



Deploying 'MEGA' SOUND For G-20 Summit In India

Mega Sound India designs a discreet and dapper sound system for the 3rd G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting in Gandhinagar, India. Vishrut V. Joshi, Head, Operations, Mega Sound India and Audio Designer, in a conversation with PALM Expo Magazine Team, elaborates on the same.

India reinforced its presence on the global map with its G-20 Presidency in 2023. Under the Indian Presidency's theme of "One Earth, One Family, One Future", G-20 Ministers and Governors pledged to prioritize the well-being of the people and the planet and reaffirmed their commitment to improving international economic cooperation, strengthening global development, and steering the global economy towards strong, sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth. To reflect this, The 3rd G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting under the Indian Presidency was held during 17-18 July 2023 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The meeting was jointly chaired by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, and Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, Reserve Bank of India.

Mega Sound India, a pro sound rental company in India, was tasked with designing and deploying a sound system that is clear and discreet in equal measure. In a conversation with PALM Expo Magazine's Team, Vishrut V. Joshi, Project Head, Mega Sound India, shares how the company succeed-

ed in putting together a sound system for a large-scale event that not only demands impeccable sound dispersion, but also aims at captivating the audience's attention within seconds.

The Project Brief:

Speaking about being approached by the client for FMCBG Meeting's sound deployment at the G-20 Summit in Gandhinagar, Joshi shares, "When we were approached for The Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG & FCBD) meeting under the Indian Presidency in Gandhinagar, it was a testament to the company's reputation and expertise in the field of sound rental and audio production. The organizers of the G-20 Summit recognized Mega Sound India as a reliable and accomplished partner with a track record of delivering high-quality audio solutions for various events."

Joshi further states, "Our consistent commitment to excellence, cutting-edge technology, and a team of experienced professionals played a pivotal role in securing the opportunity to be part of such a prestigious event. The organizers likely sought a partner who could ensure flawless audio production, clear communication, and a seamless experience for the participants and attendees of the G-20 Summit."



The K2 from L-Acoustics is used to reinforce sound for media briefings during the G-20 Summit Meet

For Joshi, the detailed client brief for the project meant that Mega Sound India was required to pay nuanced attention while deploying the sound system at the venue. Joshi recalls, "The organizing community for the G-20 underscored the event's significance and high-profile nature. They emphasized the scale of the gathering, underlining the necessity for a robust audio production setup capable of accommodating a large number of attendees while facilitating clear communication. Recognizing the spatial dynamics of the meeting venue, the organizer placed a premium on the need for impeccable sound clarity throughout, ensuring that every participant could hear with precision."

That is not all. Joshi adds, "Moreover, the organizer entrusted us with the freedom to design the audio infrastructure, emphasizing the importance of sensitivity to the nature of the meeting. Aesthetic considerations were paramount, with a specific directive to ensure that speakers were discreet and unobtrusive, harmonizing seamlessly with the dignified atmosphere of the event and the explicit emphasis on redundant backup systems reflected the paramount importance placed on reliability. We were tasked with crafting a system featuring inherent backup mechanisms, guaranteeing a seamless and uninterrupted audio production experience, even in the event of technical glitches."



Dual Redundant DiGiCo SD10 Consoles ensure impeccable, balanced sonic mix at the G-20 Summit Meeting

Once the client's brief was in place, the team from Mega Sound India, let by Joshi, performed an intensive recce of the venue in order to explore the layout and understand the requirements for the eventual deployment. Joshi notes, "Our team prioritized delivering a perfect audio experience for the G-20 Summit meeting. To achieve this, the team performed careful site check, which highlighted the company's commitment to understanding the event inside out. We personally took care of analyzing the venue, checking the acoustics, inspecting technical setups, addressing aesthetic challenges, and planning logistics."

The venue, according to Joshi, was "quite big." He elaborates, "The main hall of the venue is quite big — 108 meters wide and 60 meters long. The ceiling was really high, reaching up to 12 meters. This massive space was they divided into three parts. Two parts of the venue were for the main meetings, where the important discussions happened. The third part was specifically designed for the media, where they can listen to the discussions report on them."

Talking about the team's key observations at the venue, Joshi relays, "We looked at where the meeting rooms are, how the stage is set up, and where people will be sitting. This helped us figure out the best spots to put our audio equipment so everyone can hear clearly. We also listened to how sound behaves in different parts of the venue. Understanding this is super important for making sure the sound quality is top-notch everywhere. We took note of the technical stuff already present at the venue. This enabled us to ensure our equipment will work smoothly with what is already in place and let us spot any potential issues ahead of time. Considering how everything looks is

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The Inventory:

Joshi states that Mega Sound India designed a total of 10 setups for the G-20 Summit's Meeting. The inventory list is as follows:

Speakers:

- 28 x L-acoustics KARA Speakers
- 12 x L-acoustics K2 Speakers
- 12 x L-Acoustics KS28 Subwoofers
- 8 x L-acoustics X15 Monitor Speakers
- 8 x L-acoustics ARCS II Speakers
- 20 x JBL VRX 915
- All Powered By L-ACOUSTICS LA 12X Amplification
- 50 x RCF TT 25-CXA Active High-Definition Coaxial Monitors
- 20 x RCF EVOX Speakers (for fillers)

Consoles:

- 4 x Digico SD Consoles (both main and redundant) with SD racks
- 1 x Soundcraft Vi3000 Console
- 1 x Yamaha CL5 Console

Joshi expounds further, "We made sure everything was reliable by having redundant audio network protocols. We used AVB, AES, and analog connections, making sure the setup stayed rock-solid. L-acoustics P1 and Luminex Gigacore helped us strengthen the redundancy.

another big thing. We wanted our audio gear to blend in and not be too noticeable. So, we figured out where to place the equipment in a way that they fit in with the overall style of the event."

The Challenges:

Deploying an articulate sound system for a massive venue, for a large-scale event, is not a cakewalk. Joshi agrees and lists down the major challenges that Mega Sound India's team faced while designing the acoustic layout for the venue, "Over 500 delegates, including Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors from G-20 Member Countries, Invitee Countries, and Heads of various International Organizations (IOs) participated in the meeting. Setting up speakers in a big venue and for a big event like the G-20 Summit was a bit tricky. We had to figure out where to put them so that everyone could hear well. Since the hall was really tall, hanging the speakers securely from the ceiling was a bit of a challenge. But our team, who knows a lot about this stuff, came up with a plan to do it safely."

The challenges don't end there. Joshi continues, "Sometimes, there are spots in big halls where the sound doesn't reach as well, making it hard for people in those areas to hear properly. To fix this, we added extra speakers or adjusted the direction of the ones we had already placed. We used tools to map out and simulate the sound in the venue before the event to make sure everyone gets clear audio."

The Team From Mega Sound India:

Siddharth Chauhan, Audio Director
Vishrut V. Joshi, Head Audio Designer
Ranjeet Singh, Senior Audio Engineer for FMCBG Meeting Room
Sanjay K., Audio Engineer for FCBD Meeting Room
Rajesh Kumawat, Audio Engineer
Ravi Rathore, Assistant Audio Engineer
Devendra Jethi, Assistant Audio Engineer
Harshal Philare, Assistant Audio Engineer
Krishna Biswal, Audio Tech and Rigger
Lokesh Kumawat, Audio Tech and Rigger
Virendra Solanki, Audio Tech
Swapnil Elpass, Audio Tech, Mega Sound India
Harish Kumar, Assistant Engineer, Mega Sound India