competitive. Hence it becomes imperative to educate and skill women so as to increase access of women to decent employment and entrepreneurial opportunities.

### **Session Objective:**

Encouraging & Empowering women and girls through skill development and education to create pathways for them to take up available income-generating opportunities and also create new entrepreneurial setups which in turn will contribute to structural transformation and economic growth of the region.



The fifth session of the W20 Inception Meet stressed the need for empowering women and girls through skill development and education to create pathways for them to take up available income-generating opportunities and also create new entrepreneurial setups which in turn will contribute to structural transformation, poverty eradication, and economic growth. The session emphasized the disparities caused due to lack of quality education and skilling programs and how etching out ways to engender these inequalities can prove beneficial for nations by enhancing employability, and labor productivity and positively contributing to economic growth by helping nations become more competitive.

### **Introductory Remarks**

**Professor Shamika Ravi, Member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister,** Government of India gave the introductory remarks and emphasized on inclusion of women in the labor force and the need to improve financial literacy.

She proposed a change in the economic nature of women's caregiving activities, by including them as marketable activities, thus raising the contribution of women in the economy. She suggested sharing the cost of caregiving activities between men and women through government policy and labor policy.



**Panel Moderator:**

**Cheryl Miller Van Dyck, W20 Task Force Chair and Founding Director of the Digital Leadership Institute, European Union** moderated the session and gave a call for action to help women and girls who are disproportionately affected by conflicts, tragedies, and disasters across the world. She expressed her gratification and delight and thanked the Indian city of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar for its warmth and hospitality. She quoted the Indian social reformer, educationalist, and poet Shrimati Savitribai Phule, “Be self-reliant, be industrious, Work, gather wisdom and riches, all gets lost without knowledge. We become animal without wisdom, Sit idle no more, go, get education” while highlighting the importance of advancing education and skill development, especially for women.

### Panelists:

**Dr. Sandhya Purecha, Chair of W20 India** stated the importance of education in inculcating values and norms which are of extreme importance especially for women because it allows them to liberate and empower themselves, their families, and the whole society. She also articulated the challenges faced by performing artists and academicians and advocated for the instigation of special quotas providing them with employment possibilities within both the public and private sectors. She enunciated the need to work on minimizing the gender pay gap and establishing a proper health infrastructure for female artists. She recommended the inclusion of female artists in the pension scheme as well as the provision of insurance policies to provide financial support to female artists.



**Dr. Rajita Kulkarni, Author & President of Sri Sri University,** commented on the Indian dilemma of how women after outperforming their male counterparts in the academic domain face the challenge of balancing their professional careers along with their caregiving responsibilities towards their families and are forced to give up on their professional vocation. She highlighted the correlation between education and skill development and labor force participation for women and the role they must play to power India to the top three economies, which will ultimately impact the global growth levels. She emphasized the need for intentionality from leaders serving on various levels for the creation of a cooperative and conducive framework and an ecosystem to support and facilitate women working to strike out a balance between professional and personal responsibilities.

**Ms. Ksenia Shevtsova, Head of the International Partnerships Office, HSE University, Russia** spoke about inadequate pecuniary support to females involved in higher education and scientific research in collation with their male complement. She also deprecated the patriarchal stereotypes that exist within the educational sector instituting barriers that hinder and restrict women from realizing their potential. women highlighted the significance of women-centric financial strategies and programs to promote women researchers and scientists that will encourage younger women and the coming generations to join STEM.

**Dr. Gayathari Vasudevan, Co-founder & CEO of LabourNet** appreciated the significant upswing in female literacy and women's education in India but was concerned at their falling participation within the Indian workforce. She supplicated women to partake in the new booming industries whilst emphasizing the need to reshape the stereotypical mindset that restricts female ingress to education and the workforce. She recommended the role of state policy to incentivize companies through tax breaks and other means to proliferate the labor force participation of women.

