As India presides over the G20 summit in 2023, it marks the beginning of “Amritkaal,” a 25-year period starting with the 75th anniversary of its independence on 15 August 2022 and leading up to the centennial of its independence, towards a futuristic, prosperous, inclusive, and developed society distinguished by a human-centric approach at its core. The theme for G20, “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” or “One Earth · One Family · One Future” affirms the value of all life – human, animal, plant, and microorganisms – and their interconnectedness on the planet Earth and in the wider universe. The theme also spotlights LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), with its accompanying ecologically sustainable and responsible choices, both at the individual and national levels, leading to globally transformational activities that result in a cleaner and greener future.

India’s G20 presidency in 2023 further provides a chance to illustrate that policies and practices chosen and disseminated by cities have significant consequences for achieving global development targets. India’s presidency has also acknowledged the role of several engagement groups, Urban20 and Youth20 being part of them. Urban20 (U20) is a city diplomacy initiative, comprising cities from G20 countries. It strives to establish a lasting practice of engagement among cities to develop a collective message that emphasises the role of cities in taking forward the sustainable development agenda. The U20 engagement group plays a vital role in contributing perspectives, concerns, and ideas from cities to inform and enrich the overall G20 negotiations. Youth20 (Y20) engagement group, with its first Y20 conference held in 2010, provides a platform that allows youth to express their vision and ideas on the G20 priorities and comes up with a series of recommendations which are submitted to the G20 Leaders.
U20 priority areas:
- Encouraging Environmentally Responsible Behaviours
- Ensuring Water Security
- Accelerating Climate Finance
- Championing ‘Local’ Identity
- Reinventing Frameworks for Urban Governance and Planning
- Catalysing Digital Urban Futures

The Y20 India summit in 2023 would exemplify India’s youth-centric efforts and provide an opportunity to showcase its values and policy measures so that India’s leadership of this summit can stand out among the youth cohort. The priority areas selected for the summit will showcase Indian leadership on these issues to both global and domestic audiences and help fulfil India’s vision of making the G20 summit truly participative.

The honourable Prime Minister states in his vision for India’s G20 presidency, “Today, the greatest challenges we face - climate change, terrorism, and pandemics - can be solved not by fighting each other, but only by acting together. With the oldest-known traditions of collective decision-making, India contributes to the foundational DNA of democracy. As the mother of democracy, India’s national consensus is forged not by diktat, but by blending millions of free voices into one harmonious melody.”

To realise the vision set by both the engagement groups, the U20 and Y20 secretariats, with support from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Department of Youth Affairs-Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) are hosting a ‘National Youth Conclave’ in March 2023, to bring together young minds to deliberate on the U20 and Y20 priority areas and foster bright leaders of tomorrow.

The 2-day event will be India’s biggest youth summit that will see youth from all over the country, national leaders, experts, and innovators come together to discuss some of the pressing concerns and learn from each other on how to make cities and communities a better place to live and thrive. The summit will have presentations, discussions, interactive sessions and other engaging activities that highlight the priority areas identified by both engagement groups.