



UPDATED ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR

# Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS)

VARANASI, 17-19 APRIL 2023

(As on 17 March 2023)

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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**The Indian Presidency warmly welcomes all delegates to the G20 Meeting of  
Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) in Varanasi (UP)**



India, one of the world's oldest civilization and home to 1.4 billion people, is an all-embracing land of religions, traditions, and customs. The highlights of Indian heritage and culture lie in the treasure of its art, architecture, classical dance, music, handicrafts, textiles, flora and fauna and the philosophy of its people. Indian cuisine in itself is a legacy, diverse in appearance, taste, and flavour across states of India.

We welcome all delegates for the Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) of G20 being held in the spiritual and holy city of Varanasi (UP) which is also famously known as Kashi-land of Lord Shiva.

Varanasi City is situated approximately 800 km from New Delhi. There are direct flights from Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi. The city is served by the Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi and is located on the holy river Ganges. The place vibrates with rich cultural and spiritual heritage and is famously referred to as land of Lord Shiva in Hindu way of life.



Varanasi, also known as Benaras and Kashi is situated in the northern Indian state of [Uttar Pradesh](#) . It is considered a holy city in Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism. It lies on the banks of river Ganges and is located 300 km south east of capital [Lucknow](#). It is known as the most ancient city of India and is also referred to as the city of temples. The city is regarded as the cultural and religious capital of India for thousands of years. Varanasi is also known for its Lord Buddha connection, as he gave his first sermon at Sarnath, which is located near Varanasi.

Varanasi also known as "the city of lights" and "the city of learning" is one of the oldest cities in the world. Ancient Hindu scriptures also mention the city and that is the reason it's considered a sacred city and an important pilgrimage destination for Hindus. Varanasi was a trade Centre two thousand years ago and various commodities were produced and sold here such as muslin and silk fabrics, ivory works, sculptures and perfumes.

The Administrative Circular intends to provide delegates and participants with information pertaining to the administrative and logistical arrangements, as well as other general information regarding the G20 MACS meeting. Delegates will be notified via email of any changes in the programme elements or any other updated / additional Information within this Administrative Circular is current as of **20<sup>th</sup> March 2023**. The secretariat will notify delegates via email should there be any changes. For further inquiries and assistance, delegates, participants, and Diplomatic Mission representatives may contact the Indian G20 Secretariat by writing to:[macs2023@g20.in](mailto:macs2023@g20.in)



## 2. AGENDA

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### Main Event Dates

**17-19<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

Delegates are requested to arrive on 16<sup>th</sup> and schedule departures not before 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

### Main Event Venue

Hotel Taj Ganges,  
Varanasi (UP)

### Program

Kindly note that this is an in-person meeting.

### Day 0 (Arrival): Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Arrival of all the Delegates

### Day 1: Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Meeting Venue: The Darbar Hall, Hotel Taj Ganges Varanasi UP

Day 1: 17 April, 2023 Monday	
08.30-09.15	Registration
<b>Inaugural Session 09.15-10.00</b>	<b>Opening of MACS 2023- Sustainable AgriFood Systems for Healthy People and Planet</b>
	Opening Remarks -MACS Chair India
	Statements from G-20 Troika- Indonesia and Brazil
	Address by Hon'ble Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Govt of India (Shri Narendra Singh Tomar)- (TBC)
	Address by (Genl) V.K.Singh, Hon'ble MOS (Transport and Civil Aviation)
	<b>Adoption of Agenda</b> (To be introduced by Chair)
<b>(Session-1) 10.00-1300</b>	<b>Food Security &amp; Nutrition: Role of Science, Technology and Innovations</b>
<b>11.20-11.45</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>13.00-14.00</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>Session-2 14.00-16.30</b>	<b>Resilient Agri-Food Systems (One Health and Climate Resilience)</b>
<b>15.00-15.30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
16.30	Conclusion of Day-1 Program
17.00-19.45	Excursion for Ganga Aarti via Cruise- From Hotel Taj Ganges
19.45-21.30	Welcome Dinner with Live Classic Instrumental Music - Taj Ganges
21.30	Transfer to Hotels