### **Recommendations:**

- The use of quotas and other measures to promote education and skill development programs and help women achieve an equitable status and financial freedom that would result in the cessation of gender inequalities.
- The replication of the Indian concept of women-oriented start-ups and growth funds, and credit guarantees for small-scale entrepreneurs especially women.
- The creation of a cooperative and conducive framework to facilitate education and skill development, especially for women.
- Introduction of financial and social schemes to promote women in higher education and research, particularly within STEM fields.
- Institutionalizing a policy that promotes skill-exchange programs at a global level.

# SPECIAL SESSION DAY- 1

## Women-led Development in India



Day 1 of the W20 Inception Meeting ended with a special session that focussed on prioritizing and advancing the Prime Minister of India's vision of women-led development, which prioritizes development initiated, led, and executed by women, especially in India and globally with the objective of transforming women into the architects of our society by disrupting the barriers that have prevented women from realizing their potentialities and seeks to create an enabling environment for women to fully participate in all aspects of development including decision-making, resource allocation, and implementation.

Women-led development recognizes that women have unique knowledge and special skills and experiences that can contribute to sustainable and equitable development. Still, we see that in most countries across the globe, women are reduced to the sidelines of the decision-making, policy formulation, and implementation process resulting in isolated and exclusive policies and schemes that impede women from contributing to the economic and social betterment of our society.

### **Session Objective:**

- W20, under India's presidency, is focused to institute women at the forefront of our society by empowering and supporting them in their endeavors.
- India aims to establish an equitable platform for women to break the social ceilings that have existed for long and help them thrive in a changing environment.
- Promote women-led development that seeks to address gender inequalities.

### **Introductory Remarks:**

**Dr. Sandhya Purecha, Chair W20 India, 2023** greeted the panelist and welcomed them onto the stage. She iterated how the Government of India under the Prime Minister's able leadership has taken steps to promote women-led development and empower women across the length and breadth of the nation through their schematic social, economic, educational, and political measures.



She specifically highlighted schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, The National Social Assistance Program, the Samagra Shiksha Scheme, the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme, Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana, Swachh Vidyalaya Abhiyan under the Swachh Bharat Mission and others that have contributed for the creation of an inclusive and friendly environment for girls, especially from the vulnerable sections and ensure adequate facilities for them to realize their potential in a much competitive world. She also appreciated and expressed her gratitude for capable policy measures undertaken by the Government of India within various sectors that have assisted Indian women to etch out a name for themselves and inspire thousands of other girls looking up to them. She then invited Ms. Hadriani Uli Silalahi from Indonesia to talk, discuss and analyze the need for women's empowerment and the measures required to aid the creation of a gender-neutral and equitable world.

## Panelists:

**Mrs. Hadriani Uli Silalahi, Chair of W20 Indonesia, 2022** thanked Dr. Sandhya Purecha for leading the Indian presidency with sheer elegance and brilliance. She also appreciated the efforts of the W20 Secretariat for organizing such a tremendous event at such a magnificent place like Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, India home to one of India's many UNESCO World Heritage sites. She then proceeded to introduce the Indonesian delegation and expressed their support and cooperation to India and its quest for a successful G20 presidency. She emphasized the importance of the inception meeting to ensure continuity with prior agendas. She asked the delegates to cooperate, unite their voices and continue the fight for women's development. We are privileged enough to lead the fight for gender equality within our countries but we should aim to make sure that no woman is left behind. She was hopeful that Indian Presidency would succeed in establishing an enabling environment for women by taking up significant issues within their communique and called for unity, cooperation, collaboration, and cooperation in the engagement group as they all are working for a similar cause. She invited all the G20 nations and their representatives to the United Nations to celebrate International Women's Day and asked them to continue their struggle for gender equality and women's empowerment, "To empower women is to empower the world".

