

No country can tackle education challenges alone: Edn Minister Joshi at BRICS meet

BHUBANESWAR, Aug 7 (PTI)

UNION Education Minister Pralhad Joshi on Friday called on BRICS countries to work together to address common challenges, saying issues such as resilience, innovation and sustainability cannot be tackled in isolation.

Addressing the 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting here, Joshi said India's BRICS Chairship is guided by the principles of resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability. "India's Chairship of BRICS is guided by building resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability," he said, adding that each of these pillars has particular relevance for the education sector.



Explaining the importance of resilience, Joshi said education systems must be capable of withstanding disruptions caused by pandemics, economic uncertainties, climate-related challenges and the rapid pace of technological change.

On innovation, the Minister said

education systems cannot afford to remain static.

"This is because the world around us is changing rapidly. Education systems must continue to evolve to meet the aspirations of each new generation and prepare our young people for opportunities that may not even exist today," he said.

Emphasising the need for collaboration, Joshi said cooperation and sustainability are essential to effectively address shared challenges.

"More of us can meet these challenges, but none of us can address them in isolation. The knowledge we create, the technology we develop and the institutions we strengthen must serve not only the present generation but also the generations to come," he said.

India not in favour of separate BRICS currency: Goyal

NEW DELHI, Aug 7 (PTI)

INDIA is not in favour of a BRICS currency and does not support the introduction of any such scheme, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday.

BRICS group comprises 11 major emerging markets and developing countries of the world -- Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and UAE.

It serves as a platform for consultation and cooperation on contemporary issues having global as well as regional significance, and issues of global political and economic governance.

“Bharat BRICS currency ke paksh mein nahin hai. Hum samarthan nai dete ki aisi koi BRICS currency jaisi nai yojna lai jaye. Bharat ka uske upar virodh hai (India is not in favour of a BRICS currency. We do not support the introduction of any such BRICS currency scheme; India opposes it),” he told reporters after two-day meeting of BRICS Trade and Industry Ministers in Jaipur.

INDIA TO GROW OLD BEFORE IT GROWS RICH!!

20 pc of population to be over 60 by 2050: Study

NEW DELHI, Aug 7 (PTI)

ONE in five Indians on an average will be over the age of 60, with nearly seven in 10 older adults living in rural India, a study showed on Friday.

The study released by Transform Rural India (TRI) said India is growing old before it grows rich, unlike many developed nations that became wealthy before their populations aged.

The number of working-age adults available to support each older person is projected to decline from 8.4 in 2001 to an average of 5.2 by 2026, the study said.

Titled 'Demographic Transition,

Evolving Families and the Future of the Care Ecosystem in Rural India', the White Paper was released in connection with the TRI's India Rural Colloquy (IRC). "By 2050, one in five Indians - around 347 million people - will be over the age of 60, with nearly seven in 10 older adults living in rural India. Unlike many developed nations that became wealthy before their populations aged, India is undergoing this demographic transition at much lower income levels," the study said.

Drawing on data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), Longitudinal Ageing Study in India, Census projections, Time Use Surveys

and other national datasets, the white paper said India's traditional family-based care model is under increasing strain as families are smaller than before, younger generations are leaving for work and people are living longer.

"Yet nearly 94 pc of care for older people is still provided within households, leaving fewer family members to meet growing needs," it added. Women spend around 305 minutes every day on unpaid care work, compared with 56 minutes by men, the study said, adding that this unequal distribution of unpaid care remains one of the biggest barriers.

Attack on one will be treated as attack on all

Pak, Saudi and Turkiye sign joint defence pact



From left, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif pose after signing a trilateral defence agreement in Mecca, Saudi Arabia on Friday. (AP/PTI)

ISLAMABAD, Aug 7 (PTI)

PAKISTAN, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye on Friday signed a key joint defence agreement under which an attack against one of them will be treated as an attack against all of them, amid increasing security concerns in the wake of escalating tensions in West Asia.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan signed the pact after the Makkah Al-

Mukarramah Summit for Joint Defence held at the Al-Safa Palace in Islam's holiest city of Mecca.

The 'Makkah Joint Defence Agreement' is "intended to strengthen collective deterrence against any act of aggression, and stipulates that any armed attack against any one of the three States shall be regarded as an attack against them all," it said. "It further provides for the enhancement of all aspects of defence cooperation among the three States," the statement said. The agreement reflects "the three States' shared commitment to further strengthening their collective security and to promoting peace, security, and stability in the region and beyond, in pursuit of a secure and prosperous future," the statement said.

The pact ties together Pakistan, the only nuclear-armed Muslim country, Saudi Arabia, the home to Islam's holiest sites and one of the world's top oil exporters, and Turkiye, a NATO member. The development comes at a time when the West Asia conflict has widened across multiple fronts, including the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, prompting Gulf states to strengthen regional security coordination. Sharif had visited Saudi Arabia in April, during which he had held talks with the Kingdom's top leadership. Last week, Saudi Arabia proposed a Multinational Maritime Defence Coalition (MMDC) to safeguard commercial shipping lanes and critical energy supply routes through the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandeb Strait after Saudi ships came under attack from Iran-backed Yemen's Houthis.

India identifies 27 places in Arunachal by their standard names on official map

NEW DELHI, Aug 7 (PTI)

WITH China repeatedly renaming some places in Arunachal Pradesh, India on Friday formally identified 27 places and features in the State by their standard names on the official Indian map.

"Identifying them formally on the Survey of India map of Arunachal Pradesh is aimed at facilitating their accurate recognition and better awareness among the public at large," an official statement said.

