

# Modi may meet British PM on G20 sidelines

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to meet his British counterpart Rishi Sunak on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Bali although his plans of meeting other leaders are still "evolving".

On Monday, US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping met at Bali, ahead of the summit, amid growing tensions between the two countries over economic, political and security issues.

## UKRAINE, A KEY ISSUE

Differing views over the response to Russia's war on Ukraine is likely to be a key area of challenge at the two-day G20 Summit, beginning Tuesday.

Modi's bilateral meetings could help reinforce the country's position on the crucial matter. While India has condemned the Ukraine conflict, it has increased its crude pur-



**WARM WELCOME.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives in Bali to attend the G20 Summit PTI

chases from Russia, which is offering oil at a discount.

"PM Modi reached Bali on Monday evening for the G20 Summit. Most of his bilateral meetings are on Wednesday but the plans for Tuesday are still evolving," a source tracking the event told *businessline*. There is no confirmation as yet from the MEA even on Modi's meeting with Sunak, but the British PM's statement to the media on Monday, after reaching Bali, indicated that the meeting is likely. "... I'm looking forward to sitting

down and building some strong relationships with leaders like President Biden and the prime ministers of Japan, Australia and India," Sunak had said, adding that hopefully he would have a chance to talk to Xi Jinping as well.

## CHINA-US TIES

The Biden-Xi talks are under the spotlight as it is the first time that the two leaders have met in-person since Biden became the US President.

At the opening of his meet-

ing with Biden, Xi said that the two leaders needed to chart the right course for the China-US relationship. There has been an escalation in tensions between the US and China over trade and investment issues and their positions over Taiwan and the Ukraine war.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo will symbolically hand over the G20 presidency to India at the end of the summit.

India will assume presidency of G20 from December 1.

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