**Mr. Astik Pandey, District Magistrate, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar Maharashtra** shared his thoughts with the delegates. Mr. Pandey expressed his gratitude to Dr. Sandhya Purecha and all the delegates for the opportunity. He accentuated what women go through when they are not represented properly. He further stated how Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar prepared with limited resources and time to successfully organize this event of immense importance and how it has helped the city to etch out its name at the national and international levels. Mr. Astik Pandey spoke about the city's rich cultural heritage, industrial potential, strategic geographical location, and diversity and was optimistic that enchanted by its diverse and rich cultural heritage, the Delegates will be back in India.

**Ms. Bansuri Swaraj, Advocate, Supreme Court of India** expressed her delight and pleasure to be in a room of such talented women. She congratulated all the delegates for the wonderful and insightful sessions and welcomed them to India, the land of “Ardhanareeshwara”, where the divine masculine co-exists with the divine feminine without any discrimination and disparity, where economic well-being is represented by goddess Lakshmi, valor and bravery by goddess Durga and education and skill development is represented by goddess Saraswati. She expressed her disappointment at how a historical period of societal degeneration, and multiple invasions took us away from our roots and created gender disparity within the nation.



She further emphasized that there has been a tectonic shift in this regard since 2014 when Prime Minister Modi led the country out of the stormy waters of the Coalition era with women's development at the forefront of his manifesto and agenda. She spoke about how the overwhelming support from the Indian citizens allowed the Prime Minister to transform these agendas into actionable plans and carve out policies such as Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao; MUDRA Yojana; Jan Dhan Yojana which have contributed to the social and economic upliftment of Indian women. She further elaborated on the impact of these policies and how the Modi administration is working to transform women from mere beneficiaries of the developmental process to the core architects of Indian society. She requested everyone to come up with actionable recommendations as these will be reflected within the leader's declaration.

# SPECIAL SESSION DAY- 2

## Breaking the Barriers: The Stories of Unconventional Women



Day 2 of the inception meeting started with a special session on the theme "Breaking the Barriers: The Stories of Unconventional Women". In every country around the world, women face multiple barriers and gender-based discrimination in the workplace. The discrimination sets in early—from the kind of education girls get or till which age, to the kind of work they are channeled into. In both private and public spheres, women face occupational segregation due to cultural mindsets and stereotypes. These obstacles make it harder for women to get on an equal footing with men in the world of work.

It is observed in job roles where women have broken the stereotype and taken jobs that were more likely to be done by men, the dropout ratio is more than twice as many women leaving or changing the job role (33%) after joining as compared that of men (14%). Only 67 countries have laws against gender discrimination in hiring. Even though women manage to enter the workforce in relatively equal numbers as men, the rise to the top can be slower and harder for women.

With all these challenges hanging over their heads women are managing to break the glass ceiling. They are fighting this battle every day and emerging as heroes. The number of working women is rising showing that the choice they have of turning their lives for the better is with them. They have a resounding say in the matter of career, profession, and lifestyle and are becoming less dependent on the diktats of men. Women are brandishing against all stereotypes by excelling and outshining in fields that were male-dominated till now. Such women are setting raving examples for other women to pave their path and carve their own success stories.

The session brought together inspirational women from across the fields such as performing arts, defense forces, business, and social sectors. The session was focused on India's aim of demolishing the barriers that have hindered its path and creating an enabling environment for them to transcend, thrive and transform their lives as well as others.

## Session Objective:

The session was focused on the success stories of women who have broken the gender barrier and chosen to pursue unconventional career paths to inspire and motivate women across the spectrum to not let the gender perspective influence their realities and follow their own dreams and ambitions.

The session started with Dr. Sandhya Purecha, Chair W20 India, and Ms. Sonal Mansingh, MP Rajya Sabha, launching a coffee table book called "Avyana" highlighting the contribution of women to the heritage city of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar.