Day -2- 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2023 (Tuesday)	
<b>Session-3 09.00-1100</b>	<b>Digital Agriculture and Sustainable Agri Value Chain</b>
<b>10.30-11.00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>Session-4 11.00-13.00</b>	<b>Public Private Partnership in Agriculture R&amp;D : Perspectives from Developed and Developing Countries</b>
<b>13.00-14.00</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
14.00-16.15	<b>Discussion on MACS 2023 Communique Only G-20 Member States to participate</b>
15.00-15.30	Coffee Break
16.15-16.30	Statements by Incoming Presidency-Brazil Statement by G-20 MACS Chair -India
17.00-19.30	Excursion to Sarnath (Visit to ASI Museum and Light and Sound show at Budha Stupa )
<b>19.30-21.00</b>	<b>Cultural Programme and Gala Dinner at Budha Garden, Sarnath</b>
21.00	Transfer to Hotels
Day-3, 19 April 2023 Wednesday	
09.30-13.00	Discussion and Finalization of the MACS 2023 Communique
11.00-11.30	Coffee Break
<b>13.00-1400</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
14.00-17.00	Visit to Trade Facilitation Centre (TFC), Varanasi
17.30-19.30	Return to Hotel and free time
19.30-21.30	Farewell Dinner with Live Classic Instrumental Music at Taj Ganges
21.30	Transfer to Hotels
20 <sup>th</sup> April 2023 Thursday	
Morning/Evening	Departure of delegates to their respective destinations

\*The agenda is tentative and in case of any change subsequently, the same shall be informed in due course to the G20 delegates/updated on MACS 2023 Website.





Departure of the Delegates as per convenience

- *Detailed information of program will be shared in due course.*
- *Intervention time during sessions and other details/updates will be conveyed subsequently.*
- *Invitee countries and International Organizations will be provided an opportunity to make interventions in certain specific sessions. Details shall be communicated in due course.*



### 3. ACCREDITATION OF PARTICIPANTS

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All delegates attending the G20 MACS Meeting in Varanasi must be accredited.

### Delegate Accreditation Officer (DAO)

A **Delegate Accreditation Officer (DAO)** is required to be nominated by the respective G20 member country, guest country or international organization who will coordinate the registration process of the participating delegates.

The DAO is required to submit the following details by email to G20 MACS Secretariat ([macs2023@g20.in](mailto:macs2023@g20.in)) latest by **20<sup>th</sup> March 2023** to complete the registration and accreditation of the delegates.

- DAO Name
- DAO Email ID
- Name of Country or International Organization
- Name of Working Group (As per calendar)

The delegate registration link will be emailed by the **G20 MACS Secretariat** to the DAO to complete the registration and accreditation of the delegates.

All delegates should be accredited no later than **25<sup>th</sup> March 2023**. Please note that on-site accreditation will not be offered.

Delegates should direct all queries relating to accreditation to their respective DAO.

### Delegation Contact Officer (DCO)

Each delegation is requested to appoint a Delegation Contact Officer (DCO) among the accredited delegates. The DCO should be present at the meeting and will be the first point of contact for the G20 Secretariat and the Delegation Liaison Officers for any administrative or logistical requirements that may arise. The DCO's name and contact number must be provided to the G20 M A C S Secretariat by the DAO, when registering delegates. Access to the main conference venue will only be granted to:

Role	G20 Members	Invitee Countries	International Organizations
Heads of Delegation (HOD)	1	1	1
Delegates to Main Hall (in addition to HOD)	1	1	1
Delegates to Viewing Room	2	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

\*Maximum size of the delegation for member countries is 4

\*Maximum size of the delegation for invitee countries & international organisations is three

#### Delegation Liaison Officer (DLO)

A delegation liaison officer (DLO) from the **G20 MACS Secretariat** will be assigned to each delegation for the duration of the meeting. The DLO will welcome the Leader of delegation and accompanying delegates upon arrival at the airport and assist them upon departure. The DLO will also collect the delegation kits, passes and badges in advance of the meeting and hand it over to the delegation members. DLOs will make initial contact with each delegation's DCO. DLOs contact details will be shared with each delegation prior to the meeting.

## 4. MEDIA & COMMUNICATION

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The proceedings of the G20 Meetings are confidential; as such media coverage of G20 meeting proceedings is prohibited.

However, accredited media will be allowed outside the meeting venue. Information regarding media accreditation will be sent separately.

