

Need to remove discord regarding Paris accord to achieve climate goals: Suresh Prabhu

G20 Sherpa says India will set own priorities for G20 2022, but will carry forward the work done by other countries that held G20 Presidency
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Governments and business organisations of the world's 20 leading economies –the G20 and B20, respectively - need to prioritise taking forward the Paris climate accord, bridging the digital divide, building quality infrastructure, strengthening value chains and medical supplies as well as ensuring food and energy security, according to India's Sherpa to G7 and G20, Suresh Prabhu. Speaking at a virtual conference titled 'B-20 Global Dialogue in India' organised by RIS, in collaboration with CII and the Indian National Science Academy, Suresh Prabhu, also a Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), referred to India hosting the G20 Summit in 2022 and said while the country will seek to push its own priorities at the event, it will also carry forward the work done by other countries as part of them holding the G20 Presidency.

B-20 or Business 20 is the business community from G20 countries and provides inputs and policy recommendations to the G20 Summits, along with other engagement groups including T20 (think tanks), W20 (women), C20 (civil society), Y20 (youth), S20 (science), L20 (labour) and U20 (urban). G20 has a rotating presidency with each member country holding the presidency for a year. Saudi Arabia, holding the current G20 presidency, will pass on the baton to Italy for the year 2021.

Talking about the need to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 (net-zero greenhouse gas emissions) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, Suresh Prabhu said India's approach to solving global problems will be to follow its philosophy of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* ('the world is one family'). Questioning how the global community can consider itself prosperous if any member state was suffering, he asked the business community to focus on not just the bottom line (profit), but also lifting the people at the bottom of the pyramid. Suresh Prabhu said companies need to help in achieving the climate goals as well as in removing digital disparities. He added that the discord regarding the Paris climate accord (the US had withdrawn from the pact) needs to be sorted out.

Speaking on the occasion, Rahul Chhabra, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, referred to the recent B20 report to the G20 and said the immediate need was to revive the international economy by making the global supply chains resilient as well as by reviving productive sectors. He said despite the need to fulfil the huge domestic demand, India has kept its medical supply chains open and provided generic drugs and medical equipment to several countries. During the ongoing pandemic, India also helped other countries with rapid response teams, information exchange platforms and healthcare training through webinars, besides taking forward the G20's 'debt service suspension initiative' by supporting several countries in this regard.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, said the RIS was engaged in converging the ideas put forward by stakeholders including businesses, scientists, economists and civil society groups to ensure that it would be easier for policy makers to absorb and implement them at the G20 level. In this regard, the RIS has been bringing out a bi-monthly publication 'the G20 Digest' on G20 issues as part of generating meaningful inputs for India's G20 Presidency in 2022, in addition to actively taking part in the T20 (Think-Tank) process at the G20, he added. RIS Chairman Amb Dr Mohan Kumar also participated in the programme.

Yousef Abdullah Al-Benyan, B20 Saudi Arabia Chairman, said Saudi Arabia, during its G20 Presidency, has prioritised increasing the participation of women in business as well as addressing issues relating to climate change, infrastructure finance as well as trade and investment.

Saud bin Mohammed Al-Sati, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to India, Naushad Forbes, Past President, CII and Chairman CII International Council and Chandrajit Banerjee, CII Director General, also spoke during the programme. (ENDS)

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