## Introductory remarks :

**Ms. Sonal Mansingh, MP from Rajya Sabha,** welcomed the international delegates by bowing her head in "Namaskara" symbolic of the Indian idea of identifying the God within each one of us. She then narrated a personal story of a fatal accident in Germany. She told that doctors believed that she won't be able to dance again. However, the strength of her character and willpower that comes from being a woman allowed her to defy the realities. She was up on her feet in time and was back to dancing, which was the root of her consciousness within no time. She told the delegates how proud she was to be a woman and an Indian. She asked all the delegates to learn dance and some other art that will help them identify with their body and grow.

The session started with the stories of Shazia Khan, Disha Amrith, Tavishi Singh, and Swati Bhandari from the Indian Navy who rose above the social fabric to quash the patriarchal ideas that restrict women from entering certain sectors.

**Shazia Khan, Surgeon Commander of the Indian navy** spoke about how the armed force shapes your reality and helps you achieve your best version.

She expressed her delight to dawn the Whites of the Indian Navy and how it has instilled in her a sense of fearlessness and pride. She expressed her gratitude to the Indian Navy as it has allowed her to inspire young girls across the nation and her parents for the freedom and autonomy provided to her and was hopeful that every parent would allow their daughters to spread their wings.

**Tavishi Singh, Lt. Commander of the Indian navy** disrupted the misconception that women aren't fit for field work by sharing her experience and how she flourished within her role at the Indian Navy. She also spoke about her gratitude for the women who inspired her, paved the path, and helped her crack the dream of her life. She iterated her passion to inspire women to join the defense forces, play a crucial part in STEM fields and help them break the barriers of patriarchal stereotypes.



**Disha Amrith, Lt. Commander of the Indian navy** conveyed her appreciation to the National Cadet Corps, who shaped her and allowed her to fulfill her dream. She spoke of her struggle to join the navy coming from a civilian background and verbalized her gratitude for her parents for allowing their daughters to follow their dreams. She urged women to have faith in themselves as they have the power to shape the future of human existence.

**Swati Bhandari, Lt. Commander of the Indian Navy** spoke of her unique dilemma as a kid to choose between the three factions of the Indian armed forces.



She articulated how she overcame her fear of heights to earn her wings as a Naval Air Operation officer and urged women across the globe to face their fears, spread their wings, and realize their dreams.

**Deepa Bhat Nair, representative of the Navy Welfare and Wellness Association (NWWA)** elaborated on the role played by the families of the Naval officers in the growth of the Indian society and in empowering women through their initiatives. Ms. Nair spoke about outreach and skill development programs conducted by NWWA to empower Indian women and help them achieve financial independence and self-reliance. She also enounces NWWA's contribution to disaster mitigation efforts and the role they played in the aftermath of the Kerela floods of 2018

**Zubedia Bibi, a member of the J&K Rural Livelihood Mission** expressed how the administration's initiative under the Modi Government has helped women in rural areas to economically empower themselves and provide for their families. The mission has helped 6.15 lakh women from J&K and also operates in other regions.

She spoke about the region of Jammu and Kashmir and how ill and false representation has vilified the region and verbalized the beauty and potential of Jammu and Kashmir.

**Ms. Pritika Chatterjee, Director of Marketing at Savera Engineering** spoke about how skill development and education can be used to bring inclusivity within heavily male-dominated sectors, as demonstrated by Savera Engineering, which has successfully executed these strategies to promote gender inclusivity. She was extremely proud of her decision to employ women for male-dominated roles and called it the best decision of her life. As it not only gives her a sense of fulfillment but has also helped her business to grow and thrive.

The session was appreciated by the audience and received huge applause both from the International Delegates and the Indian representatives.



# SESSION - 6

## Enablers of Women-led Development: Policy and Legal Framework



Laws around the world largely fail to protect the rights of women to non-discrimination, respect for family life, labor market inclusion, and a life free from violence. Policies focused on gender traditionally, have failed to address the specific needs of women. Women face additional barriers to their socioeconomic participation compared to men resulting in significant employment gaps and high exposure to gender-based violence. They also face various constraints which withhold their development. Such as requiring a spouse's permission to work outside the home, limited public knowledge about women's rights, and uneven implementation and enforcement of gender-neutral laws. There is a lot that has been done but not enough has been achieved to ensure gender equality.