The Indian Presidency will publish the official documentation and statements on the G20 Official platforms which include:

**Official G20 Channels:**

- Website:  
[www.g20.org](http://www.g20.org)
- Twitter: [@g20org](https://twitter.com/g20org)
- Instagram: g20org
- Agriculture India Twitter- @AgriGol

## 5. VISA REQUIREMENTS

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## VISA REQUIREMENT

1. The Government of India has bilateral Visa Waiver Agreements for holders of Diplomatic /Official/Service Passports with 19 G-20 Member States/Invitee Countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, United Kingdom, United States, European Union, Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, and Spain). The details can be found at <https://mea.gov.in/bvwa.htm>
2. Delegates holding Diplomatic/Official Passports of countries with whom India does not have a Visa Waiver Agreement may apply for a regular/paper Conference Visa with multiple entries at <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in>.
3. **Visa including e-visa on a gratis basis** will be given to all registered/accredited members of official delegations (including ordinary passport holders) for all Sherpa Track and Finance Track Meetings/ Ministerial/Working Group/ Engagement Groups meetings / Side Events and G-20 Summit, and their **accompanying spouses**.
4. It may please be noted that the e-Visa facility is not available for those holding Diplomatic/Official/Service/International Travel Documents like UNLP. Therefore, delegates from UN/International Organizations holding Diplomatic/Official Passport or United Nations Laissez-Passer may apply for regular/paper Conference Visas at <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in>
5. Once the accreditation is complete, the delegates may submit a visa application along with a copy of the accreditation letter or a Note Verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Authorities from their Government, to the Indian High Commission/ Embassy/Consulate for affixing the appropriate Indian visa.
6. All delegates holding Ordinary Passports from eligible countries under the e-visa regime can apply for e-Conference Visas (electronic Visa) at <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in>
7. Any OCI (Overseas Citizens of India) Cardholders attending G20 Meetings as a delegate shall be required to obtain the prior permission of the Ministry of Home Affairs, India (<https://ociservices.gov.in> ) to attend G-20 events. They would be required to upload mandatorily their accreditation letter issued by the G-20 Secretariat while seeking permission from the Ministry of Home Affairs, India at <https://ociservices.gov.in>

8. For the delegates/participants travelling on e-Conference Visa, the **Biometric details** of the delegate/participant will be mandatorily captured at Immigration on arrival in India.
9. All delegates are to ensure that their **passports have at least six months of validity and a minimum of two blank passport pages** for validation.



## 6. HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

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### Guidelines for International Arrivals into India:

1. All incoming delegates/staff/visitors shall follow Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) Guidelines for International Arrivals dated 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023 (available at: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/GuidelinesforInternationalArrivals10thFebruary2023.pdf> or any other guidelines as updated from time to time. The guidelines presently stipulate that all international travelers to India should preferably be fully vaccinated as per the approved primary schedule of vaccination against COVID-19 in their country. The updated guideline also prescribes precautionary measures to be followed like preferable use of masks and adherence to physical distancing measures.
    - Any passenger having symptoms of COVID-19 during travel shall be isolated as per standard protocol *i.e.* the said passenger should be wearing mask, isolated and segregated from other passengers in flight/travel and shifted to an isolation facility subsequently for follow up treatment.
    - On arrival, thermal screening should be done in respect of all the passengers by the health officials present at the point of entry.
    - The passengers found to be symptomatic during screening shall be immediately isolated, taken to a designated medical facility as per health protocol.
  2. All passengers who are travelling from Yellow Fever endemic countries as notified by World Health Organization are advised to take Yellow Fever vaccination 10 days before their scheduled arrival in India. List of Yellow Fever endemic countries may be seen at: <https://ihpoe.mohfw.gov.in/vaccination.php>. Accordingly, participants from Argentina, Brazil and African Union may take note of requirement of their Yellow Fever vaccination.
- ❖ **Note:** COVID-19 related protocols may be updated frequently. Addendums to the administrative circular on the latest directives will be issued by the MACS Secretariat. However, delegates are also requested to check the latest guidelines before departure.

## 7. MEETING VENUE

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### Venue Address

**Hotel Taj Ganges, Nadesar Varanasi UP**

Phone: +91-542-6660001

Click for [Website](#)

### Information Centre

The G20 Hospitality desk is located at the meeting venue to assist the delegates with G20 related inquiries.

### Access to Venue

- All delegates will be required to pass through a security screening prior to entering the venue.
- Access to the venue will be restricted to the accredited delegates only who will be required to keep their badges (access card and/or pin) on display at all times during the events.
- The badges of delegates are colour-coded according to their classification. The badge carries personal information such as photograph, name, country / institution, and is non-transferable.



