

SECOND G20 MEETING

The second meeting of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) under the Indian G20 Presidency was held on 12-13 April 2023, on the margins of the 2023 Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Shaktikanta Das jointly chaired the meeting. The meeting saw participation of around 350 delegates from G20 members, 13 invitee countries, and various international and regional organisations. The meeting was organised in three sessions covering the Global Economy, International Financial Architecture, Sustainable Finance, Financial Sector, Financial Inclusion, and International Taxation. The goal of this FMCBG meeting was to deliberate on the progress made by the various workstreams of the G20 Finance Track on the deliverables that were tasked to them by the Ministers and Governors in the February G20 FMCBG Chair's Summary and Outcome Document and to seek guidance on the way forward.

During the session on Global Economy and International Financial Architecture, members discussed the key challenges to the global economic outlook, including the war in Ukraine, food and energy insecurity, climate change, and recent risks to financial stability. Members agreed that the G20 can contribute to building a common understanding on fostering a conducive environment for global economic recovery, and ensuring that the most vulnerable countries and sections of the population are adequately protected. Ministers and Governors also discussed the progress of the implementation of recommendations of the Independent Panel of MDBs' Capital Adequacy Frameworks (CAF). They also shared their expectations from the recently constituted G20 Expert Group on "Strengthening Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)". On the debt agenda, discussions focused on strengthening multilateral coordination towards addressing the increasing debt distress in low-income and vulnerable middle-income countries. Ministers and Governors reiterated the need to swiftly complete the ongoing debt treatments under the Common Framework and beyond. Discussions also covered the impact of climate change-related policies on capital flows, among others. During the second session on Sustainable Finance, Financial Sector, and Financial Inclusion, discussions focussed on the mobilisation of resources for climate change, the role of the multilateral financial institutions in catalysing private finance flows for Sustainable Development Goals and the role of the G20 in scaling up and encouraging wider adoption of social impact investment instruments. Members also deliberated on the macroeconomic and financial challenges posed by the crypto-assets ecosystem and exchanged views on potential global policy responses to crypto-assets, taking into account the risks, especially to Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDEs). On financial inclusion, discussions focused on leveraging Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for financial inclusion and productivity gains. Ministers and Governors also shared perspectives on the development of the 2023 Financial Inclusion Action Plan (FIAP).

The third session on International Taxation discussed the need for coordinated efforts toward effective implementation and wider adoption of the two-pillar international tax package. Ministers shared suggestions on how best G20 can complement global efforts to enhance tax transparency. On the margins of the G20 FMCBG sessions, high-level side events were also held. A meeting of the Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable (GSDR) was also held on April 12, 2023, which was co-chaired by Hon'ble Finance Minister, IMF MD, and World Bank President. The meeting saw discussions on the current global debt landscape and ways to address existing challenges in debt restructuring. In the run-up to the G20 FMCBG meeting, the G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies met with the major MDBs on April 12, 2023 to discuss the status of implementation of recommendations of the G20 Independent Panel of MDBs' CAF. These updates will contribute to the preparation of the G20 Roadmap on CAF which will be one of the key deliverables of the Finance Track under the Indian G20 Presidency.

Protect Planet Earth

■ G L KHAJURIA

It would be most pertinent to recall the following apt observation by UNESCO on environmental crises imperfect understanding of the natural mechanisms which make possible the maintenance of life on earth: disregards of unintentional effects of technology, in particular, the various forms of pollution: poor management of soil forest & water; unbridled consumption of fossil fuel: and the uncontrolled urbanization: the relegation of population to a marginal position : and the crushing of the traditional culture place in the relations between the man and environment.

Wild is the synonym with forests. Forests are where adventures being, fears lurk, the night hold hands with the day and men get lost. Trees are among primitive man's first deities. Not the last though, for even today in India the banyan and Peepal trees are worshipped. Sir J C Bose, rigged up sensitive instrument to claim of the USA based lie-detector expert who said plants "vinee" when brine shrimp are killed in hot water. The environment (The forest, its wildlife, biosphere, eco-system, air water & soil) through legislations and enactment has been fortified and more stringent rules framed, yet it is not being honored in so far as its practical sanctity is concerned. There have been mushrooming of forest mafias, hunters and poachers who clandestinely are on this most heinous criminalization. There is ruthless decimation of forest under the influential shadows.

