

CJI highlights need for culture of healthy disagreement, deliberation

NEW DELHI, Sept 5 (PTI)

BRICS Chief Justices' Forum

CHIEF Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant emphasised the importance of a culture of healthy disagreement and deliberations at the BRICS Chief Justices' Forum here on Saturday.

Addressing the gathering of Heads of Delegations and Delegates from the BRICS Member States and Partner Countries on the second day of the BRICS Chief Justices' Forum, the CJI highlighted that timely and predictable delivery of justice is necessary.

The gathering was also addressed by judicial leaders from Brazil, Russia, China, South Africa and other Member and Partner Countries of the grouping. Luiz Edson Fachin, President, Supreme Federal Court of Brazil, addressed the gathering virtual-

ly. Other judicial leaders like Igor Krasnov, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation; Zhang Jun, Chief Justice of China and President of the Supreme People's Court; Boulos Gahmy Iskander Boulos, Chief Justice of Egypt's Supreme Constitutional Court; and Sunarto, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Indonesia, also addressed the gathering.

Some other leaders who addressed the audience included Mohammed Hamad Al Badi Al Dhaheiri, President of the UAE

Federal Supreme Court; Andrei Shved, Chairman of the SC of Belarus; Aslambek Mergaliyev, Chairman of the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan; Mahube Betty Molemela, President of the Supreme Court of Appeal of South Africa; Ayatollah Gholam Hossein Mohseni-Eje'i, Chief Justice of Iran; and Malikakhon Kalandarova, Deputy Chairperson of Uzbekistan's SC.

Addressing the gathering virtually, the President of the Supreme Federal Court of Brazil called for multipolarity and greater International collabora-

tion. He also emphasised that International Law is of critical importance in the current period of global instability and transition, and stressed the need to uphold the rule of law in the International order. The CJ of China highlighted Judicial co-operation as a valuable contribution to the BRICS Member Countries and called for solidarity and co-operation among the Members and Partner States. He also emphasised the promotion of rules-based International trade and commerce in the current times of industrial transformation. He said the Judiciary plays a significant role in promoting social equity and justice. He also spoke about the growing role of AI in Judicial functioning and identified the Judiciary's expanding role in resolving cross-border commercial disputes.



CJI Surya Kant

Over 500 global investors, leaders to gather for iBRICS Summit, to bring \$1 trillion sovereign capital pool

NEW DELHI, Sept 5 (IANS)

AS INDIA prepares to host the 18th BRICS Summit under the theme 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability', more than 500 institutional investors, Finance Ministers and business leaders are set to gather in the National capital for the inaugural iBRICS Summit 2026, it was announced on Saturday.

The two-day summit, scheduled for September 12–13 at The Oberoi in New Delhi, is being convened by the Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute (SWFI). The event aims to create a direct platform for sovereign capital to connect with bankable proj-

ects in infrastructure, energy and digital capacity across the 21 BRICS member States and partner nations.

The summit comes at a time when BRICS economies are navigating changing global trade patterns, US tariff pressures and high costs associated with dollar-based clearing and settlement. Against this backdrop, the gathering is expected to focus on ways to strengthen financial cooperation and develop alternative channels for cross-border capital flows. Lakshmi

Narayanan, Chairman of SWFI and Lead Co-Chair of iBRICS, said cross-border investment within BRICS had largely been discussed at the political level and executed bilaterally through outside intermediaries over the past two decades.

"With tariffs and sanctions stressing traditional corridors, funds and Ministries need direct access to allocate capital differently. We are providing that dedicated venue alongside the Leaders' Summit," he said.

Financial connectivity and

payment systems are expected to be among the key themes at the summit. Following Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra's confirmation of the BRICS payments task force, discussions will examine the potential integration of national fast-payment systems, including India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Brazil's Pix, along with interoperability between Central Bank digital currencies.

Dushyant Khanna, Co-Chair of iBRICS said BRICS Nations control a substantial share of global reserves and are developing financial infrastructure that could enable capital to move more independently.



Adani Defence, Indo-Russian Rifles sign 5-year ammunition supply pact for AK-203 assault rifle

NEW DELHI, Sept 5 (IANS)

ADANI Defence & Aerospace has signed a five-year agreement with Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL), the India-Russia joint venture manufacturing AK-203 assault rifles in India, to supply indigenous 7.62x39 mm small-calibre ammunition for the programme, it was announced on Saturday.

Under the agreement, Adani Defence will supply 7.62x39 mm ammunition for the AK-203 for five years. The arrangement provides an Indian source for the ammunition required for the programme and supports continuity of supply during the contract period.

The agreement brings together AK-203 rifle production by IRRPL and ammunition pro-



duction by Adani Defence, creating an integrated supply chain in India. It further strengthens domestic capabilities across the small-arms supply chain and supports the Aatmanirbhar Bharat objective in defence manufacturing. IRRPL was incorporated in 2019 under an India-Russia intergovernmental agreement to manufacture AK-203 assault rifles for the Indian Armed Forces. Its manufacturing facility is located at Korwa in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh.