## Bilateral Meeting Rooms

- Bilateral meeting rooms at the Hotel Taj Ganges with varying seating capacities will be available to delegates upon request. Rooms will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis, and will be allocated in thirty (30) minute blocks for a maximum of one (1) hour per booking slot.
- Requests for bilateral meeting rooms can be made by sending an email with the date, time, and participation list to [macs2023@g20.in](mailto:macs2023@g20.in) on or before 07 April 2023.

### Viewing Room

Due to limited access to the main hall, a viewing room will be available with live screening of the meeting for delegates who do not have access to the main meeting room.

### Interpretation

All meetings will be conducted in English. No interpretation services will be

### Business Centre

There will be a business centre available at the meeting venue with limited number of internet-enable computers, printing and photocopying facilities.

### Prayer Room

Prayer Room provision for delegates will be made available at the main hotel during the course of the meeting. Signage to the Prayer Room would be displayed at the venue and, if required, assistance may be sought from the Helpdesk.

### Medical Room

A medical room will remain operational at the main hotel from 16-19 April 2023 from 0800 to 1800 IST.

### Wireless Internet

Complimentary wireless internet will be available at the venue for the duration of the meeting. Wireless internet access details will be available from the G20 Information Help Desk

## 8. ACCOMMODATION

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**The G20 Secretariat has designated three hotels as mentioned below for accommodating the delegates for the MACS 2023 Meeting**

The G20 Secretariat has designated three hotels as mentioned below for accommodating the delegates for the G20 Meetings of Chief Agricultural Scientists (MACS).

Block reservations have been made at the three hotels and delegations may book the rooms directly with the hotels on a first come, first serve basis, until 25 March 2023, after which, the hotels will release the blocked rooms for open booking.

**Hotel Taj Ganges**

Web: <https://www.tajhotels.com/en-in/taj/taj-gangesContact>

Person: Mr. Amit Tandon, Director of Sales **Mobile +91-9235601200**

**Hotel Taj Nadesar Palace**

Web:- <https://www.tajhotels.com/en-in/taj/taj-nadesar-palace-varanasi>/  
<https://www.tajhotels.com/en-in/taj/taj-nadesar-palace-varanasi/>

**Contact Person: Mr. Amit Tandon, Director of Sales, Mobile +91-9235601200**

**The Clarks**

Web: <http://www.clarkshotels.com/>

**Contact Person: Mr. Devesh Pathak, Resident Manager Mob. 9335586876**

For bookings delegates may contact

1. Mr. Amit Tandon -- For Hotel Taj Ganges and Hotel Taj Nadesar Palace **Mob +91-9235601200**
2. Mr. Devesh Pathak, Resident Manager - **Mob. 9335586876- for Hotel Clarks Varanasi Ltd**

To ensure availability of rooms for all delegations at the designated hotels, it is advised that each delegation limit its size to a maximum of 4.

Please be advised that all accommodation costs will be borne by the delegates.

The occupancy level of the hotels in Varanasi may increase as we get closer to the meeting dates

We strongly recommend that you to secure your booking well in advance and submit the details on the registration portal.

## Hotel Taj Ganges



**Address: Hotel Taj Ganges Varanasi**  
**Nadesar Palace Grounds, Varanasi- 221002 UP India**  
**Tel +91-542-6660016**  
**Website: [www.tajhotels.com](http://www.tajhotels.com)**

For bookings delegates may contact  
Sh. Amit Tandon, Director of Sales  
Mobile **+91-9235601200**  
Email:- [amit.tandon@tajhotels.com](mailto:amit.tandon@tajhotels.com)

- Distance from Meeting Venue – Co-located
- Distance from Airport – Approximately 22 kms/27 mins
- Distance from City Centre – Approximately 5 kms/20 mins

## Hotel Taj Nadesar. Varanasi



**Address:-**

The Hotel Taj Nadesar Palace, Varanasi 221002 UP

Tel +91-542-666000

Email: [nadesar.varanasi@tajhotels.com](mailto:nadesar.varanasi@tajhotels.com)

[Click here for Website](#)

**For bookings delegates may contact :-**

Sh. Amit Tandon, Director of Sales

Mobile **+91-9235601200**

Email:- [amit.tandon@tajhotels.com](mailto:amit.tandon@tajhotels.com)

