

Let us learn about Group of Twenty (G 20)

A Reading for Students of Classes VI, VII and VIII



**Ministry of Education
Government of India**

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Here is a conversation on Group of Twenty (G20) in which Kannan, Aastha and their teacher Mrs. Ekta are deliberating about G 20, its roles and India's presidency this year. Let us read their conversation.

Aastha: Namaskar! Kannan and Namaskar Madam! How are you?

Kannan: Namaste! I am fine. How are you, Aastha?

Mrs. Ekta: Namaskar. I am doing well. How are you?

Aastha: Madam, I would like to know about G20. I read in the newspaper and watched on television news about it. **India has taken over the presidency of G20. Our Prime Minister assumed as the chair of G 20.**

Mrs. Ekta: Yes Aastha, You should first know that India is the Fountain Head of Democracy and the first Republic of the world originated in the Ancient India. G20 forum gives India the unique opportunity to communicate its democratic ethos to the world specially during the presidency of G 20..

Kannan: Wow. Like Aastha, I too want to learn about G20.

Mrs. Ekta: That is good. I am very happy that you are aware of what is happening around the world. This curiosity and interest, I like it. Fine. Let me ask you a question before I tell you about G 20. Do you know the expansion of G20?

Kannan: Yes I know. It is 'Group of Twenty'?

Aastha: Yes. I too know it. Is it because twenty countries are members of G20?

Mrs. Ekta: Are all 20 of them countries or any organizations or group of countries are also in it?

Kannan: Yes. I think all of them are countries.

Mrs. Ekta: No. There are **19 countries** and one union of countries known as **European Union**. We will understand this further. Now let us know what G20 is; why it was created and soon.

Kannan: Yes madam. Tell us about it.

Mrs. Ekta: The G20, or Group of Twenty, is a forum for international economic cooperation and mutual understanding. It is an **intergovernmental forum** of the world's 20

major developed and developing economies. Intergovernmental meanstwoor more governments. You see there are governments of 19 countries and there is European Union which is another forum of most countries of Europe.

Aastha: Oh! This is great – a forum of many countries. Madam I have a question. You said that it is an intergovernmental organization which we understand. You also said that it is a forum for 20 major **developed and developing economies**. What is this, ‘developed’ and ‘developing’ countries?

Kannan: Yes. Could you please tell us about it?

Mrs.Ekta: You know some of the countries in the world have economically grown over a period and they have material wealth, high standard of living, and they are engaged in lots of trading activities. They are known as developed countries. Most people in the developed countries earn higher incomes when compared to developing countries. This forum of G20 has both developed countries and developing countries. This is to bridge the gap between these two categories of countries. You can see this. The 19 countries are from all the continents except Antarctica (where there is no human population living) of the world. Here is a list of countries Aastha and Kannan. You read it out for yourself.

Aastha and Kannan: Yes madam. Here are the countries. It is given in alphabetical order **Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States, and the European Union.**

Kannan: Let me check which country from Africa is member of G 20. Yes. It is South Africa.

Aastha: Let me tell you which are the countries from Asia, our continent, India, China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

Kannan: Yes. But Turkey is both in Asia and in Europe.

Aastha: Yes. Like Russia which is spread across Asia and Europe.

Mrs. Ekta: So, Can we say it is truly a global forum of economic and political cooperation?

Aastha: Yes. It is truly a global forum.

Kannan: So it is a historic moment and a proud moment for all of us in India that India has assumed the G20 Presidency.

Mrs. Ekta: Yes, definitely. Do you know that India has assumed the Chair from 1st December 2022 till 30th November 2023?

Kannan: Yes. Let me ask you madam, When was it started? How and why this G20 began?

Mrs. Ekta: I like your interest. Let me tell you. The G20 was founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis as a forum for the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to discuss global economic and financial issues. There was a financial crisis affecting Asian countries and this G20 was formed to address the economic crisis. Notice, that it started as a forum of Finance Ministers and Governors of Central Banks. Central Bank is the Reserve Bank in India. In the year 2007, G20 was upgraded to the level of Heads of Countries /Government when there was a global economic and financial crisis which affected all the countries of the world. G20 was designated the '**premier forum for international economic cooperation**' in the year 2009. It became a truly a global forum for economic cooperation and mutual understanding and support.



Kannan: Oh! Thank you, madam. This is interesting. It has grown into a global forum to benefit all.

Aastha: I am rather excited to learn about the G20's transformation. Madam there is a logo for G20. Could you please tell us about the G20 logo?

Mrs. Ekta: You can see it there. G2 with earth in place of zero on the lotus, our national flower. Under this is **Bharat in Hindi, 2023 and India**. International cooperation is gaining greater prominence as the world is integrating more and more due to economy and digital technology. However, India is imbued with this spirit since more than 3000 years and has been always at the forefront of cooperation. Below the logo is the inspiring quote from the ancient Sanskrit text, *Maha Upanishad Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam- One Earth One Family One future*. This is India's message to the world through G20 that '**the World is one**'

family'. This theme makes it relevant to today's world as conflicts and war in many countries, poverty and other problems are affecting lives of people and community as a whole.



