

Summit season: The Group of 20

World leaders are gathering in Buenos Aires, Argentina over the weekend for their third major summit in quick succession. Here's a quick look at what to expect at the G-20 summit, and a summary of the two other year-end summits.



G-20 SUMMIT

NOV 30 - DEC 1

The Group of 20 or G-20 is a forum for the world's 20 leading industrialised and emerging economies to discuss global policy. The meetings focus on a broad slate of issues, from growth to economic reform and trade.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR



Will there be a joint declaration?

The Apec Summit in Papua New Guinea ended without a joint declaration for the first time in its history because of differences between the US and China on trade. Negotiators from G-20 countries are now trying to avoid a similar conclusion with initial reports indicating that wording on trade and climate change are sticking points.

Who meets who?

The side meetings are gathering a lot of attention this year. US President Donald Trump cancelled a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin over Russia's seizure of Ukrainian vessels and crew but will hold a highly anticipated meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping. The summit is also Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's first major one since the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

APEC SUMMIT

NOV 17-18

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum aims to promote cooperation and economic integration. It comprises 21 members:

- Australia
- Brunei
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Hong Kong
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- Papua New Guinea
- Peru
- The Philippines
- Russia
- Singapore
- South Korea
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- US
- Vietnam

WHAT HAPPENED



Spotlight on Papua New Guinea

This was the largest event the Pacific nation had ever hosted and it shone the spotlight on the country's potential as well as its shortfalls. The small country had to purpose-build venues for the meeting, buy luxury cars and even contract three cruise liners to make up for the shortfall of hotel rooms. Leaders ultimately praised the host for pulling it off, but after the party left, police and military personnel smashed windows and trashed furniture in Parliament over unpaid bonuses.

US-China divide on show

Simmering tensions between the US and China – over a tussle for influence in the Pacific and an escalating trade war – dominated the two-day meeting. Chinese President Xi Jinping and US Vice-President Mike Pence traded barbs in back-to-back speeches at the meeting which ultimately ended with the grouping unable to agree on a joint statement.

ASEAN SUMMIT

NOV 11-15

The South-east Asian regional grouping consists of 10 members:

- Brunei
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Laos
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Singapore
- The Philippines
- Thailand
- Vietnam

Leaders from the key dialogue partners also attended the summit

- Australia
- China
- India
- Japan
- New Zealand
- Russia
- South Korea
- US

Invited guests included the leaders of G-7 chairman Canada, incoming Apec chairman Chile and the International Monetary Fund

WHAT HAPPENED



Steps forward

The summit concluded with important pledges on at least two key issues – the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) free trade agreement and the code of conduct (COC) for the South China Sea. On RCEP, Asean,

together with China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand, pledged to reach a deal next year. Similarly on the COC, Asean and China agreed to complete a first reading of the draft text by next year.