The joint venture has Indian shareholders Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited and Munitions India Limited, along with Russian shareholders Concern Kalashnikov and Rosoboronexport. The Ministry of Defence has identified IRRPL as the joint venture established for indigenous production of the AK-203. A contract for 6,01,427 AK-203 rifles was signed with IRRPL in December 2021, with the rifles to be produced at Korwa.

India votes in favour of UNGA resolution ENDORISING NEW WORLD MAP

■ By Yoshita Singh

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 5 (PTI)

INDIA has voted in favour of a UN General Assembly resolution aimed at correcting the world map to promote a "more accurate representation" of continental landmasses.

The 193-member UN General Assembly on Friday overwhelmingly adopted the resolution "Correct the map": rebalancing global cartographic representation and promoting equitable representation of the world's regions, particularly Africa.

The resolution was sponsored by Togo, receiving 164 votes in favour, with abstentions from Estonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine, and a lone vote against from the United States.

The resolution noted that the Mercator projection, designed in the 16th century for navigational purposes, remains widely used in educational, media, digital and official materials, despite the considerable distortion of landmasses to the North and South, far from the equator. The resolution also noted with "concern" that "this distortion contributes to minimising the perceived sizes of Africa, Latin America and South Asia, and perpetuating an unbalanced view of the world."

In an explanation of the vote in the General Assembly, First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of India to the UN, Raghoo Puri, said India "welcomes" the intention behind the resolution to promote more accurate and representative cartographic practices.

"We believe that maps play an important



role in how societies understand geography and the relative scale of the world around us," he said. However, India clarified its understanding of the scope of this resolution, saying, "We believe that the resolution should be understood as supporting the broader use and consideration of Equal Area map projections, and not as endorsing the Equal Earth projection or any other specific map projection." Equal Area projections are particularly relevant because they preserve the relative sizes or areas of continental and territorial landmasses, Puri said.

Putin orders 72-hour pause in strikes on Kyiv as US envoys visit Russia, Ukraine

MOSCOW, Sept 5 (AP)

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin ordered a 72-hour pause in strikes on Kyiv, the Kremlin said Saturday, as US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner arrived in Moscow to try to revive a stalled push to end Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

"Putin has ordered that no strikes be carried out against Kyiv for three days, starting at midnight today," presidential spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told Russia's Tass news agency. He said the decision was tied to preparations for Witkoff and Kushner's planned visit to the Ukrainian capital, which Kyiv has said will take place on Sunday.

The envoys' trip comes as both sides escalate aerial attacks, some 4.5-years after the Kremlin's invasion of its neighbour. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Friday that Ukraine would halt airstrikes during the envoys' visit and urged Moscow to do the same.

Washington's push to end the fighting, now in its fifth year, has lost momentum as US attention has been focused for the last six months on its war with Iran. The last known visit to Moscow by Witkoff and Kushner, US President Donald Trump's son-in-law, was in January, when they met Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin. They have never previously visited Kyiv.

The envoys were met at the air-



Jared Kushner (L) and Steve Witkoff, Special US envoys for Peace Missions in Moscow on Saturday. (X)

port by Russian envoy Kirill Dmitriev, Tass reported. Dmitriev shared photos of him meeting the US delegation as they disembarked, alongside the caption, "Welcome to Moscow Peacemakers."

With peace efforts stalled, Russia has intensified its attacks on Kyiv and other cities with relentless bombardments recently stretching into daylight hours, taking advantage of Ukraine's shortage of air defensive systems. On Friday, a Russian drone hit one of the most important Government buildings in Kyiv -- the headquarters of Ukraine's Security Service, known as the SBU, which is one of the agencies involved in carrying out deep-strike operations inside Russia.

The long-range strikes by Ukraine have hit Russian military facilities, oil refineries and e-commerce hubs, seeking to undermine the Kremlin's war effort and economy.

Israel and Hezbollah battle over strategic hill in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Sept 5 (AP)

SINCE a ceasefire went into effect between Israel and Hezbollah more than two months ago, fighting has stopped in much of Lebanon, but not on a strategic hill overlooking parts of a main southern city.

In recent weeks, Ali Taher hill has been the scene of daily shelling and airstrikes by Israel's military. Hezbollah, a militant group backed by Iran, has repeatedly attacked Israeli forces in the area with drones.

The United States, which is mediating talks between Lebanon and Israel, had wanted Hezbollah to hand over the hill to the Lebanese army as part of a larger plan to disarm the militant group and dismantle its infrastructure. But Hezbollah has refused.