- Distance from Meeting Venue – 500 meters
- Distance from Airport – Approximately 22 kms/27 mins
- Distance from City Centre – Approximately 5 kms/20 mins



## The Clarks Varanasi



### Address:

The Hotel Clarks Varanasi Ltd  
The Mall, Cant, Varanasi U.P.- 221002  
[Tel:- +91-542-2501011-20](tel:+915422501011)

For bookings delegates may contact

**Sh. Devesh Pathak, Resident Manager**  
**Mobile +91-9335586876**  
Email: [reservations@clarkhotels.com](mailto:reservations@clarkhotels.com)

- Distance from Meeting Venue – 1.5 KM/ 6 Min
- Distance from Airport – Approximately 22 kms/ 27 mins
- Distance from City Centre – Approximately 6.0 kms/20 mins

## 9. FLIGHT INFORMATION, IMMIGRATION, AIRPORT TRANSFER, & CUSTOMS

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a. Flight Information

Delegates attending the G20 MACS Meeting should make their own travel arrangements to and from Varanasi. The Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport at Varanasi is an International airport which has direct flight connectivity from **Delhi (DEL) and Mumbai (BOM)**. The Airport is located about 20 km and approximately 22 minutes driving distance from the meeting venue. Delegates are advised to arrange flights so as to **arrive in Varanasi by 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023** and share their arrival and departure flight details at the time of registration.

b. Immigration

The immigration process will be completed at the first port of entry (Delhi or Mumbai International Airport) in India for all delegates. A dedicated lane for immigration is available for all delegates with Diplomatic/official passports.

c. Airport Transfer

The G20 Secretariat will provide transport services to and from the airport for delegates attending the G20 MACS Meeting. Upon arrival at Varanasi airport, accredited delegates will be received by the Welcome Team of the G20 MACS Secretariat who will usher them to the G20 Lounge and extend necessary assistance to reach their respective hotels. Delegates attending the G20 MACS Meeting are requested to provide their flight information through the online accreditation portal to ensure that transportation arrangements for pick-up and drop-off are confirmed.

d. Transportation

Each country delegation will be provided with one (1) designated vehicle for use throughout the event including transportation services between Airport and the recommended hotels upon arrival and time of departure. Transportation between the hotel and the various venues as per the programme will also be arranged by the G20 MACS Secretariat.

e. Customs

Indian national laws govern the importation and exportation of prohibited or controlled items into or out of India, including medications. Delegates are allowed to bring medication, strictly for personal use. Drugs containing narcotics are prohibited from entering India. Those containing psychotropic are restricted and must be declared. In addition, delegates must present a letter from their physician and/or a copy of the original prescription stating the list of medication(s) and amount used per day to a customs officer. These documents are essential to prove the legality of the prescribed medication, should there be questioning by the customs officer.

The government exempts some excisable goods purchased abroad for personal use from import duties, excise, and taxes for every adult at each arrival with the following limited amount:



Item	Maximum Allowance
Alcohol	2 Liters
Cigarettes	100 Cigarettes
Cigars	25 Cigars
Tobacco	125 grams

Any excess of the excisable goods will be destroyed. Incoming delegates carrying more than USD 10,000 (or equivalent in other foreign currencies) in cash should declare the same to Customs.

Temporary licenses to carry or use firearms and communication gadgets are considered diplomatic facilities and are provided solely to the Head of State/ President's security personnel and Ministers/Governors in compliance with Indian law. The delegation may submit a request for firearms permit well in advance through a diplomatic note with the necessary documentation attached. The diplomatic note should be addressed to the Chief of Protocol, Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India, via the respective Country's Mission in India.



## 10. EXCURSION

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19<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**Delegates would be taken on half day's excursion trip (Optional) to Trade Facilitation Centre, (TFC) Varanasi**

Varanasi, the land of lord Shiva is also land of many ancient and exquisite arts. To boost moral of artists by providing a platform to showcase their art, the Trade Facilitation Centre TFC (Pd. Deendayal Hastkala Sankul) is an art museum with distinct galleries like textile, hand loom, carpet, wood carving and many more. Expanding its reach in a perimeter of 8 acres, the Trade Facilitation Center is an addition to its uncountable attractions. The museum is an exuberant display of all the classic art and crafts of Varanasi under one roof. The Craft museum also allows its visitors to buy these pieces of art, directly from the artist,



The delegates would be taken on ½ day tour to this wonderful facility where delegates will have the unique experience of witnessing the local artisans' weavers and handicrafts artists making live demonstration of their skills of making unique and beautiful products which would truly be a delightful and fantastic experience. The TFC also houses a Handicrafts Museum where exquisite work of handicraft is shown including the legacy of textile and handicrafts.

