

PM, Vietnam counterpart Hung discuss bilateral trade, investment ties



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with his Vietnamese counterpart Le Minh Hung.

(PTI)

NEW DELHI, Sept 12 (IANS)

PRIME Minister Narendra met his Vietnam counterpart Le Minh Hung on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit here on Saturday. The meeting largely focused on bilateral trade, investment ties.

“The meeting provided an opportunity for both leaders to review the progress made in bilateral ties, which were elevated to an Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership,” the MEA said.

It said both leaders also exchanged views on various regional and global issues of mutual importance, and reaffirmed the commitment to further strengthening their partnership.

“India and Vietnam share a time-tested friendship rooted in shared civilisational heritage, mutual trust and understanding. Vietnam is a key pillar of India’s Act East Policy and an important partner in India’s broader engagement with Southeast Asia,” the MEA said.

FIRST COLUMN

China Southern Airlines to resume Guangzhou-Delhi flights after 6 yrs

NEW DELHI, Sept 12 (IANS)

AHEAD of the crucial Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping's meeting at the 'BRICS Summit 2026' here on Saturday, China Southern Airlines has announced to resume regular flights between Guangzhou and New Delhi from September 21.

The airline said it will operate more than 100 weekly flights across eight round-trip routes in the region, bringing back its India service after a six-year suspension.

Meanwhile, direct air services between India and China have gradually returned this year.

Air India brought back its New Delhi-China services in February this year.

China Eastern Airlines restored its Kunming-Kolkata route on April 18. Air China subsequently resumed its Beijing-Delhi service in April.

IndiGo also started daily nonstop flights between Kolkata and Shanghai on March 30. Last year, IndiGo began new daily direct flights between New Delhi and China's Guangzhou starting November 10.

The flight services between India and China were suspended following the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and were not restored amid the over four-year military stand-off between the two countries in eastern Ladakh, which ended in October last year.

'Global South must be 'rule shaper'

NEW DELHI, Sept 12 (PTI)

THE Global South must become a "rule shaper" and the existing "pyramid of privilege" structure in global governance must give way to a "platform of partnership", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday while opening the two-day annual BRICS summit as trade friction and geopolitical instability

Replace 'pyramid of privilege' with 'platform of partnership', says PM Modi at BRICS summit

trigger growing economic headwinds.

The Prime Minister also unveiled a 10-point roadmap for global governance reform under the BRICS framework while advocating for a 'Seafarers' Emergency Support Network' to safeguard sailors facing heightened risks from ongoing global and regional crises.

Modi made the remarks in the presence of a galaxy of world leaders including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.

In his remarks, Modi hailed BRICS for emerging as a key

(Contd on page 3)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin during the 18th BRICS Summit, at the Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi. (MEA via PTI)

SHOW OF UNITY: Modi, Putin, Xi hand-in-hand at 18th BRICS Summit

NEW DELHI, Sept 12 (PTI)

A BEAMING Prime Minister Narendra Modi was seen holding hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin on his right and Chinese President Xi Jinping on his left on Saturday, capturing what could be one of the most significant moments of the 18th BRICS Summit here.

The picture from the Bharat Mandapam where the BRICS leaders attended the summit was posted on the Instagram handle of the Prime Minister. The background music of the picture was a song called 'Kingdom BGM'.

The moment of warmth seems to have stood out amid the rigid protocol of international diplomacy.

Modi also posted a few other pictures on his social media handles, including one where the Prime Minister, Putin, Xi, Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa were seen walking together inside the venue.

In another picture, Modi was seen engaged in an animated discussion with Putin, Xi and President of Indonesia Prabowo Subianto, while in a photograph, the Prime Minister and the Russian leader were seen going together, smiling broadly, flanked by security personnel and translators.

Border peace essential for India-China ties: Modi to Xi

NEW DELHI, Sept 12 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday conveyed to Chinese President Xi Jinping that peace and tranquillity along the frontier remains essential for development of India-China relations, emphasising that existing agreements on border management must be strictly observed.

In their talks on the sidelines of the BRICS summit, the two leaders reaffirmed that both the countries should take a strategic and long-term perspective of their ties and differences should not become disputes, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

On economic front, Modi and Xi underlined the need to address each other's concerns, including structural trade imbalance and supply chain issues, and facilitation of meaningful and predictable market access, it said. The two leaders expressed commitment to a "fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable" resolution of

the boundary question proceeding from the political perspective of their overall bilateral relations and the long-term interests of the two sides, it said.

In his remarks, PM Modi highlighted that both sides must be "guided by three mutuals -- mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interest" in the ties.

The talks between Modi and Xi covered a range of issues including reducing their trade deficit, tackling challenges like terrorism and ensuring fair trade in multi-lateral platforms.

The meeting took place hours after Xi arrived in the national capital on a two-day visit to attend the BRICS summit, marking his first trip to India in seven years.

