

What are the key issues for G20 summit

REUTERS, New Delhi

Leaders of the world's richest and most powerful countries will attend the two-day G20 Summit in India's capital New Delhi starting today. This is the first time India will host such a powerful group of world leaders.

The capital has been adorned with ornamental flowers and fountains at traffic roundabouts while public buildings and sidewalks have been given a fresh coat of paint.

Security is being provided by anti-drone systems, cutouts of langurs to scare away monkeys and 130,000 police and para-military personnel.

WHAT IS THE G20?

The world's 20 major countries formed an economic grouping after the Asian financial crisis in 1999 with the understanding that such crises could no longer be contained within a nation's borders and required better international economic cooperation.

The bloc currently accounts for 80 percent of global gross domestic production (GDP) and 75 percent of international trade.

Its members include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.

Although only treasury chiefs met in the initial years, heads of all member nations decided to meet once a year for a leaders' summit post the 2008 financial crisis.

KEY ISSUES THIS YEAR

Under India's year-long presidency, the bloc has centred discussions around more loans to developing nations from multilateral institutions, reforming international debt architecture, regulations on cryptocurrency and the impact of geopolitical uncertainties on food and energy security.

So far this year, the bloc has failed to issue any joint statements as it is deeply divided over language referring to the war in Ukraine.

While Russia and China are against blaming Moscow for the war in Ukraine, Western countries including the United States, France and Canada have sought a strong condemnation as a necessary condition for a joint statement.

SUMMIT THEME

India's G20 theme is derived from the Sanskrit phrase "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" which translates to "The World is One Family".

WHERE IS THE NEXT MEETING

India will hand over the presidency to Brazil on December 1.



Protesters shout slogans as they burn effigies of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister of Manipur N Biren Singh during a demonstration in Imphal yesterday, demanding the restoration of peace in India's north-eastern Manipur state following ongoing ethnic violence. PHOTO: AFP

G20 leaders can stop climate breakdown

Says UN chief, urges them to reshape financial rules

REUTERS, New Delhi

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said G20 leaders have the power to reset a climate crisis that is "spinning out of control" and urged them to reshape global financial rules which he described as outdated and unfair.

"The climate crisis is worsening dramatically - but the collective response is lacking in ambition, credibility, and urgency," Guterres said in a speech in New Delhi, capital city of India, which is chairing the G20 this weekend.

Guterres asked the G20 to commit to keeping the "1.5 degree goal alive" - referring to the 2015 Paris Agreement goal of limiting the global average temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels,

and aiming for 1.5. "I have put forward a Climate Solidarity Pact - in which big emitters make extra efforts to cut emissions; and wealthier countries support emerging economies to achieve this," Guterres said.

The plan urges developed countries to reach net-zero as close as possible to 2040, and emerging economies as close as possible to 2050, proposing a phase out of coal by 2030 in OECD countries and 2040 in all others.

"The climate crisis is spiralling out of control. But G20 countries are in control," he said. "Together, G20 countries are responsible for 80 percent of global emissions. Half-measures will not prevent full climate breakdown."

The UN chief also called on

G20 leaders to ensure a stimulus of at least \$500 billion per year towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

An effective debt workout mechanism is needed to support payment suspensions, longer lending terms and lower rates on fairer terms for poorer countries, he said.

Calling the global financial architecture "outdated, dysfunctional, and unfair," Guterres said it needed deep, structural reform. "And the same can be said of the United Nations Security Council."

China's Xi Jinping will miss the G20 meeting at a time of heightened trade and geopolitical tensions with US and India.

Diplomatic opprobrium and war crimes charges are also keeping Russian leader Vladimir Putin away, although Moscow continues to press allies to water down international condemnation of its invasion of Ukraine.

HK flooded by heaviest rainfall in 140 years

AFP, Hong Kong

Hong Kong was flooded by the heaviest rainfall in nearly 140 years yesterday, leaving the city's streets and some subway stations under water and forcing its schools to close.

Just across the border, authorities in China's tech hub Shenzhen recorded the heaviest rains since records began in 1952.

Climate change has increased the intensity of tropical storms, experts say, with more rain and stronger gusts leading to flash floods and coastal damage.

The heavy rains in Hong Kong started on Thursday and in the hour leading up to midnight, the city's weather observatory recorded hourly rainfall of 158.1 millimetres at its headquarters.

