

# India pitches for African Union in G20 as sherpas' meet kicks off

Russia-Ukraine Conflict Key Issue On Agenda

Surojit Gupta & Sidhartha | TNN

New Delhi: The countdown to the G20 leaders' summit has begun with sherpas getting down to draft the final communiqué trying to bridge the differences within the group of developed and emerging economies on a range of issues, including inducting the African Union as part of the elite club that has been red-flagged by some members of the grouping.

The sherpas, envoys of their respective leaders, will also seek to forge consensus on the most contentious issues — references to the Russia-Ukraine war, as well as what approach to take on cli-



A wall mural ahead of the G20 India summit in New Delhi on Sunday

mate change, energy transition debt resolution for stressed nations — areas where China is the main stumbling block. Indian officials are, however, confident that the African Union — an influential bloc of 55 countries — will be inducted into the group as a permanent member, even as some blocs from the Asean bloc and Australia have persisted with their objections. Prime Minister

Narendra Modi had written to his G20 counterparts proposing that the African Union be given full membership of the group. His proposal found widespread support but since then some reservations have been expressed by a few countries. On Sunday, in an interview to PTI, the PM renewed his pitch to make the G20 more inclusive. "Africa is a top priority for us even within the G20. One of the first

things we did during our G20 presidency was to hold the Voice of the Global South summit, which had enthusiastic participation from Africa. We believe that no plan for the future of the planet can be successful without the representation and recognition of all voices," he said. Indian negotiators are seeking to evolve a consensus. "On most issues, we are optimistic," said an official. India is also hopeful of the prospect of joint communique although the Russia-Ukraine war has emerged as a deal breaker with the G7 countries including the US insisting on a reference to the war in the communique and Russia and China opposing any such move. The differences have meant that a communique — reflecting a consensus on all issues — has not been issued at any of the ministerial meetings during India's presidency.

# Indian Navy to review operational readiness

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Top Navy commanders will review the country's maritime security and operational preparedness, especially in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), as well as modernisation plans, policies and the roadmap ahead in a three-day conference that

## MARITIME SECURITY

kicks off on Monday.

The conference, which will be addressed by defence minister Rajnath Singh, national security advisor Ajit Doval, chief of defence staff General Anil Chauhan as well as the Army and IAF chiefs, will analyse the operational environment, deliberate on the issue of tri-service synergy and assess the readiness of the maritime forces, officials said on Sunday. A special focus area during the conclave, to be chaired by Navy chief Admiral R Hari Ku-

mar, will be on the IOR in the backdrop of the ever-expanding Chinese naval footprint in the region, with China also actively helping Pakistan build a strong maritime force.

"The last six months have seen an intense operational focus as the Indian Navy's operations spanned from the Atlantic to the Pacific. In keeping with the expectations of the Indian Navy being the preferred security partner and first responder to any crisis in the IOR, the forum will undertake a detailed review of operational readiness, with a particular focus on the performance of weapons and sensors of the naval platforms," an officer said. "The commanders will also review the ongoing naval projects with a focus on enhancing indigenisation through 'Make in India' in consonance with the vision to achieve complete 'Aatmanirbharta' by 2047," he added.



## Tiffin box IED found along NH in J&K's Rajouri, defused

Jammu: A major tragedy was averted with the timely detection of a powerful Improvised Explosive Device (IED) concealed in a tiffin box near a culvert at Narian along the Jammu-Poonch national highway (NH-144A) in J&K's Rajouri district early Sunday, reports Sanjay Khajuria. The IED was later destroyed in a controlled manner, officials said.

"Acting swiftly on an input regarding a suspicious object (tiffin box), probably an IED, found lying on the roadside near a culvert by the Army's Road Opening Party at Sangpur village along the Jammu-Poonch national highway around 4.45am, three teams from the nearest Army camp rushed to the location and established a motor vehicle check-post at Kallar and Balavenu," Jammu-based defence spokesperson Lt Col Suneel Bartwal said.

# Shringla: Aim to boost scope of multilateral institutions

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"We have achieved substantial success," Chief Coordinator G20 India, Harsh V Shringla said

New Delhi: Despite global disparities, the Indian presidency of G20 has been able to achieve "substantial success" in prioritising development, especially in the Global South, G20 chief coordinator Harsh Shringla said on Sunday.

Speaking to TOI, the former foreign secretary said India's G20 presidency had emphasised inclusivity and advocated the philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', urging nations to work for the greater global good.

"Even as global disparities persist, our commitment to prioritising development, particularly in the Global South, which bears a disproportionate burden of the contemporary challenges, has been our guiding principle. In this regard, we have achieved substantial success," Shringla said.

He was asked about how effective India's presidency had been in drawing attention to the problems of the developing world in the face of a seemingly unbridgeable divide in the group between the West and Russia-China combine on the Ukraine war and other related issues.

G20 sherpas have huddled together one last time before the summit to thrash out, among other things, a compromise formula on the Ukraine war, which may pave the way for a joint communique. With the government looking at the possible inclu-

sion of African Union (AU) in G20 as one of the key take-aways from the summit, Shringla also said the proposal to grant the AU full membership in the group demonstrated India's commitment to strengthening Africa's representation and partnership in shaping global affairs.

