

FINAL HUDDLE UNDER INDIA'S PRESIDENCY TODAY

# G20 Virtual Summit may Discuss Earlier Pledges & Fresh Issues

Our Bureau

**New Delhi:** G20 leaders could deliberate on the adoption of their pledges made in the September New Delhi summit and other issues when they meet again, albeit virtually, on Wednesday in the final such huddle under India's presidency.

While G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant declined to "pre-judge" what the leaders might discuss at the summit, he acknowledged that several new challenges have emerged since the New Delhi gathering of leaders on September 9-10.

The virtual summit is being held when the Israel-Hamas conflict has flared up, adding to uncertainties already caused by the Ukraine war and posing fresh risks to the global supply chains, especially of energy and food. Addressing the media on the eve of the virtual summit, Kant said: "While development will be the core agenda, the leaders may discuss many other issues."

He said the virtual summit will not only provide an opportunity to discuss the implementation of the leaders' declaration, but it may also see leaders sharing their views and enhancing cooperation on critical challenges that the world confronts.

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The leaders may also "address gaps in global governance, reaffirm our existing commitment towards the sustainable development goals and move towards a reinvigorated multilateral system that is better positioned to positively impact people's life", Kant said.

Foreign secretary Vinay Kwatra said a "large majority" of G20 leaders are expected to attend the virtual summit but didn't specify which leaders are unlikely to participate.

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During the presidency, differences had cropped up over the language to condemn Russia for Ukraine war.

However, New Delhi managed to hammer out a joint statement after the September summit by drumming up a consensus. Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese president Xi Jinping hadn't attended the Sep-



Throughout the G20 presidency, India has worked to ensure the concerns of Global South receive due cognisance

AMITABH KANT  
G20 Sherpa

The virtual summit will build on the momentum achieved so far under India's presidency and offer further guidance

AJAY SETH  
DEA secy

We expect a large majority of G20 leaders to participate in the discussions, as has been the case in September

VINAY KWATRA  
Foreign secretary

tember summit.

Asked about their participation, Kwatra said: "Suffice to say at this stage that we expect a large majority of leaders to participate in the discussions tomorrow - as has been the case even in the Summit in September this year... We don't expect tomorrow's summit to be any different insofar as that is concerned."

"China has now said that Premier Li Qiang will attend the virtual summit and reports suggest Putin may attend it this time.

Economic affairs secretary Ajay Seth said the virtual meet will carry forward momentum achieved by the September summit.