

PM's message to Russia resonated deeply at G20: Foreign Secretary

TAKING THE MANTLE. Modi said India will work with members to bridge digital divide during its presidency

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The G20 communique, issued at the end of the Bali Summit on Wednesday, included Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent message to Russian President Vladimir Putin that "today's era must not be of war". At the same time, it recognised that the G20 was not the forum to resolve security issues, while acknowledging that such issues could have significant consequences for the global economy.

"Prime Minister's message that this is not the era of war, and that the best way is to return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the conflict, resonated very deeply across the deleg-



PASSING ON THE BATON. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indonesian President Joko Widodo (right) take part in the handing over ceremony during the G20 Summit, in Bali, on Wednesday. AFP

ations and help to bridge the gap across different parties; it contributed to the successful outcome of the document," said Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra at a press briefing on Wednesday. The

joint communique also mentioned reiteration of national positions as expressed in other fora, including the UNSC and the UNGA resolution, adopted by majority votes in March this year, de-

ploring in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russia against Ukraine.

"Most members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine, and stressed it is causing immense human suf-

fering and exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy — constraining growth, increasing inflation, disrupting supply chains, heightening energy and insecurity and elevating financial stability risks. There were other views and different assessments of the situation and sanctions," the communique noted.

UKRAINE WAR

While India has been calling for an end to the aggression in Ukraine for long, it never directly blamed Russia for it.

Speaking on the digital divide, Modi said during the G20 presidency next year, India will work jointly with partners to bridge the digital gap between the developed and developing world.