"As the prime minister has stated, Africa should be a part of any international governance process, starting with an influential grouping like the G20. Many of the world's fastest growing economies are in Africa and the combined GDP of the continent is \$2.4 trillion. With 55 countries, over a billion people, a youthful demographic and an abundance of resources, Africa holds tremendous potential for the future," he said. A seat at the G20 high table for the AU could help India establish its credentials as the leader of the Global South.

# PM: Natural to hold G20 event across country

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



"Such a question would be valid if we had refrained from conducting meetings in those venues," said PM Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday dismissed China's reservations over holding G20 meetings in Jammu & Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh, and said it was only natural for India to have the discussions across the country.

"Ours is such a vast, beautiful and diverse nation. When G20 meetings are happening, isn't it natural that meetings will be held in every part of our country?" the PM told news agency PTI in an interview. China and Pakistan had objected to the venues for the meetings despite India being resolute about both being an integral part of its territory. Beijing decided against sending its officials for a tourism-related meeting in Srinagar and also opted out of a research and innovation gathering in Itanagar. Pakistan does not make the cut for a G20 membership, an elite group of the 20 largest economies, and the government has not kept it as a special invitee like Bangladesh. By

November, when its presidency ends, India will have hosted over 220 meetings across 60 cities in all 28 states and eight Union Territories, with over 1 lakh participants from around 125 nationalities. Modi said there was a lot of interest in India given its "rapid and sustained progress" with many countries watching its growth story, and India's presidency had helped provide a different perspective. "For a long time, India was perceived as a nation of over 1 billion hungry stomachs. But now, India is being seen as a nation of over 1 billion aspirational minds, more than 2 billion skilled hands, and hundreds of millions of young people," he said.

# 'Need to work together on debt resolution of stressed nations'

Continued From P 1

President Xi Jinping has since decided to skip the Delhi meeting.

"We recognise that we all have our positions and our perspectives on various global issues. At the same time, we have repeatedly emphasised that a divided world will find it difficult to fight common challenges," the PM said.

He said though the final set of outcomes from India's presidency would only be known by December, when it hands over the baton to Brazil, several outcomes at the ministerial meetings would "prove to be pivotal for the direction that the world takes". He flagged the need to work together on debt resolution of stressed nations, identifying it as an area of "great concern", cybersecurity and climate change, and underlined the need for finance, technology and other resources. "In the domain of cybersecurity, global

cooperation is not only desirable but is inevitable. Because the threat dynamics are distributed — handlers are somewhere, assets are somewhere else, they are speaking through servers hosted in a third place, and their funding could come from a completely different region. Unless all the nations in the chain cooperate, very little is possible," he said.

The PM also spoke of the need to restructure multilateral institutions in a multipolar world, and the role G20 could play. "A mid-20th century approach cannot serve the world in the 21st century. So, our international institutions need to recognise changing realities, expand their decision-making forums, relook at their priorities and ensure representation of voices that matter. When this is not done on time, then smaller or regional forums begin to attain more importance. The G20 is certainly one of the institutions that is being looked at with

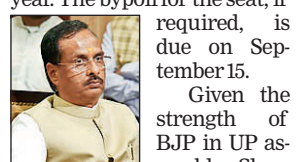
hope by many countries. Because the world is looking for actions and outcomes, no matter where they come from," Modi said. India has been seeking a reform of multilateral development banks, such as the World Bank and ADB, to reorient their priorities from merely fighting poverty to finance climate change and other "global public goods", an issue that is expected to figure prominently on the agenda of the leaders' meeting.

While highlighting how India has worked to address debt vulnerabilities during its presidency, Modi also asserted that crises in many parts of the world has made other countries more financially disciplined, something that he had highlighted in the case of states. "I have said that financially irresponsible policies and populism may give political results in the short term but will extract a great social and economic price in the long term," the PM said.

# Dinesh Sharma BJP's nominee for RS bypoll

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: The BJP flashed the Brahmin card on Sunday by nominating former deputy CM of UP Dinesh Sharma for the Rajya Sabha seat that fell vacant following the demise of Haridwar Dubey in June this year. The bypoll for the seat, if



required, is due on September 15. Given the strength of BJP in UP assembly, Sharma (59) will sail through easily and will get a RS term till 2026. The move came just over a month after the party appointed former state BJP chief and Rajya Sabha MP Laxmi Kant Bajpai, a prominent Brahmin leader from UP, as party's national vice-president. Bajpai himself was nominated to the Upper House of Parliament in May last year. Sharma, a pro-

fessor of commerce at Lucknow University, was appointed as BJP national vice-president in August 2014, months after the saffron outfit registered an overwhelming victory and Narendra Modi got hoisted as the PM for the first time. He also headed BJP's membership drive in 2014-15, a campaign that eventually got registered in the Guinness book.

Sharma was also in charge of Gujarat in 2014 when the BJP won all 26 Lok Sabha seats in the state. Known as a protégé of BJP stalwart and former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Sharma has been a two-term Lucknow mayor (between 2006-12 and 2012-17). After BJP rode to power with a stunning majority in 2017 assembly polls, Sharma got appointed as one of the two deputy CMs along with Keshav Maurya while being routed to the state Legislative Council.