The Venue is located at a short distance of approx. 7 KM from Hotel Taj Ganges and is only 15 minutes driving distance

## 11. PERSONAL INFORMATION

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The G20 Secretariat collects personal information to facilitate accreditation, accommodation, liaison and logistics arrangements pertaining to the G20 MACS meeting.

The data of the delegates will be fully protected and accessible only to a limited number of personnel of the Indian G20 Presidency Secretariat under the prevailing laws and regulations of the Republic of India.

At the conclusion of the G20 MACS meeting, all personal data will be destroyed in a safe and secure manner.

**Contact details of representatives from  
India G20 MACS Secretariat**

The delegates may contact

1. [macs2023@g20.in](mailto:macs2023@g20.in)
2. [secy.icar@nic.in](mailto:secy.icar@nic.in)
3. [bikash.mandal@icar.gov.in](mailto:bikash.mandal@icar.gov.in)
4. [jp.mishra67@gov.in](mailto:jp.mishra67@gov.in)
5. [akmisra.icar@gov.in](mailto:akmisra.icar@gov.in)
6. [raviprakash.icar@nic.in](mailto:raviprakash.icar@nic.in)
7. [vineetkumar.icar@nic.in](mailto:vineetkumar.icar@nic.in)

Please Note

**Delegates will be responsible for their own safety and security should they plan to move outside the Conference venue/ accommodation for any activity which is not as per the scheduled G20 event itinerary or choose to travel under own arrangements. Delegates are advised to intimate their local sightseeing itinerary/ plans for security purposes to MACS Secretariat and their respective LOs**

## 12. GENERAL INFORMATION

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## GEOGRAPHY OF VARANASI

### ABOUT VARANASI

Varanasi, or Benaras, (also known as Kashi) is one of the oldest living cities in the world. Varanasi's Prominence in Hindu mythology is virtually unrevealed. Mark Twain, the English author and literature, who was enthralled by the legend and sanctity of Benaras, once wrote :

*"Benaras is older than history, older than tradition, older even than legend and looks twice as old as all of them put together".*

Varanasi has also been a great center of learning for ages. Varanasi is associated with promotion of spiritualism, mysticism, Sanskrit, yoga and Hindi language. Aptly called as the cultural capital of India, Varanasi has provided the right platform for all cultural activities to flourish. Many exponents of dance and music have come from Varanasi.

With Sarnath, the place where Buddha preached his first sermon after enlightenment, just 10 km away, Varanasi has been a symbol of Hindu renaissance. Knowledge, philosophy, culture, devotion to Gods, Indian arts and crafts have all flourished here for centuries.

### CLIMATE

Situated in Uttar Pradesh, in northern part of India, Varanasi is located on the banks of the holy river, Ganges. During summers, weather can be as hot as 43° C and humid too as Varanasi lies at the Tropic of cancer. Torrential rains and high humidity accompany the monsoons that usually come in late June or early July for about two months. Delicious and juicy mangoes offer little relief from the sweating weather. On the other hand, winters are pleasant and temperature dips down to about 7°C. In Varanasi, the climatic conditions are most favorable for the tourists between October to April. For those who are ready to face a sun and don't mind the odor of sweat, Varanasi is a place to visit all the year round.

### DRESS CODE

Dress code for all meetings is formal business attire. Delegates are expected to wear smart casual attire for the Welcome Reception and Dinner. For the planned excursion, delegates are advised to wear casual attire with sports footwear.

### TIME ZONE

Local time in Varanasi is India Standard Time (IST) which is **GMT+ 5 ½ hours**.

### INTERNATIONAL DIAL CODES

The country code for India is +91, and the local code for Varanasi is 542 To call a local number, you can dial +91 followed by the local code 542 and then dial the number you wish to call. Likewise, to call an Indian mobile number when calling from a foreign number, you should dial +91 followed by mobile number you wish to contact.





Delegates intending to use an Indian SIM-card can obtain the same from an authorized mobile network operator.

