

# Far and Wide

Every week we share selection of six news from six continents that we believe will impact our world in the near or distant future

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## G-20 Summit clinches New Delhi Declaration

This week's headline feature takes a closer look at the remarkable chapter of India's G20 Presidency. During India's G-20 Presidency, a surprising breakthrough occurred, which not only welcomed the **African Union** as a **new member** but also led to consensus on the long-debated **"Ukraine paragraphs."** This development signals a **notable change** in the positions held by **influential players** like the **United States**, the **European Union**, and the **G-7 nations**, who had previously expressed **strong criticism** of **Russia** in the **G-20's Bali statement**.

The driving force behind this achievement was a proposal presented by the **Indonesia-India-Brazil-South Africa** group, known as **IIBSA**, which we had exclusive access to. Negotiations persisted late into the night on Friday and resumed on Saturday, culminating in **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** announcement during the Summit's **second session** on the first day.

In his address, **Prime Minister Modi** shared the breakthrough news with the assembled leaders, stating, **"I have just received some good news right now. Due to the hard work of our team and your support, we have achieved consensus on the New Delhi G-20 Leaders' Summit Declaration. I propose we adopt this Leaders' declaration."** He promptly declared its adoption, a day ahead of the Summit's scheduled conclusion, **sealing the historic moment**.

When questioned about this remarkable turn of events during a **press conference** organized by the **G-20 Presidency**, both **India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar**, and **India's G-20 Sherpa** elaborated on the **consensus-building process**. They emphasized the collaborative efforts of **Indonesia, India, Brazil, and South Africa**—countries with a consistent history of hosting the **G-20**.

Mr. Jaishankar highlighted, **"Eventually, everybody contributed, but it was the emerging markets that took the lead, and we have a strong history of working together."** He may have alluded to the shared membership of **all four nations** in the **Non-Aligned Movement**. **Mr. Kant**, another key figure, stressed that the negotiations were **"very tough and very intense"**, attributing the resolution of the issue to **Prime Minister Modi's unwavering determination** to secure a **joint statement**.

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### Modi and Sunak discuss progress of India-UK FTA negotiations, hope to iron out differences at the earliest



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and his British counterpart **Rishi Sunak** met during the G20 Summit in New Delhi to assess the progress of negotiations for the **India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**. Both leaders expressed optimism about resolving **remaining issues promptly**, aiming to achieve **a balanced, mutually beneficial, and forward-looking trade deal**. Modi also thanked the UK for its support during **India's G20 Presidency**.

This visit marked **Rishi Sunak's first trip** to India since becoming Prime Minister in **October 2022**. They discussed various aspects of their **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** and the **Roadmap 2030**, with a focus on areas such as the **economy, defense, security, technology, green technology, climate change, health, and mobility sectors**. Additionally, they exchanged views on international and regional matters of mutual interest. In a post-meeting statement, Modi mentioned their discussions about **deepening trade linkages and boosting investment** between the **two nations**. Both leaders emphasized their commitment to working together for a **prosperous and sustainable future**.



Source: The Times of India

[http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/103539408.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/103539408.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

The Downing Street spokesperson mentioned that the meeting also covered cooperation in **defense technology, innovation, and some consular issues**. Sunak praised Modi's leadership during India's G20 Presidency and expressed the **UK's ambition to establish a landmark trade deal** that benefits both countries. Modi **extended an invitation** to Sunak for a **bilateral visit** at a mutually convenient time to engage in more detailed discussions. Overall, the meeting **reaffirmed the close ties** between the UK and India, highlighting their **modern partnership** in various fields, including **cutting-edge defense technology, trade, and innovation**.



## North America

### US, Vietnam agree to deepen ties as China worries grow

US President Joe Biden praised the strengthening of relations with **Vietnam** on Sunday as both countries **sealed a deal** to enhance their **cooperation**, particularly in **securing strategic resources, amidst growing competition from China**. Biden, who had just attended the G20 summit in New Delhi, met with **Nguyen Phu Trong**, the leader of Vietnam's ruling **Communist Party**, to formalize a "**comprehensive strategic partnership**," marking the highest level of diplomatic ties between the two nations. The primary aim of this brief visit aligns with Biden's approach at the G20 gathering **fortifying support against China's expanding** diplomatic influence while ensuring a **stable supply** of crucial resources from **friendly nations**.

Biden expressed **optimism** about this **partnership**, stating, "This can be the **beginning of even a greater era of cooperation**," underscoring the critical partnership between Vietnam and the United States in a **pivotal period**. The agreement elevates the United States to a status **equivalent** to that of **China, Russia, India, and South Korea** in Vietnam's diplomatic hierarchy. Biden highlighted the **deepening collaboration on vital emerging technologies**, particularly the development of a more **robust semiconductor supply chain**. Trong expressed gratitude for Biden's efforts in enhancing **US-Vietnamese relations** and **pledged to diligently** implement the **new agreement**.

While Biden has frequently **criticized China's human rights record**, his stance on Vietnam has been **more reserved**, leading some **human rights advocates** to express concerns about his **willingness to address the issue**. The G20 summit in India concluded with a **joint declaration** that avoided direct **criticism of Moscow** and did not provide **concrete commitments** to phase out **polluting fossil fuels**.



Source: Times of India

[http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/103557517.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/103557517.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)





## South America

### Countries of the Global South Helped Avoid Ukraine Overshadowing G20 Agenda - Lavrov



**Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov** characterized the **G20 summit in India** as a **success**, emphasizing that the **consolidated position** of the **global south countries** allowed Russia to **prevent the Ukraine conflict** from **overshadowing the G20 agenda**.