# Medical colleges forge approval letters to increase seats: NMC

Durgesh Nandan Jha @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The National Medical Commission (NMC) has unearthed a racket wherein medical colleges that had been denied permission to increase seats for various specialties or denied renewal of licence did so by claiming they had a letter of approval from the regulatory

board. It started from a medical college in Andhra Pradesh in July but over the last two months, sources said, multiple colleges have reported the same.

In view of this, the NMC has now issued an order to colleges to follow information available on its website only. "It has come to the notice of the Medical Assessment and Rat-

ing Board (MARB) of NMC that several forged/fake letters have been issued to various colleges on behalf of Member/President, MARB whereas no such communications have been sent to the colleges in this regard. Taking cognisance of the above facts, all directorate of medical education of the states/UTs concerned are requested to fill the

seats of Under-Graduate-MBBS and Postgraduate Broad Speciality and Super Speciality for the academic year 2023-24 only based on the information available on the website of National Medical Commission," the NMC has stated in its order issued on Friday.

On August 29, the NMC had issued another circular about a fake/

forged letter of renewal of permission to Meenakshi Medical College, Kanchipuram. The same circular also talked about another fake/ forged letter of permission to Santhiram Medical College, Kurnool for increase of seats in post-graduate courses including MS- ophthalmology, MD-General Medicine and MS ENT.

# HC quashes rape charges against parents of accused

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In a relief to a teacher and his wife from Bagalkot's Ilkal town, the Dharwad bench of the Karnataka high court has quashed proceedings against them in a rape case, where their son is the first accused.

The case was registered by a woman, who claimed that their son had **PROMISE OF MARRIAGE** However, cheated on the promise of marriage. The complainant had argued that the parents of the first accused hadn't cooperated and, therefore, they too needed to be proceeded against for offences alleged by her.

The Ilkal police filed a chargesheet for offences punishable under IPC sections 376(2)(n) that deals with committing rape repeatedly on the same woman, 504 (intentional insult) and 506 (criminal intimidation) against the man and his parents. Challenging

this, the parents argued that they had nothing to do with the relationship between the woman and their son and as such, offence under Section 376 of IPC cannot be laid against them. The government advocate, meanwhile, argued that proceedings against the parents should be allowed since the chargesheet was filed after due investigation.

Justice M Nager on the promise of marriage. The complainant had argued that the parents of the first accused hadn't cooperated and, therefore, they too needed to be proceeded against for offences alleged by her. The Ilkal police filed a chargesheet for offences punishable under IPC sections 376(2)(n) that deals with committing rape repeatedly on the same woman, 504 (intentional insult) and 506 (criminal intimidation) against the man and his parents. Challenging

On this ground, the offence under Section 376(2)(n) that is laid against the first accused cannot be laid against the petitioners," the judge noted in his order.

**ESL STEEL LIMITED**  
(Formerly known as Electrosteel Steels Limited)

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**PUBLIC NOTICE OF 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ESL STEEL LIMITED TO BE HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING/OTHER AUDIO-VISUAL MEANS**

Notice is hereby given that the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting ('AGM') of ESL Steel Limited is convened to be held on **Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 at 10:30 A.M. (IST) through Video Conferencing or Other Audio-Visual Means (VC/OAVM)** in compliance with applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 read with General Circular No. 20/2020 dated 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2020, General Circular No. 02/2021 dated 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, General Circular No. 02/2022 dated 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2022, and General Circular No. 10/2022 dated 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 issued by The Ministry of Corporate Affairs, (MCA).

Pursuant to the aforesaid MCA Circulars, the electronic copies of the Notice of the 16<sup>th</sup> AGM and the Annual Report for the Financial Year 2022- 23 shall be sent by email to the Members at their registered e-mail addresses with the Company/Depository Participants. Therefore, those Members, whose email address is not registered with the Company or with their respective Depository Participant(s), and who wish to receive the said Notice and the Annual Report, and all other communications sent by the Company, from time to time, can get their email address registered by following the steps as given in the AGM Notice.

The notice convening the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting will also be available on the Company's website at <https://www.eslsteel.com/> and on the website of Kfintech (agency for providing the Remote e-voting facility) i.e., <https://evoting.kfintech.com/>. The detailed procedure for remote e-voting and e-voting during the AGM by the Members who are holding shares in physical form or who have not registered their email addresses shall be provided in the AGM Notice.

In case of any query(ies) and/or grievance(s), in respect of voting by electronic means, Members may refer to the Help & Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and E-voting user manual available at the download section of <https://evoting.kfintech.com/> (Kfintech Website) or contact Ms. C Shobha Anand at [evoting@kfintech.com](mailto:evoting@kfintech.com) or call Kfintech's toll free No. 1-800-309-4001 for any further clarifications.

**By Order of Board of Directors of ESL Steel Limited**  
**Manish Kumar Chaudhary**  
Company Secretary

**Place: Bokaro**  
**Date: 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2023**

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