Pelosi to run for re-election to US Congress



AFP, San Francisco

Former US House speaker Nancy Pelosi, one of the most influential - and at 83 years old, longest-serving - Democrats, said yesterday she will seek another term as a representative for California

in Congress. Pelosi said in a post on X that the United States needs "to show the world that our flag is still there, with liberty and justice for ALL." "That is why I am running for reelection - and respectfully ask for your vote," she continued on the platform formerly known as Twitter. Her announcement that she wants another four-year term is likely to deepen debate in the United States over the ageing of its political class. President Joe Biden, also a Democrat, is 80, while his Republican rival, former president Donald Trump, is 77. Their respective ages - and how it may affect their abilities to lead the country - are a central issue in the looming 2024 fight for the White House. Top US Senate Republican Mitch McConnell, who has made headlines recently after two incidents in which he appeared to be briefly unable to speak in front of reporters, is 81.

BY-ELECTIONS IN INDIA BJP, opposition INDIA bloc achieve a tie

NDTV ONLINE

India's ruling BJP and the opposition INDIA alliance have, so far, achieved a tie in the by-elections to the seven seats that took place on Tuesday. While the BJP has won the Dhanpur and Boxanagar assembly seats in Tripura and Bageswar in Uttarakhand, the opposition bloc has won in Jharkhand's Dumri, Puthupally in Kerala and Dhuguri in West Bengal. The Samajwadi Party, which is a member of the INDIA alliance, is leading in Uttar Pradesh's Ghosi constituency. In Tripura, BJP's Tajjajal Hossain won the Boxanagar seat while the tribal-dominated Dhanpur was won by Bindu Deb Nath. In Uttarakhand's Bageswar, after taking an early lead over the BJP's Parwati Dass, the Congress party's Basant Kumar fell behind. Dass defeated Kumar by over 2,400 votes. The by-poll was held after the death of four-time MLA and cabinet minister Chandan Ram Das in April. Delivering a big blow to the ruling CPI(M), Chandy Oommen of the Congress-UDF alliance won the Puthupally by-election in Kerala by a margin of over 36,000 votes. Oommen gained a clear edge in the first round and retained that position till the counting of votes was completed. Jharkhand Mukti Morcha candidate Bebi Devi has won the by-election to the Dumri assembly seat in Jharkhand's Giridih district.

Social welfare

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village in Kaliganj upazila, is the Awami League lawmaker from Lalmonirhat-2 (Aditmari-Kaliganj) constituency and also the president of Kaliganj upazila AL.

His son Rakibuzzaman is a college teacher and also the organising secretary of Lalmonirhat AL. His younger brother Bhutto is a contractor.

Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent could not reach Bhutto over the mobile phone for his comments.

The minister and his close family members also received abnormally low bills over the last four years.

Wishing not to be named, an officer of Kaliganj Nesco told this newspaper that the higher authorities were looking into whether there were any anomalies in preparing the bills.

Injured monkey

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The monkey came to the limelight across the country when it appeared on its own thrice at Sitakunda Upazila Health Complex for treatment a few days back.

Locals said they first spotted the monkey in the area around a month back and since then it was frequently seen there.

The monkey was spotted in front of the upazila health complex on September 2 with injuries.

Nuruddin Rashed, a physician at the upazila health complex, said they found the monkey, with wounds, sitting on the balcony of the hospital when he was about to leave work.

Later, he dressed the wounds on the monkey, and it left the health complex, said the doctor.

The monkey again appeared at the hospital on the next two consecutive days, he said, adding that it was provided treatment.

The animal probably suffered from wounds caused by electric shock after it sat on power lines, he said.

G20 'almost ready'

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to work with all parties and push for a positive outcome at the summit.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning made the remarks after a media report said Sunak blamed China for delaying an agreement on various issues, including Ukraine.

Sunak will urge Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "call out" Russia over its invasion and use its clout to help end the war, the Financial Times reported on Thursday.

The hardened stance on the war has prevented agreement on even a single communicate at the ministerial meetings during India's G20 presidency so far this year, leaving it to the leaders to find a way around, if possible.

Modi's government is projecting India's presidency of the group and the summit as a showcase for the country's fast-growing economy and its rising position in the geo-political pecking order.

New Delhi has been decked up

Active monsoon may help spread dengue further

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Entomologist Manjur A Chowdhury, former president of Zoological Society of Bangladesh, said intermittent rains and high humidity create the perfect conditions for Aedes aegypti mosquitoes to thrive.

"Intermittent rain can fill discarded containers with water, which is where the Aedes mosquito lays its eggs. Besides, there is a strong link between high humidity and the increased biting behaviour of the Aedes mosquitoes."

So, the likelihood of dengue cases increasing this month is significant, Manjur added.

GM Saifur Rahman, an entomologist at National University, Bangladesh, said, "Dhaka city may

for the gathering with a brand new summit venue, fountains, flowerpots and illumination along major thoroughfares, alongside thousands of armed security personnel standing guard.

