

# FM: Developing nations need to provide citizens digital solutions



**Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with IMF Managing Director K Georgieva at the meeting of G7 finance ministers and central bank governors, in Japan on Friday**

PHOTO: PTI

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Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday underlined the need for developing nations to go beyond macroeconomic indicators and growth numbers and focus on empowering people by improving digital connectivity. She was speaking at the G7 meeting in Japan.

This comes at a time when India is using its presidency of the G20 to pitch to developing and low-income nations the unified payments interface (UPI) and unique identification (Aadhaar), and is helping them develop their own versions.

Addressing a G7 seminar on economic policies for welfare, in Niigata, Japan, she stressed that technology improves access to markets

and basic services for the poor and highlighted that access to digital connectivity has empowered people and there is a need to discuss ways to measure empowerment going beyond gross domestic product (GDP) indicators.

She underlined the dilemmas faced by Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDEs) between climate security and growth, as they manage overlapping crises and socioeconomic transformation.

“The Union Finance Minister shared India’s focus on technology, digital public infrastructure and green hydrogen as a foundation for sustainable and inclusive growth and as an example of innovative policy toolkits by EMDEs,” the Finance Ministry said in a tweet.