The session focused on how laws, written by elitist white-male a long time ago impact women in a male-dominated profession and how can we change this system. The session also underscored how these laws have failed to ensure gender equity and italicized what can be done to ensure that women live a life full of dignity without any discrimination.

### **Session Objective:**

Share stories and discuss laws that facilitate women-led development as well as legal reforms and framework to further advance women's economic empowerment. The session aimed to renounce the role of policy and legal framework and reforms in promoting women as enablers of women-led development and economic empowerment.

### **Keynote Address:**

**Ms. Shraddha Joshi Sharma, Managing Director at Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation and member secretary of the Women's Commission of Maharashtra** discussed the need to make tourism gender inclusive. Even though the data represents that tourism is free from any gender biases, there are disparities in the ground realities. Women are involved in the lower stratum of the tourism industry and are nowhere to be found in top positions.



They are underpaid in comparison to their male counterparts and are often the victims of society's stereotypes. She further iterated the importance of tourism as an industry due to its marvelous potential and opportunities for growth and vocalized the Maharashtra government's vision to make it gender inclusive setting up an example for others to emulate.

In order to realize this vision, the MTDC has come up with an "AAI" policy to liberate tourism from gender parity and create opportunities for women to thrive. The policy will promote women entrepreneurs to participate in the tourism sector and assume key positions within the supply chains. It will also work to provide education and skill development programs necessary to facilitate female inclusion within the sector.

The policy is based upon the "Panchsutra" or five principles that aim to empower women within the sector. These five principles are Women's Entrepreneurship Development; Gender Inclusive Infrastructure; Safety and Security; Customised Products; Engendering Travel and Tourism.



Ms. Shradhha further elaborated that the policy aims to target both supply-side and consumer issues and come up with innovative solutions to break the barriers that have prevented women from accessing tourism as a sector for their livelihood.

#### **Panel Moderator:**

**Ms. Michelle Silverthon, Founder and CEO of Inclusion Nation, USA,** moderated the session. Ms. Silverthon narrated her personal story showcasing the strength of unity and said, “We all have to work together and leave no one behind.” The session focused on how difficult it is to work with laws written by elitist white males in a male-dominated profession and how can we change this system.

#### **Panelists:**

**Narnia Bohler, Advocate & Academician, South Africa** vocalized that law is a very male-dominated profession. She verbalized how she always dreamt of being a lawyer, standing in the courtroom arguing in the quest for truth.

However, it all changed when one of her professors questioned her decision and said that she was too soft-spoken to be a lawyer and would struggle in a male-dominated profession. She was dejected that at that time she was not confident enough to follow up on her dream and instead became a law teacher. Although, she loved the profession but it was not her dream and somewhere within her heart she still feels that longing to be a lawyer arguing cases with the judge. She believed that in order to change this system we all must stand together, make our voices more influential, and only then we can support the cause we all share.

**Ms. Katharina Miller, Founder of MIK Law Firm, Former President of the European Women Lawyers' Association,** Spain talked about how Europe's provision of Equal Pay originated in the Rome Treaty had ulterior motives and was not implemented by any means to promote gender inclusivity and gender equality. She iterated how the efforts of a lady named Gabrielle Defrenne and her lawyer ensured the implementation of the equal pay treaty for all women across the sectors. She enounced that law is a male-dominant profession and women have struggled and worked a lot to ensure that we get a chance to participate within the sector and play a part in it. Ms. Miller highlighted that only quotas are not enough to bring about change in this male-dominated legal system and other such sectors. She stressed the importance of laws and policy measures to inculcate a change in the mindset and behavior that has hindered the progress of women in the world.