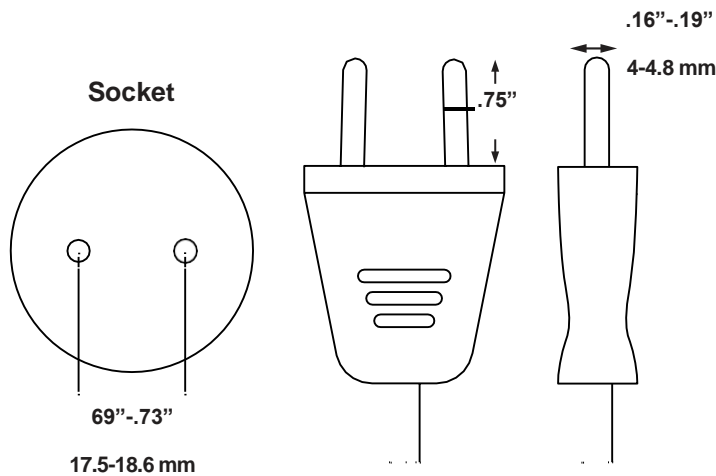
## CURRENCY AND BANKING

The currency of India is the **Indian Rupee (INR)**. **Current exchange rates against the US Dollar are approximately 82 INR to one US Dollar.** Currency is easily exchanged at the airport and at designated Government of India approved dealers and at the designated hotels. Delegates can withdraw Rupees through ATMs. There will also be facilities for currency-exchange at the Hotels. Major foreign credit cards are accepted in all modern establishments; hotels, restaurants and stores.

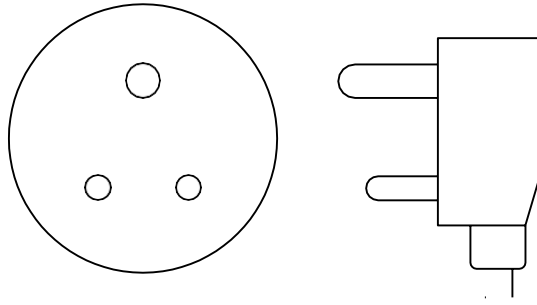
## ELECTRICITY

The electricity supply voltage in India is **220-240 volts with plug types C and D**. The Indian G20 Secretariat will provide a power outlet at the delegate's desk at the meeting venue. Delegates are encouraged to bring their equipment, such as electric adaptors for mobile devices intended to be used. Round pins with three points are used in Indian plug point (as shown in the pictures below).

Dimensions Guide Type C Plug & Socket



Dimensions Guide Type D Plug & Socket



## DRINKING WATER

Tap water is not potable. Delegates are advised to consume bottled water only.

## EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

For any urgent matters, please contact the Main Control Room located in Hotel Taj Fateh Prakash Palace, Udaipur. You may also call the Emergency Numbers as tabulated below.

Police	Fire	Ambulance	Central Helpline Number
100	101	108 / 102	112

## FIRST AID

An emergency medical support unit will be available at each of the hotels at all times and in the meeting venue during the meetings.

## ACCESSIBILITY AND SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Delegates are encouraged to inform the Indian G20 Secretariat on any special needs requiring assistance, such as accessibility and ambulatory requirements, special dietary preferences, allergies, medical issues and any other needs through email at [g20.logistics@gov.in](mailto:g20.logistics@gov.in) latest by 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023. All information will be treated confidentially.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Delegates and participants may be filmed or photographed by the Indian G20 Secretariat's official photographers/broadcasters over the course of the programme. In addition, photographs and short video compilations of the G20 MACS Meeting would be available on the G20 official website following the conclusion of the event, and would also be used in the official social media posts of the G20 Presidency.



### 13. IMPORTANT DATES

No	Description	Date
1	Last date for accreditation of delegates	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2023
2	Last date for update of hotel reservation, flight details of delegates on the website and other special requirements	20 <sup>st</sup> March 2023
3	Arrival at Varanasi	16 <sup>th</sup> April 2023 (latest)
4	Main Sessions	17-18-19 April 2023
5	Visit to Ganga Aarti via cruise	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
6	Welcome Dinner and Live instrumental classic music	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
7	Excursion to Sarnath and Budha Stupa Light and Sound Show	18 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
8	Gala Dinner and Cultural Program	18 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
9	Excursion to TFC Varanasi	19 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
10.	Farewell Dinner and Live instrumental classic music	19 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
11	Departure of delegates	20 <sup>th</sup> April 2023

