

## The Chitrakoot Declaration

### **Preamble,**

The Government of India launched the “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” initiative to commemorate 75 years of Independence and its achievements, growth, and leadership across sectors over the last seven decades. This celebration of 'India @75' has coincided with India taking over the G20 presidency - one of the powerful international forums where 20 member countries discuss, deliberate and resolve the pressing issues of the time, prioritizing global economic and developmental parameters. During its tenure as G20 president, India aims to project the agenda of equitable and inclusive development along with a shared future highlighting the principle of “*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*” (One Earth, One Family, One Future).

While the G20 had earlier predominantly been a forum for discussion on economic and financial concerns as witnessed during the 2008–09 global financial crisis, it has expanded its domain over the years. One such key area of expansion has been the linking of its efforts to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals like Global Health and Wellbeing for All (SDG3). The resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015 emphasises that *‘the interlinkages and integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals are of crucial importance in ensuring that the purpose of the new Agenda is realised. If we realize our ambitions across the full extent of the Agenda, the lives of all will be profoundly improved and our world will be transformed for the better.’*

The concept of “sustainable development” is a vital amalgamation of three interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars: economic development, social development, and environmental protection. The existing inequality in the capacity and capability to fund, manage and monitor the actions are major hindrances. Thus, a combination of collective and individual action through transformative policies by both developed and developing countries, is essential. While promoting strong, sustainable and balanced growth as key agenda of the G20, its efforts in achieving SDGs could act as a benchmark to steer the world order towards a positive direction.

The idea of “Integral Humanism”, based on Bharat’s world view and propounded by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, was translated into action by Rashtrarishi Nanaji Deshmukh, with Chitrakoot as its epicentre.

The first international seminar on experience sharing process of SDGs was held at Chitrakoot on 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> April 2022. One of the outcomes of that successful conference was the decision to make it an annual feature with a view to stocktaking of the progress in movement towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

***This second International SDG Conference held on 26<sup>th</sup>–27<sup>th</sup> February 2023, at Deendayal Parisar, Chitrakoot unanimously adopts the following “Chitrakoot Declaration”:***

- Having realised the need to learn from experience and experiments on realising the SDGs, this conference endorses the decision to hold such an international gathering every year till 2030. A suitable decision can be taken thereafter on continuation of the conference series.
- Having given the civil society sufficient space in determining the SDGs, it is now necessary to provide a framework for the involvement of the civil society in the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs.
- Realising the inadequacy of the present global economic binaries in the progression towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, it is imperative for India and the global South, to initiate efforts for a new and inclusive world economic order, which will hasten the process of fulfilling SDGs in a cooperative economic architecture.
- Recalling the experiences and experiments of institutions such as the Deendayal Research Institute (DRI), especially at Chitrakoot, it will be relevant to delve on a new narrative laying emphasis on family as the fulcrum of solutions in the spirit of 'Local to Global'— *Gramoday* to *Sarvoday* (village to the universe); from grassroots to global. Thus, the World SDG Forum (WSF) will eventually transform into a global forum for all, with every stakeholder as a partner, participant and beneficiary.