During the summit, the **Group of 20** reached a **consensus declaration** that refrained from **condemning Russia** for its involvement in the **war in Ukraine**. Instead, the declaration urged all nations to refrain from using force to **acquire territory**. Russia's invasion of **Ukraine in 2022** has resulted in a significant **loss of life**, the **displacement of millions of people**, and **economic disruptions worldwide**. Moscow has maintained that its actions constitute a "**special military operation**" and has **denied allegations** of committing atrocities.

**Lavrov** also mentioned **Russia's readiness to re-engage** in the **Black Sea grain deal** once certain conditions are met. **Russia withdrew** from the **agreement in July**, one year after it was brokered with the assistance of the United Nations and Turkey. Russia's decision to **exit the deal** was based on complaints about **obstacles faced by its food and fertilizer exports** and **inadequate Ukrainian grain shipments** to countries in need.

Lavrov expressed appreciation for the **United Nations' efforts** to **facilitate discussions** regarding the **grain deal** but criticized them as "**west-only talks**," suggesting a desire for a more **inclusive negotiation process**.

Source: US News

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2023-09-10/countries-of-the-global-south-helped-avoid-ukraine-overshadowing-g20-agenda-lavrov>



## Asia

### G-20 Summit clinches New Delhi Declaration

In an unexpected and early breakthrough during India's Presidency of the G-20, member countries reached consensus on the contentious "**Ukraine paragraphs**" and welcomed the African Union as a new member of the group on Saturday. This achievement marks a shift in the stance taken by the **United States, the European Union, and G-7 nations**, as it tones down the strong criticism of Russia found in the previous G-20 statement issued in Bali. The breakthrough was the result of a proposal put forward by the **Indonesia-India-Brazil-South Africa group (IIBSA)**, which The Hindu had access to. The proposal underwent negotiations until late into the night on Friday and again on Saturday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself **made the announcement** during the second session of the Summit on the first day, pausing the proceedings to share the news with the gathered leaders.

Mr. Modi stated, "I have just received some good news right now. Due to the hard work of our team and your support, we have **achieved consensus** on the **New Delhi G-20 Leaders' Summit Declaration**. I propose we adopt this Leaders' declaration." He then declared it adopted with the sound of his gavel, a day before the official conclusion of the Summit. When asked about this **development during a press conference** hosted by the G-20 Presidency, both **India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** and **India's G-20 Sherpa** explained that the **consensus was primarily** due to the **collaborative effort of Indonesia, India, Brazil, and South Africa**—countries that have **consecutively** hosted the G-20.

Mr. Jaishankar noted, "Eventually, **everybody contributed**, but it was the **emerging markets** that took the **lead**, and we have a strong history of **working together**." He may have been referring to the **shared membership** of all **four countries** in the **Non-Aligned Movement**.



Source: The Hindu

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/g-20-summit-adopts-new-delhi-declaration/article67289646.ece>



## Australia

### Australian PM keen to ink EU free trade agreement 'as soon as possible'

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese expressed optimism on Saturday about the prospects of reaching a free trade agreement with the European Union (EU) this year, as discussions had faced obstacles and stalled in July.

The negotiations between Australia and the EU encountered difficulties earlier in the year, including issues related to greater market access for Australian agricultural products such as beef. Albanese discussed this matter with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz at the Group of 20 (G20) summit in New Delhi and planned to raise it with French President Emmanuel Macron.

Albanese stated, "I would like to see the Australia EU Free Trade Agreement settled as soon as possible." He pointed out that the timing is critical, as the agreement is more likely to be achieved this year rather than next year due to upcoming elections.



Source: The Times of India

[https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/australian-pm-keen-to-ink-eu-free-trade-agreement-as-soon-as-possible/articleshow/103544177.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/australian-pm-keen-to-ink-eu-free-trade-agreement-as-soon-as-possible/articleshow/103544177.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

The EU and Australia initiated trade deal negotiations in 2018, but differences persist, particularly concerning the extent to which the EU will open its markets to certain Australian agricultural products. Australia seeks greater access to EU markets for items like beef, lamb, dairy products, and wines, many of which currently face tariffs and quotas. Australian Trade Minister Don Farrell mentioned last month that a deal would simplify European investment in Australia's burgeoning critical minerals sector.



## Africa

### G20: positive signals on the integration of the African Union

The African Union (AU) appears to be on track to become a permanent member of the G20, according to several officials on the eve of a summit gathering the world's largest developed and emerging economies.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as the current G20 presidency holder, has expressed his desire to expand the group by including the African Union as a permanent member. Vinay Kwatra, a senior official at the Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, mentioned that a decision on this matter is expected during the summit, although the possibility of a G20 member veto still exists. Azali Assoumani, the President of the Comoros archipelago and the current head of the African Union, arrived in New Delhi to participate in the weekend talks. The European Union, which holds a seat in the G20, expressed support for this initiative, with European Council President Charles Michel stating, "I look forward to welcoming the African Union as a permanent member of the G20." He emphasized the EU's backing for Africa's inclusion in the G20.

In December, US President Joe Biden had also expressed his wish for the AU to become a permanent member of the G20, stating that it was a likely development. This position was reaffirmed by his national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, during a briefing on American priorities at the summit, with Sullivan noting that the African Union's presence would strengthen the G20. The AU, headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, comprises 55 members (including six suspended), with a total GDP of three trillion dollars. Granting the African Union, a permanent seat in the G20 would rectify what Senegalese President Macky Sall referred to as an "injustice," given that the combined GDP of Africa ranks eighth in the world. Sall made this argument in July, emphasizing Africa's economic significance on the global stage.



Source: Africa News

<https://www.africanews.com/2023/09/08/g20-positive-signals-on-the-integration-of-the-african-union/>