The environment has mercilessly been disturbed from "Mountainous Himalayas" down-below gangetic valley in (North-South) and Assam to Rajasthan (East-West). Such scenarios are "world-wide" with no exception. "Though in today's world, every country is constantly endeavoring, "Afforestation Schemes" with new names and claims, yet on its fast track result being ecological imbalance. Too much is too much, less said is overdone. The globe (Mother Earth) is as big as it was where as population growth is heading at sputnik speed uncompromising with the only bio-sustaining globe. The Mother nuclear; plants, river-valley project, refineries mines, petro-chemical intermediates, as bests and its derivate, air ports, the drugs and chemical units, the smoke emitting factories, and foundries and many more its associates. The fresh mountainous regions have been deforested and replaced by tarred roads and concrete structure. The air pollution coupled with the noise and river pollution are man-made hazard which in one way or the other is mounting threat to the environment. The emission of poisonous gases into the air by industrialization is directly hitting the "Ozone layer".

"Ozone-layer"- A protective shield (ring) encircling the globe offers protection to the bio-diversity from the ultra-violet rays of sun which in the existing ever-increasing warming may Jeopardize the whole earth. Ozone (O3-the three oxygen atoms) compared to oxygen (O2) is the only ring which under the global warming and CFC (Choloro Floro Carbon) emissions from refrigerators and air-conditioners is thinning this protective layer with soaring temperature year after year. "Environment protection" is the call of hour not for India but globally and ever country must rise from slumber and give utmost contribution that afforestation so that the unforeseen climatic changes we are witnessing today do not occasion to arise, else every living creature shall face the impending catastrophe.

Mahad Satyagraha and Baba Saheb Ambedkar

■ MUKHTAR KHAN

The contribution of Dr B R Ambedkar to the history of social revolution should never be overlooked. Babasaheb Ambedkar came to India in 1917 after acquiring a high degree of doctorate in economics from Britain. According to his agreement, he worked as the Minister of Finance in the princely state of Baroda for some time. But he did not stay there for a long period. The employee of the court used to treat him humiliatingly considering him an untouchable. Despite being highly educated and occupying such a high position, he had to bear the humiliation.

Babasaheb Ambedkar Returns Mumbai: Leaving the high-prestige job, he returned to Mumbai the very same year. Soon he was selected as a Professor of Political Economy at Sydenham College, Mumbai. Baba Saheb was one of the most educated people of his time. Despite this, he was ill-treated several times in the name of caste. Babasaheb had noticed and felt this oppression of castism on Dalits very closely. He learned that Dalits have been socially boycotted in the country for centuries, were given the disrespectful tag of 'untouchable', and were still regarded as untouchables. They were prohibited from entering the temple and sometimes were even banned from walking on the road. They were not even allowed to take water from public ponds and wells. This inhuman treatment of Dalits deeply discomforted Babasaheb, but he did not give up. He chose to fight against this injustice that has stood existing on for centuries. Baba Saheb wanted to implant these social evils.

Oppression of Dalits during British rule: At that time the country was ruled by the British. There was no shift in the Indian social system even during British rule. The struggle for freedom was going on under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. Baba Saheb used to say that "Our freedom is incomplete without the liberation of the Dalit society." Baba Saheb Ambedkar had chosen the path of mass struggle and mass movement for the liberation of Dalit society. He knew that through struggle they would get their rights on one hand and at the same time a sense of self-respect would also be awakened within the downtrodden section who had been suffering for centuries.

Status of Dalit society in Maharashtra: Even in Maharashtra, in many places, Dalits were not allowed to take water from public tanks or wells. If a Dalit person dared to take



water from a public tank, the whole community would have to bear the consequences. How weird is the restriction that even the resources like water, land, and forest on which every living being has a right, were being denied to Dalits ?

Choosing the path of struggle: Baba Saheb himself belonged to the Dalit community. He was well aware of the Sanatani system of Indian society. he was deeply hurt. In public life, they had to live as an outcast. Seeing this condition of Dalits, As an well educated person Babasaheb Ambedkar had two options regarding his future. Either he will have to earn wealth by making use of his education or else he has to fight for emancipation by becoming the voice of the helpless Dalits. Babasaheb chose the path of struggle. On 1924 in Mumbai , he formed an organization named 'Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha' for Dalit emancipation. Along with the untouchable members, progressive upper-caste members were also a part of this association. Meetings were organized under this association at many sites.