**Ms. Susan Jane Ferguson, Country Representative, UN Women India** relied on her perspective as a social worker to elaborate on how the legal system has restricted and hindered women. She was dejected that how women were dependent on laws written by males even when it came to choices regarding their bodies. However, she appreciated the efforts that have been made to promote inclusivity and was extremely grateful to women and lawyers who struggled for it through protest, demonstrations, and external advocacy. She said that to further bring about change within these systems we need to bring about a revolution in terms of social norms and transform the engagement framework between men and women and girls and boys.

**Ms. Bansuri Swaraj, Advocate, Supreme Court of India** expressed her gratitude to the 15 women who played a key role in the Indian constituent assembly to ensure gender equality, gender justice, and the right to life with dignity for all. She said that women's development is a social-cultural issue and gender stereotypes are ingrained within the minds of the people. So we need to come up with actionable plans and recommendations to change this mindset and lay the foundation for a truly equitable and inclusive world. Ms. Bansuri Swaraj requested the women to make their vote count as she feels political will is the easiest way to bring about a change in terms of equity and equality.

### **Key Recommendations:**

- Reforms within societal norms and transformation of the engagement framework between men and women and boys and girls to promote inclusivity and unity.
- The need to empower women and help them unlock their potential which will assist in achieving sustainable development goals.
- Making your vote count as political will is the easiest way to bring about a social revolution and promote gender equity and equality.
- The use of quotas, alongside transformation within social norms to promote and encourage women to partake in male-dominated professions.
- Gender-inclusive laws and policies empower women to break the barriers that have restricted their growth and obstructed their aspirations.
- Unite our voices to make them more influential and empower and support the exquisite goal we all share.
- Work together and leave no one behind.

# THE DELEGATES MEETING



The International Delegates conducted a meeting behind closed doors on February 28, 2023, that was focused on carving out granular timings, strategies, ground laws, principles, and a roadmap to ensure that every participant was working in a similar direction for the creation of an impactful communique that is capable of transforming ground realities and uplifting the social and economic conditions of the women across the globe.

# OFF HOURS:

## JIGYASA: A QUIZ COMPETITION THE W20 CONNECT



W20 in collaboration with the Geostrata successfully organized a pan-Chhatrapati Sabhaji Nagar quiz competition called Jigyasa in Sant Eknath Rangmandir with over 100 schools and 500 plus participants in order to promote and advance W20 India's vision, agenda, and key priorities that seek to aims to enhance the status of women in economic, political, and social terms across the globe and provide them a platform to raise their voices and opinion and bring about a change for a more equitable world.

India as the chair of W20 2023, strives for the creation of an equitable world by reimagining women as the core architects of our society. Nanda Gaikwad, Deputy Commissioner of Aurangabad Municipal Corporation presided over as the chief guest of the event along with education officer Sunil Dongre, Cultural officer Sanjay Sonar, and Apurva Vaidya, program officer with Aurangabad municipal corporation. The Honourable chief guest motivated the students with her kind words and encouraged them to be more involved in India's G20 endeavor and make it representative of the stakeholders. All the participants were felicitated with Certificates of Participation to value and encourage their contribution and effort while the winners were awarded by Dr. Sandhya Purecha, Chair W20 India, and other international delegates.

# JAN-BHAGIDARI



W20 India organized its Jan-Bhagidari event on February 26, 2023, from 4 pm to 5:30 pm at MGM University, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar with the theme of 'Journey to Empowerment' to create an inclusive environment and deliver on its vision of engaging with the citizens to promote good governance and ensure increased stakeholders participation within discussions and deliberations and translate them into policies and resolutions for the betterment of our society.

The event saw the participation of around 1000 women from different walks of life, including Anganwadi workers, women from various NGOs, and many other grassroots-level women workers. Dr. Farahdibha Tenrilemba, leader of the Indonesian delegation, Elena Myakotnikova of the Russian delegation, South Korean delegate Ms. Angela Joo-Hyun Kang, South African delegate Ms. Sibulele Poswayo and Japanese delegate Ms. Satoko Kono participated in the interactive session.