More than a hundred Tibetan refugees staged a protest away from the city centre yesterday, demanding that the "occupation" of their country by China be discussed during the summit.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, who is in New Delhi ahead of Biden's arrival, earlier said Washington is willing to work with India to help craft a communicate at the end of the summit but it would be a challenge.

"I know the negotiators are discussing it, and working hard to do so and we stand ready certainly to work with India to try to craft a communicate that successfully addresses this concern," Yellen told reporters at a briefing.

The most important thing that can be done to support global economic growth is for Russia to end its brutal war in Ukraine, she said.

develop herd immunity against dengue due to the large number of people infected with the virus since 2000. However, the chances of cases increasing outside the capital remain high.

"If we do not control the Aedes mosquito population, there is a risk that a large number of eggs will be laid by Aedes mosquito this season. These eggs may hatch next season and lead to another outbreak."

During the lean period of dengue (November to April), the authorities need to identify active clusters and carry out an extensive drive, including source reduction, larviciding, and adulticiding, until the reproductive chain of the Aedes mosquitoes is broken, Saifur added.

Redraft it in light of best int'l practices

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elements required for an international standard cyber security act, TIB said.

There are clauses in the bill that leave scope for authorities to "label" one's dissent voice or freethinking as an offence while it also gives police ample power without proper checks and balances, it added.

TIB said it emailed the authorities concerned a working paper titled "From Digital Security Act-2018 to Draft Cyber Security Act-2023: Comparative Analysis and Recommendations" on Thursday.

There, it urged the ministers, MPs, and the parliamentary body concerned to play a strong role so that the CSA does not become a "weapon"

like the DSA to gag freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

In a statement, which came along with the working paper, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said the decision to formulate the CSA and repeal the DSA proves the government's realisation of people's concern over the misuse of DSA.

Now, it may logically come to people's mind that elements that led to the decision to repeal the DSA would not be incorporated into the CSA, he said.

The objective of the new law should be to prepare a legal framework to ensure the safety of digital platforms and the opportunity for all to use those platforms freely, he added.

Macron to visit Dhanmondi

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will welcome him upon his arrival at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport tomorrow evening.

From the airport, Macron will go to Hotel InterContinental. There, he will attend an official dinner to be hosted by Hasina.

The French president will then go to the Dhanmondi Lake and then meet the Joler Gaan band and enjoy its music.

On September 11 morning, he will pay homage to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing wreaths at Bangabandhu's portrait and then visit the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in Dhanmondi.

Macron will hold a bilateral meeting with Hasina at the Prime Minister's Office.

There, France and Bangladesh may sign several deals, including one on buying planes from Airbus, a European plane manufacturing company, said another diplomatic source.

Earlier, Foreign Minister AK Abdul

Momen told reporters that during Hasina's visit to France in November last year, Bangladesh agreed to buy 10 planes, including two cargo carriers, from Airbus.

The two countries may also discuss purchasing of the second satellite - Bangabandhu Satellite-2 - from France and setting up of a satellite manufacturing plant in Bangladesh as proposed by France last year, Momen said.

Climate change and the Rohingya crisis will be two other major issues for discussion during the meeting, said foreign ministry officials.

"France played a major role in formulating the Loss and Damage initiative. So, the countries like Bangladesh that are affected by climate change need funding for making up part of the damage," an official said.

Therefore, Dhaka will call on the French president to play a more active role in operationalising the fund of the Loss and Damage initiative, he told this correspondent.

Three fighting

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Only one train left for CU from Chattogram city at night, he added.

Dr Sarwar said Aung had injured his head and neck while Khalilur suffered head injuries.

"The only good news is that none of the three had brain haemorrhage," the physician added.

Meanwhile, a tense situation prevailed on the campus yesterday following the Thursday night's violence. Presence of students was thin on the weekend.

Rumpa, a student of physics, said they were worried after Thursday's violence.

About the students' demand, CU Proctor Nurul Azim Sikder said they would talk to the railway authorities to increase the number of shuttle trains between the port city and the university at night.

Tunisia press union denounces state 'censorship'

AFP, Tunis

Tunisia's journalists' syndicate yesterday denounced state censorship of mass media and said authorities have "repressed" freedoms in the country reeling under a political and economic crisis.

"The freedom of the press is increasingly repressed and the authorities are adopting a policy of lockdown and censorship to enforce their control over the media, particularly state media," the head of the SNJT union, Mehdi Jelassi, told a news conference.

He said "cases of censorship have been recorded on national television programmes, on the TAP news agency and the newspaper La Presse," all of which are state-owned.

Jelassi argued that such "methodical censorship" aims to remove the voices of the opposition or civil society organisations from broadcasts or the press.