Chavdar Talao Movement: Regarding public ponds and wells, a government ordinance was passed by the Mumbai Presidency passed a resolution in those days that all citizens would have rights over public water sources.

Based on this law, Surendranath Tipnis, the mayor of Mahad, declared the Chaudar pond a public property in 1924, that is, now everyone had the right to take water from the pond. Despite this, the social boycott of Dalits was going on unannounced by the upper castes. Dalits were not allowed to take water from 'Chaudar lake'. Even if someone

had the guts to show courage, he in turn had to bear harsh tortures. Dalit women used to walk miles for water.

Invitation to visit Mahad: Municipal President Surendra Nath Tipnis invited Baba Saheb to come to Mahad so that this pond can be dedicated to the common people by his hands. Baba Saheb accepted this invitation. He arrived there two months before the due date in January 1924. There was enthusiasm and spirit among the local Dalits as soon as he reached here. Baba Saheb was well familiar with this land of Mahad. Many people of the Mahar caste were associated with the British Army. They settled here in large numbers after being released from the army. Baba Saheb needed such disciplined people for Satyagraha. He roamed around and established dialogue with the local people, understanding their problems. And was accompanied by local Dalit leader R.K.B. They used to go from village to village to make people aware of their rights. Baba Saheb's words started having a deep impact on the minds of the people. Baba Saheb continued to get the cooperation of the local Dalits. Gradually thousands of people started joining the Chaudar Talab movement. Baba Saheb used to say that "The pond from which upper caste people can drink water, even if animals do not mind drinking water, how can Dalits be kept away from this right?" Every man has the same rights." No matter what caste or religion he may belong to.

Support all classes: On one hand, where the local Sanatani Hindus were opposing the Mahad movement, Baba Saheb along with Dalits, was being supported by a large sec-

tion of society. Kazi Hussain went ahead and made available his land for the agitators to stay. Dr. Surendranath Tipnis, Gangadhar Neelkanth Sahastrabuddhe and Anant Vinayak Chitre, Kayastha Prabhu, people from upper caste society also came forward to help Dr. Ambedkar.

Mahad Satyagraha: March 20, 1927, is the historic day when Baba Saheb Ambedkar did Satyagraha along with thousands of Dalits. The whole form of this movement was non-violent. Baba Saheb Ambedkar reached the Chowdar Pond (Chowdar means Sweet in Marathi) and drank the Tasty water of the pond with his hands. In this way, along with Baba Saheb, hundreds of Dalit communities also drank the sweet water of the pond and thus breaking the shackles of hundreds of years of slavery.

Significance of the 'Chavdar Talao' movement: The importance of Mahad's 'Chavdar Talab' movement is incredible because, for the first time in the history of India, Dalits had obtained their rights through mass struggle and Satyagraha under the leadership of a Dalit leader. This satyagraha done by Babasaheb was not limited to the right to water only. He said that "Every human being has equal rights on land, forest, mountain tree, sun, and sky. It can never be anyone's private property." In the history of modern India, the importance of the Mahad movement, 'Chavdar Talao' is because only after this movement did new consciousness developed within the Dalit society. Or it can be said that only after the movement of Chavdar Talao, Dalit issues were raised and hence were given a priority in Indian politics. Even today, every year on March 20, thousands of people of the Dalit community from all over the country come to Mahad's 'Chavdar Talab' with flags in their hands, chanting slogans of 'Jai Bhim'..... 'Jai Bhim'. The enthusiasm and zeal of thousands of people who have come from every corner of the country is visible. The struggle of 'Chavdar Talab' tells us that all natural resources are our own. We all have an equal right to water, air, and sun. And no one can take it from us. Today, under the guise of development and law, a network of industry, mining, and market is being spread. Gradually, the rights to water, land, and forests are being snatched away from the common people. The significance of the Mahad movement commenced by Babasaheb Ambedkar a hundred years ago should be seen in this context.