The event began with an enchanting cultural performance by Mahagami, emphasizing the rich and diverse cultural heritage of India, and ended with a Q&A round where the Indian women interacted with the W20 delegates.

Dr. Sandhya Purecha spoke about the importance of the Indian G20 precedence and was hopeful that the nation will play a positive part in finding solutions to global problems for the well-being of all in line with its age-old tradition of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ enshrined within the hearts and soul of its people.

# WELCOME DINNER AT TAJ



The City administration organized a welcome dinner for all the W20 delegates on February 27th, 2023. The delegates were given a grand Maratha welcome where they danced to the tunes of Marathi folk songs. The delegates enjoyed the traditional Marathi Food and were mesmerized by the grandeur of Indian hospitality and enchanting cultural performances.

# THE HERITAGE WALK



The delegates started their second day at the Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar with a heritage walk to the Aurangabad Caves, organized by Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC), symbolic of the city's history, culture, diversity, and unity. The delegates were spellbound by the sheer magnificence of the ancient Monolithic structures. The delegates also witnessed the beautification efforts carried out by the city's administration and learned about the City's history and the significance of its 52 gates. The MTDC provided tourist guides, capable of speaking multiple languages for clear communication and ensuring the satisfactory experience necessary for the city to carve out its name both at the national and international levels.

The delegates were then taken to Bibi Ka Maqbara, an ancient structure of sheer imposition and elegant architecture. Popularly known as the Mini Taj Maha, the architecture became a subject of peculiar interest for the delegates who tried to capture the memories of the magnificent beauty within their minds as well as their cameras.

# THE EXCURSION TO ELLORA



The delegates visited the Ellora Caves, one of the two UNESCO heritage sites in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar on the evening of February 28th, 2023. Ellora is home to 34 caves devoted to Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jainism and the grand Kailasa Temple, the largest monolithic rock-cut temple in the world. The delegates were enthralled by the majesty of the architectonics and the carefully carved-out intricate details out of a single stone. The delegates appreciated Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation and the city administration for their restoration efforts and impeccable hospitality.

# THE EVC GALA



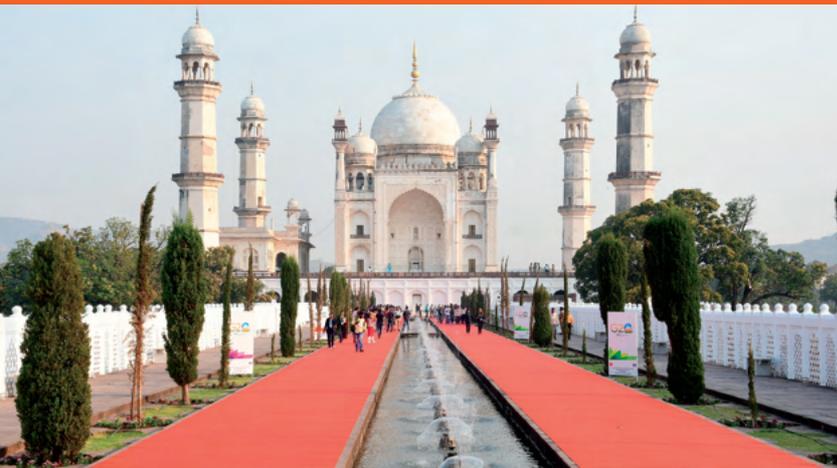
The visit to Ellora was followed by a gala dinner and cultural program organized by the Ellora Visitors' Centre. The EVC organized an industrial exhibit showcasing India's efforts to promote social inclusion and women's contribution to the city's industrial potential. The exhibit also enounced India's commitment to promoting businesses that abide by the ESG priorities important for promoting human development. The industrial exhibit was followed by cultural festivities comprising various dance forms across Maharashtra and India.

