

## What happened

# Sunak in India

India's PM, Narendra Modi, sought to showcase his country's prestige and power as it hosted the annual G20 summit of the world's biggest economies. Among those in attendance at the meeting in New Delhi last weekend were President Biden, France's President Macron, and Rishi Sunak, who referred to himself as "India's son-in-law" and was joined by his wife Akshata Murty, an Indian citizen. China's President Xi and Russia's Vladimir Putin were notable absences. Modi used the summit to promote India as "the mother of democracy", and also fuelled speculation that he may change its name to its Hindi equivalent, Bharat (*see page 16*).

In a joint declaration welcomed by Moscow, G20 leaders failed to condemn Russia's war in Ukraine, lamenting only the "suffering" of the Ukrainian people. Sunak met Modi on the summit's sidelines to discuss a possible UK-India trade deal, but the PM said no agreement had yet been reached.

## What the editorials said

What is the point of the G20, the group of 19 countries plus the EU? "It's a question that gets harder to answer with each passing year," said *The Observer*. There were plenty of global problems to discuss at this summit, which Modi used to advertise his adopted role as "the voice of the Global South". What was lacking was a consensus on how to address them: witness the depressing failure of the summit text to condemn Russia's "war crimes" in Ukraine. This year's declaration "will be forgotten as quickly as its predecessors", said *The Wall Street Journal*. The Ukraine War will "rumble on", and the invitation issued to the African Union to join future G20 summits won't "change the way the world works" either.



*The PM and his wife in Delhi*

Still, the summit wasn't a pointless exercise, said *The Irish Times*. An announcement by the US and EU that they plan to build a rail and shipping corridor from India to Europe, via the Middle East, to rival China's Belt and Road Initiative, was welcome. And US plans to expand the World Bank's capacity to lend to developing countries, reducing their reliance on China, were also approved.