Organic farming: Urgency to embrace it

■ HUVAM SHARMA

These days are a generation of modern-day agriculture and there is question that we're growing botany day limit. However, the most effective hassle-which comes to the outreach is prodigious achievement is the limitless usage of noxious sodium. Such aseptic ides, herbicides and inorganic fertilizers which have a large aftermath on humans, animals, and the environment and within the forth coming years, it will depreciate the steps will boost the stainable GI-culture. Chemical's overuse in agriculture emmass under your come environment; increment in soil pH, discount of organic matter, humus content reduction, deprivation of crucial oil microbes, water pollution, air pollution. Numerous scientific research manifested that exposure o respected yes days fertilizers caused dangerous out comes on human fitness (well-being) i.e., Kmmunee and nervous system with some disruptions to critical ecosystems. UNEP (UN environment program) given a bring porton 'actions to minimize the adverse impacts on health and environment from pesticides and fertilizers'. They proposed there port in col-

laboration and consultation with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN and the World Health Organization (WHO), and they culminate that hatiti sanurgentneed forembacement of giant moves for control of chemicalinsecticidesandfertilizersdue tothe factthatit isworldwidedemandandunseisgrowingunexpectedly.

Global's population is expected to expand from7.8billionin2020to 10 billionbymeansof2050 which will stipulate the call for food demand by means of about60 per cent and this call, no doubt will raise the agrochemical industries and marketplace. Global sales revenues for inorganic fertilizers were approximately US \$151 billion in 2018 and are expected to being increased by 3.8 per cent between 2020 and 2025, which means direct crunch to the Nature and Humans. In an article, the HOz informed that a number of the older,many less luxurious pesticides can stay for years and sin soil and water. Many of these chemicals were e-banned from agri-cultural use in developing nations."So what may be solution for this unpleasant hassle"? As the solution is

already finalized within the heading, and that is organic farming, surely! So, for safe agricultural practices we need to be with organic farming! Why is there an urgency to hold the natural farming? Fitness problems which had been reported be cause of the infinite use of agro-chemicals include pesticide poisoning, birth-defects, fetal-demise, neurologic developmental disorder and neneurological illness which can be a medical emergency, these are the essential motives to adopt the organic farming. Foodsafety and health are important factors that can't be neglected due to fitness worries. Agro chemicals can be risky formal safety. For the addition of lethal contaminations to the food.

From there centers years, organic farming is observed to be very popular amongst farmers and purchasers, soit is able to be a good choice to put off harmful chemicals from their use in agriculture. Asstatedby National Organic Program implemented byUSDA Organic Food: Production Act (OFPA,1990), agriculture is an important practice for both crop cultivation and animal husbandry.

Plant sought to be cultured without synthetic insecticides, chemical fertilizers, for three years before harvesting with sufficient buffer zone to decrease the contaminations from the adjacent farm stop perform organic farming. Fertility and nutrient content of soil are essentially managed by croprotation, and the usage of cover crops that can be boosted with anima land plant waste manures. Pests, diseases, and weeds are mostly controlled with the adaptation of physical and biological control systems without using herbicides and chemical pesticides. Organic farming directly helps to maintain environmental health by bringing down the extent of pollution. It reduces risk of adverse effects by chemicals on human and animal fitness through declining the extent of chemical residues in the agriculture production. Mainly, it maintains the agriculture production and improves the soil health. Organic farming makes use of bio-pesticides or naturally occurring in plants. Luckily, they don' have any-risky effect on the environment and living organisms.

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Broccoli: An anti-cancer vegetable

■ DR BANARSI LAL

Broccoli belongs to the cruciferous vegetables family which includes cabbage, cauliflower, kale, brussel sprouts, turnips etc. It is a tasty vegetable and rich in dozens of nutrients. Consuming fruits and vegetables of all kinds have long been associated with a reduced risk of many diseases. Broccoli decreases the risk of obesity, diabetes, cancer, heart disease and overall mortality. It is also useful for a healthy complexion and hair, increases energy and lowers body weight. Broccoli is a nutrition powerhouse which supplies lot of nutrients. Broccoli can ensure sound health and long life. Broccoli has anti-cancer properties. Broccoli has cancer fighting and immune boosting properties like other cruciferous vegetables such as cauliflower, brussel sprout and cabbage. The most important health benefit of broccoli is its ability to fight against the cancer. Broccoli isothiocyanates, sulforaphane and indole-3-carbinol have cancer fighting properties. Eating of broccoli has been associated with a lower risk of lung and colon cancer. Studies have suggested that sulforaphane, the sulfur-containing compound that gives broccoli the cancer-fighting power. It has been observed through various researches that sulforaphane can inhibit the enzyme histone deacetylase which is known to be involved in the progression of cancer cells. The ability to stop such enzymes could make sulforaphane-containing foods a potentially powerful part of cancer treatment. Sulforaphane delays or impedes cancer with promising results shown in melanoma,