The delegates ended their day with a Maharashtrian dinner and were hypnotized by the cultural diversity of the state and the nation and appreciated the Indian presidency for their efforts to organize such a delightful and dazzling event.



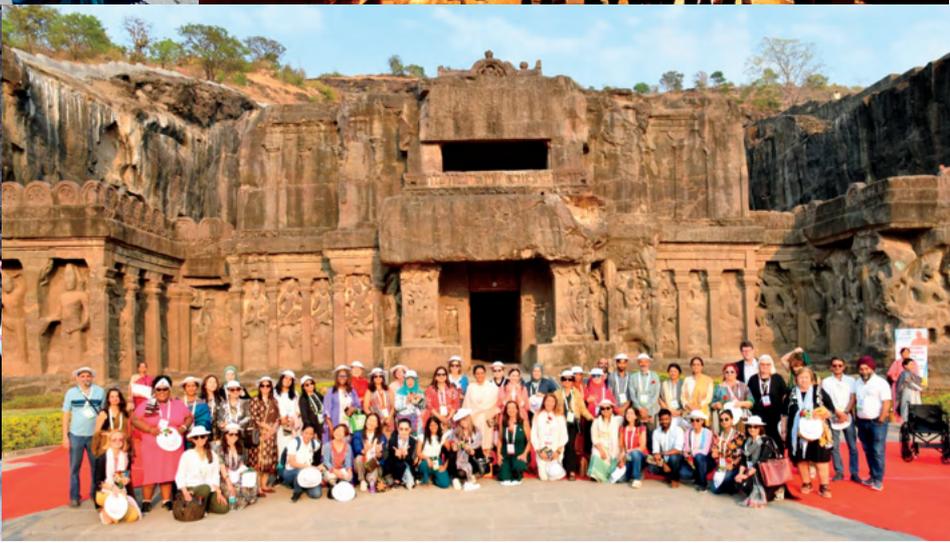
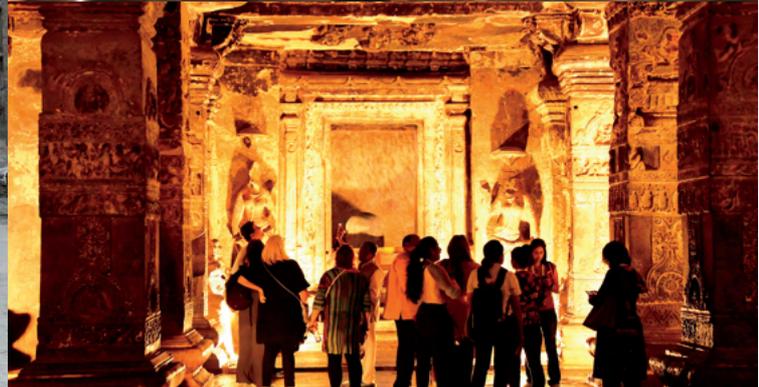
# OFF HOURS

## Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar Heritage Sites





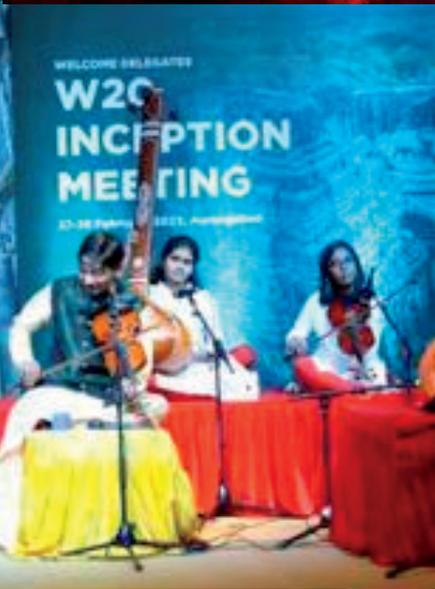
# OFF HOURS Visit to Ellora Caves





# OFF HOURS

## Cultural Event and Gala Dinner at Ellora Visitor's Centre





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