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**G-20, the Indo-Pacific and the Regional  
Economic Order:  
Collaborative Synergies between India and  
Indonesia**



## INTRODUCTION

CGAPP hosted its first Round Table in New Delhi, on the theme of "*G-20, the Indo-Pacific and the Regional Economic Order: Collaborative Synergies between India and Indonesia*" on 20 June, 2022. The event featured 2 sessions addressed by a panel of experts from India and abroad including from Indonesia and Singapore. The audience members included business leaders, , policy analysts, senior journalists and academicians and students from 5 top Indian universities (JNU, Delhi University, Shiv Nadar, South Asian University and O P Jindal Global University) providing a unique opportunity to exchange ideas about collaboration between Indonesia and India, the holders of the current and next presidency of the G20 respectively. The sessions also explored broader issues in the Indo-Pacific region, the role of the United States, the potential of the Indo Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) for Prosperity and in the context of current geo-political developments.



## **SESSION 1 – G20: EXPLORING SYNERGIES AND PROSPECTS**

**Chair – Dr. Amitendu Palit, ISAS, NUS  
Singapore**

**Panelists –**

**Dr. Tauhid Ahmed, Executive Director,  
INDEF**

**Mr. Pranav Kumar, CII**

**Professor Milindo Chakraborti, Jindal  
School of Government & Public Policy,  
O P Jindal University and visiting fellow,  
RIS**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The presidency of the G20 is going to be held by several emerging economies in succession such as Indonesia, India, Brazil and others, providing them a unique opportunity to influence the global agenda on issues of common concern. This presents an opportunity to deepen bilateral engagement between India and Indonesia specifically as two large emerging economies within the G20 facing issues different from the developed economies of the group. The impact of this relationship will also have a wider impact on the Global South by offering replicable solutions to common developmental problems and raising concerns of the emerging and less developed economies on platforms such as the G-20.
- Data protection in Indonesia is a major issue and the government needs to come up with a cohesive policy to tackle the same. Due to India's expertise in telecommunications and Information Technology, this could be an area of convergence between the two nations. India can play a constructive role in policy on all the three pillars identified by Indonesia for its G20 Presidency - Global Health Architecture, Sustainable Energy Transition, and Digital Transformation.





## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The significance of the Geneva Package of agreements concluded at the WTO ministerial meeting in June, 2022 is significant as a breakthrough after almost a decade in WTO negotiations. The agreements concluded under the package give WTO and other international groups a renewed impetus to go forward with a concrete agenda. This is particularly significant for India, with its increasing merchandise exports.
- India's role in tackling the climate crisis was also highlighted and the need for more cohesive steps towards Climate and Debt Financing was emphasised. Indonesia is also facing challenges with the transition to green energy. With both economies still dependent on fossil fuels, this is an area of collaboration that could be explored.
- The global technological divide was identified as a major challenge, which needs to be taken care of with focus on building digital literacy, setting common standards and facilitating equitable its access to all.



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The far-reaching changes that have taken place in the regional architecture in terms of emergence of new constructs like the IPEF; its engagement with the priorities of the G20; and the crucial role that India and Indonesia can play in contributing to the IPEF and G20 agendas.
- The role of open membership groups such as the G20 is important in setting standards and determining the contours of global policy. At the same time, negotiations between nations may move towards cooperation on specific identified areas.
- The Russia-Ukraine conflict has highlighted the difficult choices that emerging economies such as India and Indonesia are faced with, with global alliances growing more rigid. For most such countries the foreign policy alternative may be to rely on loose open membership-based groups, as the basis for engagement.





**SESSION 2 – Indo Pacific  
Economic Framework (IPEF) for  
Prosperity – A New Promise?**

**Chair – Dipanjan Roy Chaudhary,  
Diplomatic Editor, Economic Times**

**Panelists –**

**Dr. Amitendu Palit, ISAS, NUS Singapore**

**Yashodhara Dasgupta, US-India  
Business Council, India**

**Dr. Tauhid Ahmed, Executive Director,  
INDEF**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Panelists stressed that the IPEF has presented a unique opportunity in terms of linking economic and trade issues with geo-strategic and regional security architecture. IPEF has identified its role as setting standards under 4 pillars - Connected Economy (focussing on Trade), Resilient Economy (In terms of supply chains), Clean Economy (emphasis on clean energy, decarbonisation and infrastructure) and Fair economy (focussing on anti-corruption).
- However, panelists agreed that the United States of America must play a major role to stabilise the IPEF. The group has potential as it includes several RCEP and G20 countries, and the members make up a larger share of the global economy than the RCEP. Its distinct nature as an open membership-based group without restrictive rules, can allow members to pursue national foreign policy objectives, while pursuing greater globalisation and harmonisation under its banner.
- The representative from US-India Business Council said that the IPEF has put India at Centre table, allowing it to frame global rules in the identified areas. She also noted that there is immense room for digitalized growth within the region. In response to a query from business representatives regarding the unfulfilled potential of India-US relationship, it was noted that trade treaties are increasingly moving away from just tariff focussed free





trade agreements to increasingly innovative frameworks and, in that context, the IPEF provides another exciting opportunity.

- The discussion also touched upon China's influence on the region and the need to have a robust policy that will take into consideration the economy and security of the region. The IPEF can be a platform to strengthen the Indo-Pacific region and ensure cross border stability and provides a path for many nations to develop China+1 supply chains.
- Highlighting the importance of stakeholder collaboration, panelists agreed that the IPEF is a vision of the future and will enhance regional as well as global trade, open partnership and scaling up on larger platforms. They further pointed out that the IPEF is an indication of more flexible platforms of global engagement with open membership rules.



## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mr. Anindya Sengupta, Director CGAPP, delivered the concluding remarks and summarised the context of the Round Table and the day's proceedings. He also informed the participants that beyond great power rivalries, CGAPP wants to focus on issues like resilient supply chains, mitigating climate change and digital transition, which are rapidly transforming policy priorities everywhere and these issues present common challenge to not only to India and Indonesia but the entire Indo-Pacific region.





**INFORMAL SESSION ON EDUCATION IN  
INDIA & INDONESIA**

**Moderated by –  
Mr. Subhomoy Bhattacharjee, Senior  
Adjunct Fellow, RIS & Consulting Editor  
(Energy), Business Standard**

**Members –**

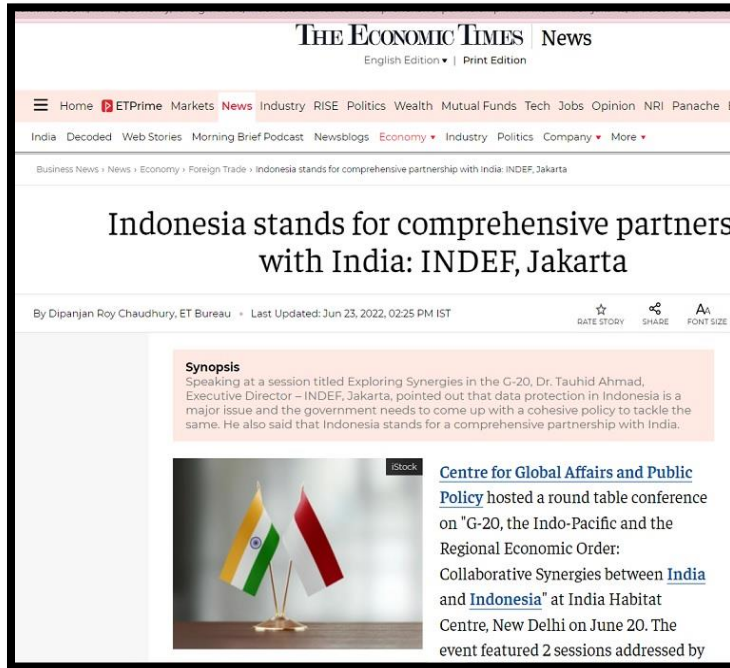
**Miss Yashodhara Dasgupta, US-India  
Business Council, India  
Mr. Sharat Chander, Head of Public  
Policy for the Asia-Pacific, Coursera  
Dr. Tauhid Ahmed, Executive Director,  
INDEF**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- It was noted that in fields such as education, standards are set at the national level, even though priorities and challenges may be the same for countries. As an example, the objectives of the National Education Policy of India, such as increasing enrolment and retention, multi-disciplinary education and incorporating vocational education and skill training are quite similar to the goals of the Kampus Merdeka programme in Indonesia. Several countries are, therefore, going through the same process and consultation exercise to develop national standards, which presents an opportunity for experience sharing and a common approach to shared challenges.
- The corporate sector can play a consultative role in these exercises, connecting policy makers across countries and ensuring gradual harmonisation of standards. This will be particularly important in the field of Edutech, in allowing private sector companies to operate across the region and develop products that cater to common challenges in the education sector.



## [MEDIA COVERAGE](#)



<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indonesia-stands-for-comprehensive-partnership-with-india-indef-jakarta/articleshow/92407930.cms>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUXJweiAOPQ>





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<https://www.newsinc24.com/news/cgapp-hosts-round-table-conference-on-g-20-and-the-indo-pacific>

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### Centre for Global Affairs and Public Policy hosts round-table conference on G-20

New Delhi, June 20 (UNI) The Centre for Global Affairs and Public Policy on Monday hosted a round-table conference on "G-20, the Indo-Pacific and the Regional Economic Order: Collaborative Synergies between India and Indonesia".

Organised at the India Habitat Centre, the event featured two sessions addressed by a panel of policy experts from India and Indonesia

Speaking at a session titled Exploring Synergies in the G-20, Tauhid Ahmad, Executive Director – INDEF, Jakarta, pointed out that data protection in Indonesia is a major issue and the government needs to come up with a cohesive policy to tackle the same. He also said that Indonesia stands for a comprehensive partnership with India.

Pranav Kumar, Chief - International Trade Policy Division, CII, said, "G20 is important for India as it is the oldest engagement group. It is also a multilateral forum core agenda of trade management. With India's merchandise export up to billions, the country has good agenda to move forward with WTO. The Geneva Package of agreements has also given WTO a good agenda going forward."

He also highlighted India's role in tackling the climate crisis and called for more cohesive steps towards Climate and Debt Financing. He spoke on global technological divide, which needs to be taken care of with focus on building digital literacy and its access to the people worldwide. The Roundtable reflected on the far-reaching changes that have taken place in the regional architecture in terms of emergence of new constructs like the IPEF; its engagement with the priorities of the G20; and the crucial role that India and Indonesia can play in contributing to the IPEF and G20 agendas.

<http://www.uniindia.com/centre-for-global-affairs-and-public-policy-hosts-round-table-conference-on-g-20/india/news/2762328.html>



<https://twitter.com/sidhant/status/1538753836059226112>



<https://ddnews.gov.in/national/centre-global-affairs-and-public-policy-hosts-round-table-conference-g-20-and-indo-pacific>