esophageal, prostate and pancreatic cancers. Broccoli may affect estrogen level and contains important vitamin known as folate which is known to decrease the risk of breast cancer in women. Intake of dietary folate has also shown promise in protecting against colon, stomach, pancreatic and cervical cancers. Scientists believe that folate's protective effects have its role in DNA and RNA production and in the prevention of unwanted mutations. Recently it has been observed through many researches that broccoli sprout extract also act as a protective agent against head, neck and liver cancer. More research is needed in this direction.

Broccoli helps for heart health and keeps the blood vessels strong. The sulforaphane in broccoli is also an anti-inflammatory and can prevent the damage of blood vessel linings caused by chronic blood sugar. Broccoli can slow down the damage to joints associated with osteoarthritis. Sulforaphane present in broccoli may help the patients suffering from arthritis because this chemical can block the enzymes that cause joint destruction by preventing a key molecule known to cause inflammation. Vitamin B-complex can help to regulate or reduce excessive homocysteine. Excessive homocysteine, an immuno acid builds up after eating the red meat that increases the risk of coronary artery disease. Like carrot, broccoli is good for eyes as it contains compound antioxidant known as lutein. Another antioxidant present in broccoli is called as zeaxanthin which is also beneficial. Both these chemicals help against macular degeneration, an

incurable condition that blurs central vision and cataracts, a clouding of the eye lens.

Poor vitamin K intake is associated with a high risk of bone fracture and osteoporosis. Just one cup of chopped broccoli provides 92 micrograms of vitamin K. Daily adequate consumption of vitamin K improves bone health by improving calcium absorption and reducing urinary excretion of calcium. Broccoli can also contribute to our daily need for calcium by providing 43 milligrams in one cup. Broccoli provides 81 milligrams of vitamin C in just one cup. That is more than what we need in the whole day. The antioxidant vitamin C, when eaten in its natural form can help to fight skin damage done by the sunlight and pollution and thus reduces wrinkles and improves overall skin texture. Vitamin C plays a vital role in the formation of collagen, the main support system of the skin. Broccoli also provides Vitamin A and vitamin E which are also crucial for healthy skin. Broccoli is a good source of beta-carotene. It also contains vitamins such as B1, B2, B3, B6, iron, magnesium, potassium and zinc. One cup of chopped raw broccoli (approximately 91 grams) contains 31 calories, 0 grams of fat, 6 grams of carbohydrate (including 2 grams of sugar and 2 grams of fiber) and 3 grams of protein. One cup of broccoli provides over 100% of your daily need for vitamin C and vitamin K and is also a good source of vitamin A, folate and potassium. Broccoli is a rich source of fiber and low in calories. Fibres help to maintain healthy bacteria in the intestines. It helps to draw cholesterol out of our body. Broccoli can prevent consti-

pation and is helpful to maintain a healthy digestive tract and reduces the risk of colon cancer. Adequate fiber is crucial for the daily excretion of toxins through the bile and stool. Recent studies have shown that dietary fiber may also play a role in regulating the immune system and inflammation. A cup of broccoli has as much protein as a cup of rice or corn with half of calories. Broccoli is safe to eat and its side effects are not so serious. It can cause gas or bowel irritation. The patients eating blood-thinning medications should watch the broccoli intake as the Vitamin K in it may interfere with the medications effectiveness. Phytochemicals such as glucoraphanin, glucenasturtin and glucobrassicin compose a terrific trio in broccoli and aid in body detoxification process from activation to neutralization and elimination of contaminants. It has been observed through researches that high fiber intake lowers the risks of developing coronary heart disease, stroke, hypertension, diabetes, obesity and certain gastrointestinal diseases. Increased fiber intake has also been shown to lower the blood pressure and cholesterol levels, improves insulin sensibility and enhances weight loss for obese persons. Always buy the fresh, compact, bright, firm textured heads of broccoli with rich flavour. If possible purchase organic broccoli for maximum benefits. Avoid overcooking of the broccoli as it can destroy its half of beneficial substances.

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