China's act of renaming places in Arunachal Pradesh has always been categorically rejected by New Delhi which has consistently termed such moves 'vain and preposterous' while asserting that these will not alter the 'undeniable' reality that the State

"was, is, and will" always remain an integral part of India.

The 27 locations formally marked on the official map of India include Long Ju located along the Line of Actual Control which was one of the earliest flashpoints between India and China in 1959 when Chinese forces entered the area.

Maja, a village near Long Ju in Upper Subansiri district, has also been marked on the map, the statement said. The list also includes Bisa village, a strategically important high altitude mountain passes in the region Dzo La, Riza La, Pukur La.

One of the most strategically important high altitude passes Thag La, where one of the opening battles between Indian and Chinese forces took place in 1962,

has also been formally identified on the official map.

So is Jairampur, an important logistics hub in Changlang district which is known as the gateway to the eastern border region supporting movements of security forces towards eastern Arunachal and the Myanmar frontier. The list also includes Sambho Sarovar, Bara Kundun and Chhota Kundun on Eastern Arunachal Pradesh, Dhan Bari, Pritnagar, Teritnagar, Ramnagar Jaswant Garh that houses memorial of Indian martyr Jaswant Singh Rawat on Tawang Road, villages of Sagar, Padma, Jyotinagar and Baisakhi. Sher-e-Thapa Memorial commemorating Trilok Singh Thapa, 1962 war hero, Chhota Ropuk and Bara Ropuk.

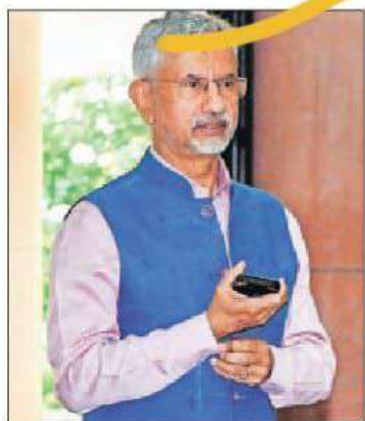
Ties with Pak can move ahead in environment free of terror: EAM

NEW DELHI, Aug 7 (PTI)

RELATIONS with Pakistan can only progress in an "environment free of terror, hostility and violence," however, the neighbouring nation continues to use "terrorism as an instrument of State policy" against India, the Centre informed Parliament on Friday.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said this while responding to Samajwadi Party MP Dharmendra Yadav's query on the present status of relations between India and Pakistan since the Pulwama terror attack, along with the changes that have taken place at the political, diplomatic and trade level between the two countries.

"It is Government's firm position that India's relations with Pakistan can only move ahead in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence. However, Pakistan continues to follow the policy of cross-border terrorism



S Jaishankar

and using terrorism as an instrument of State policy against India," the EAM said in a written response in the Lok Sabha.

Following the Pulwama terror attack in 2019, India withdrew Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan, and hiked customs duty on all goods originating in or exported from Pakistan to 200 per cent, he said.

Pakistan, subsequently, announced certain unilateral measures, including downgrading of diplomatic relations and suspension of bilateral trade with India, the Government said.

In response to the Pahalgam terror attack perpetrated by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists on April 22, 2025, India took a number of diplomatic steps, including placing the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance, closing the check-post in Attari, restricting visas, and downsizing diplomatic and official presence at the respective Missions, Jaishankar said.

"Military action targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir was also undertaken. At present, India and Pakistan maintain their respective diplomatic Missions in each other's capital," he added.

Both sides continue to have functional engagements, includ-

ing DGMO-level talks, exchange of pre-notifications of flight testing of ballistic missiles, and the sharing of lists of nuclear installations and prisoners in each other's custody, the Union minister said.

The minister was also asked the number of bilateral talks held between India and Pakistan at various levels during the last five years along with the issues discussed therein and whether the Government "still maintains that normal bilateral relations" with Pakistan are not possible until cross-border terrorism ends.

"India has made clear its approach of responding appropriately against cross-border terrorism and its infrastructure, not tolerating any form of blackmail and taking comprehensive steps to protect its citizens. These considerations shape India's conviction that normal bilateral relations require an end to cross-border terrorism," he said.

India and China hold diplomatic talks: MEA

NEW DELHI, Aug 7 (PTI)

INDIA and China reviewed the overall situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and deliberated on key issues related to boundary delimitation, border management and trans-border cooperation. It was underlined that maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas is essential for the overall development of bilateral relations, the Ministry of External Affairs

(MEA) said on Friday, a day after the diplomatic talks between the two sides in New Delhi.

"The two sides engaged in frank discussions and reviewed the situation along the LAC," it said.

The talks were held under the framework of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC).

"Both sides agreed to continue to use existing diplomatic and military channels, including the WMCC, local commander-level meetings and other

agreed mechanisms, to resolve outstanding issues and avoid misunderstanding and miscalculation along the LAC," the MEA said.

As a follow-up to the outcomes of the last edition of Special Representatives talks, the two sides held detailed exchanges on issues related to boundary delimitation, border management, mechanism-building and trans-border cooperation, it said in a statement.

The MEA said the Indian side reiterated the need for early convening of the next meeting of the expert-level mechanism on trans-border rivers and emphasised the importance of sharing technical details on upstream projects, it added.

The Indian delegation at the meeting was led by Sujit Ghosh, Joint Secretary (East Asia) in the MEA.

The Chinese delegation was led by Hou Yanqi, Director General (DG) of the Boundary and Oceanic Affairs Department at China's Foreign Ministry.

The two sides were engaged in frank discussions and reviewed the situation along the LAC, while discussing key issues related to boundary delimitation