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ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE

The G20 Logo draws inspiration from the vibrant colours of **India's national flag – saffron, white and green, and blue. It juxtaposes planet Earth with the lotus, India's national flower that reflects growth amid challenges.** Theme affirms the value of all life –human, animal, plant, and microorganisms – and their interconnectedness on the planet Earth and in the wider universe.

Aastha: This is both interesting and inspirational. I feel proud as an Indian.

Kannan: I too feel the same, a proud Indian.

Mrs. Ekta: Let me also tell you a bit more about the theme of the G 20 Logo. The theme also spotlights LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), with its associated, environmentally sustainable and responsible choices, both at the level of individual lifestyles as well as national development, leading to globally transformative actions resulting in a cleaner, greener and bluer future.

Aastha: Oh! I see. This is much more needed for young people like us. We need to preserve our environment.

Mrs. Ekta: Let me also share with you that the concept of LiFE (Life Style For Environment) was enunciated by our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at Glasgow in the Conference of Parties (CoP 26) in 2021. Something more about G20 and how it is important for India. You know very well that we are celebrating 75 years of our independence. For India, the G20 Presidency also marks the beginning of 'Amritkaal', the 25-year period beginning from the 75th anniversary of its independence on 15 August 2022, leading up to the centenary of its independence, towards a futuristic, prosperous, inclusive and developed society, distinguished by a human-centric approach at its core, the centre.

Kannan: That is really exciting! I am looking forward to see how these are realized.

Aastha: Yes. This makes me ask you madam, another question. What are the activities and events India is organizing as part of the G20?

Mrs. Ekta: There are lots of activities for everyone to participate and contribute. India will host over 200 meetings in over 50 cities across 32 different work streams i.e. themes and area of work. Through these meetings we will have the opportunity to offer G20 delegates and guests from the G20 countries and also from Guest countries a glimpse of India's rich cultural heritage and provide them with a unique Indian experience.

Aastha: You said some countries are invited as guest countries. Tell us about it later. Now let me ask a question, "Do we, school, students have any activities?"

Kannan: I am eager to participate.

Mrs. Ekta: Yes. There are many activities and events for school and university students. There are some activities already launched / started. You can participate in them. There are two Quiz competitions –one on general awareness about G20 and the other on Life Style for Environment Quiz. These two quizzes have been already launched and are available on <https://quiz.mygov.in> One slogan writing competition has also been launched. You can see that online and write a slogan on G20 and its various aspects.

Kannan: I will definitely participate.

Aastha: I too will do it, right now.

Mrs. Ekta: Many more events are scheduled for the whole year. Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) exhibitions for school learners. Science Exhibition will also be held at different locations shown in the schedule of activities. You can refer to them on the dedicated G20 website g20.org and from Ministry of Education, Government of India's website and also from NCERT website <https://ncert.nic.in> Aastha and Kannan, I told you that there some countries invited as guest countries. Let me tell them about these countries. The guest countries are: Our neighbor, Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Guest Countries



Bangladesh



Egypt



Mauritius



Netherlands



Nigeria



Oman



Singapore



Spain



UAE

Aastha: It is again countries from all over the world.

Kannan: Great! Bringing all the countries means bring the peoples of the world together to lead a harmonious life.

Mrs. Ekta: Absolutely! Let me also tell you. There are many international organizations like the United Nations will also participate in the G20 activities during India's presidency.

Aastha: Fine. Which are the organizations?

Mrs. Ekta: Kannan, Can you guess?

Kannan: I know that UNO would be there. But....

Mrs. Ekta: Yes. You are right. But many more organizations are participating as invitees in the G20 activities. These include: United Nations, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank (WB), World Health Organization (WHO), World Trade Organization (WTO), International Labour Organization (ILO), Financial Stability Board (FSB) Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and many more regional organizations like Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Aastha and Kannan: Thank you madam for making us understand and aware of G20 and its role and function, how India's presidency is important for India as well as other countries of the world.

Mrs. Ekta: Fine. You are welcome. Let me also tell you something that India offers and makes this year's G20 events and India's Presidency unique and distinct is that **India's G20 Presidency will be taking the G20 closer to the public and making it truly a 'People's G20'**. To realize this, Citizen engagement and large scale public participation through various **Jan Bhagidari activities are planned throughout the year**. This is the vision of India's Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.

Aastha and Kannan: Thank you madam.

Mrs. Ekta: You are welcome. Let me give you two tasks for both of you. First as you promised, to participate in the quiz and slogan competition.

The other task is to visit G20 website <https://www.g20.org> and read about the countries and their socio, economic and cultural aspects.

Aastha and Kannan: Sure madam. Will do.

Learners, how was the conversation on G20? Have you also learnt about G20? Here are some questions for you and attempt them based on your reading of the conversation.

1. Why was G20 created?
2. Who from the member countries participated in the beginning of G20?
3. Who is the President of G20 now?
4. What does the G20 Logo convey?
5. Write a letter to a student like you in one of the G20 countries describing about our country, your town/ village / city and how the people are, the festivals and so on.