Lebanon and Israel reached a framework agreement in June stating Israel will withdraw from Lebanon as Hezbollah is disarmed. The militant group was not a party to the negotiations and has rejected calls to disarm in areas north of the Litani river, which is where Ali Taher is located. A full-on battle over this hill near the city of Nabatiyeh could escalate fighting across the country, and unrest in Lebanon complicates efforts to resolve the war in Iran. On Thursday night, Israel's military announced it had taken "operational control" of Ali Taher and a network of tunnels beneath

it that Hezbollah uses to shelter its fighters and weapons. It is unclear how far Israel's control extends. Just before Israel's announcement, its air force was still targeting the hill, according to Lebanese state media.

There has been no official statement from Hezbollah since Israel's announcement.

US pushes Lebanon to pressure Hezbollah: Hezbollah firmly rejected a proposal from the Lebanese Government to hand over Ali Taher to the country's army. It fears Israel would then

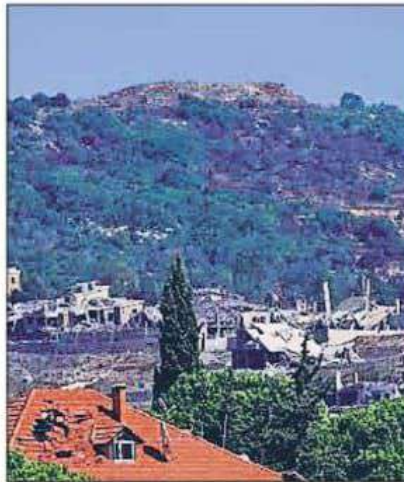
seize control of the hill from the Lebanese army and then demand the handover of more territory. Israel had occupied Ali Taher for 18 years before it withdrew from Lebanon in 2000.

The hill has a strategic location

overlooking several villages as well as main roads leading to Nabatiyeh. Losing full control of it would disrupt Hezbollah's presence and supply lines in the area.

The Israeli military says the site is also important to Hezbollah because of tunnels it built there, with funding from Iran.

Israel said in its statement Thursday that the hill housed underground command centres, weapons storage rooms, generators, living quarters, showers and a kitchen. Israel said it cleared Ali Taher of Hezbollah fighters and was working to "neutralise underground infrastructure sites."



Poland keen to increase trade with India, after Jaishankar, Sikorski hold bilateral talks



External Affairs Minister Jaishankar pays homage during his visit to the Kolhapur Memorial, dedicated to the Kolhapur State for sheltering Polish refugees during World War 2, in Warsaw on Saturday.
(@DrSJaishankar X/ANI)

WARSAW, Sept 5 (ANI)

POLISH Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Radoslaw

Sikorski on Friday (local time) expressed confidence that India and Poland will soon achieve the bilateral trade target of USD 10 billion, saying the two countries are keen to make greater use of their political and economic potential.

Speaking during a joint press briefing with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who is on an official visit to Poland, Sikorski said bilateral trade between the two countries reached USD 6.3 billion last year and stressed the need to further expand economic ties.

“We are keen to increase our bilateral trade, which reached USD 6.3 billion last year. I am confident that the target set by our countries to increase trade to USD 10 billion will be achieved soon,” the Polish Foreign Minister said.

Tata Sons narrows Chairman succession race to 3 prominent corporate leaders

NEW DELHI, Sept 5 (PTI)

TATA Sons, the holding company of the USD 275-billion-plus Tata conglomerate, has narrowed its search for a successor to Chairman N Chandrasekaran to three prominent corporate leaders - Tata Steel CEO and MD T V Narendran, Tata Sons Executive Director and Group CFO Saurabh Agrawal, and NSE MD and CEO Ashish Chauhan, people familiar with the matter said.

While Narendran has emerged as the frontrunner among internal candidates, Agrawal is also in the reckoning with his investment-banking and capital-allocation experience, while Chauhan, a veteran of India's capital markets and one of the founding executives of the National Stock Exchange, could turn out to be the dark horse, the people said.



(L) Tata Steel's T V Narendran is seen as the frontrunner, while (C) Saurabh Agrawal and (R) NSE chief Ashish Chauhan remain in contention

The selection process is still underway, and no final decision has been taken. The Tata Sons board and the trusts that control the holding company are expected to play a key role in

choosing the next chairman.

Sources said Tata Trusts Chairman Noel Tata has flagged the shortlisted candidates to top Government leaders and a decision is likely once the names

are thoroughly debated.

Tata Trusts and Tata Sons did not immediately respond to emailed requests for comment.

Chandrasekaran, who took over as Tata Sons chairman in 2017 and is currently serving his second five-year term, announced last month that he would not seek reappointment when his tenure ends on February 20, 2027.

While a formal process to find his successor has been set in motion, no shortlist has been officially confirmed. Other names that have surfaced include Noel Tata himself, who could serve as interim chairman if the committee cannot conclude the process in time; Tata Sons' Group Chief Digital Officer Aarthi Subramanian; Tata Motors CEO Shailesh Chandra; and Tata Power CEO Praveer Sinha.

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