Xi's visit to India came on the heels of several high-level exchanges, including the Special Representative dialogue in Beijing between National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, even as lingering concerns remain over

(Contd on page 3)

BRICS adopts New Delhi Declaration with consensus

NEW DELHI, Sept 12 (PTI)

IN A significant diplomatic breakthrough for India, the BRICS grouping on Saturday adopted a joint declaration with consensus, overcoming sharp divisions over Iran and the UAE over the West Asia conflict following a series of back-channel negotiations.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the adoption of the declaration at the end of the opening day's deliberations at the two-day India-hosted summit. The negotiations on the text of the declaration went down to the wire as both Iran and the UAE had hardened their

Stresses need to engage in conflict prevention

positions initially. BRICS is a consensus-based grouping, meaning any single member can block a final joint declaration. "Today's discussion makes it evident that the changing

Slams unilateral tariffs, backs WTO rule-based global trade

world cannot be steered by outdated institutions; reforms are essential in representation, responsiveness and rule-making," Modi said in his concluding remarks.

Condemns Pahalgam terror attack

"We also emphasised that the Global South must have equal participation in the development of future technologies and the rules governing them."

(Contd on page 3)

BRICS treads on de-dollarisation carefully

NEW DELHI, Sept 12 (PTI)

FOR a bloc that has spent years fuelling speculation about challenging the dollar's dominance, the formal position enunciated in a joint statement after meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of BRICS nations remains more cautious than the rhetoric of some of its members.

There is no mention of a common BRICS currency or a formal call for replacement of the US dollar. Instead, the document sticks to the more incremental, technocratic language the bloc has used since Rio and Kazan: interoperable payment systems, local-currency settlement, and voluntary cooperation among members who 'respect national priorities.'

Acknowledge efforts of the BRICS Payment Task Force (BPTF) towards exploring "pragmatic solutions for efficient cross-border payment mechanisms," the bloc said. "We encourage the BPTF to continue discussions, building on the ongoing work, to facilitate practical solutions for cross-border payments among BRICS countries, which are fast, low-cost, more accessible, efficient, transparent, and safe."

But statements made by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday at BRICS Business Forum in New Delhi show why the issue of de-dollarisation remains central to the BRICS debate.

Pezeshkian made the most direct case for moving away from the dollar. Speaking at the Forum, the Iranian President said BRICS should develop a more resilient network of trade, investment and financing and expand the use of national currencies. He argued that the international financial system's concentration around a limited number of currencies leaves economies vulnerable to political shocks.

(Contd on page 3)

PM, Malaysian counterpart vow to advance strategic partnership



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, Sept 12 (IANS)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim held a meeting on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on Saturday and reviewed progress in bilateral cooperation across various sectors.

During the meeting, the two leaders expressed their con-

tinued commitment to advancing the India-Malaysia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Anwar Ibrahim conveyed Malaysia's concurrence to the establishment of the Consulate General of India in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, according to the statement released by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

"Prime Minister Modi warmly welcomed Prime Minister Ibrahim to India and appreciated Malaysia's participation in the BRICS Summit as a Partner Country. The leaders took stock of the outcomes of Prime Minister Modi's visit to Malaysia in February 2026 and reviewed the progress in bilateral cooperation across a range of areas, including trade and investment, defence and security, semiconductors, infrastructure, digital economy, energy, fintech, education, tourism and people-to-people ties," the MEA mentioned in a statement.

Both leaders discussed key regional and global issues of mutual interest.

BRICS backs diversified energy mix, says fossil fuels remain important for EMDEs

NEW DELHI, Sept 12 (PTI)

BRICS Countries on Saturday called for stronger energy security through diversified supply sources, resilient infrastructure and stable energy markets, while acknowledging that fossil fuels will continue to play an important role in the global energy mix, particularly for emerging and developing economies.

"We acknowledge fossil fuels will still play an important role in the world's energy mix, particularly for emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs)," the New

Delhi Declaration said.

At the same time, BRICS called for "just, orderly, equitable and inclusive energy transitions" and lower greenhouse-gas emissions, while stressing technological neutrality and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The grouping said energy security required "energy market stability and maintaining uninterrupted flows of energy from diverse sources", as well as stronger value chains and protection of critical energy infrastruc-

ture, including cross-border facilities. BRICS also endorsed the growing use of digital technologies in energy systems, saying Artificial Intelligence and advanced data analytics could improve grid management, renewable-energy integration and operational efficiency.

The bloc welcomed the BRICS Guiding Principles on Smart Grids and Energy Storage and an Indian chairship initiative to establish a BRICS Digital Centre of Excellence for Smart Grids and

Energy Storage as a voluntary platform for cooperation. **NUCLEAR, HYDROGEN & RENEWABLES.** BRICS said Countries should pursue "balanced and diversified energy mixes reflecting National circumstances", a range of technologies. "The widest variety of energy sources and technologies including but not limited to renewable energy, bioenergy, fossil fuels, nuclear energy, hydropower, hydrogen, low carbon technologies, energy storage technologies, which play an important role in achieving the SDGs and energy security," the declaration said.



Xi calls on BRICS countries to play 'due role' in bringing peace in West Asia

NEW DELHI, Sept 12 (PTI)

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Saturday hailed the BRICS bloc as the world's most influential platform for cooperation among emerging markets and developing countries and called on the grouping to play its "due role" in bringing peace in West Asia.

Addressing the BRICS summit here, Xi said China will work with BRICS members to achieve peace and tranquillity in West Asia and the Gulf region, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

He said as the situation in West Asia and the Gulf region continues to evolve, the war there has caused serious losses to people across the region and does not serve the common interests of the international community.

He called on the leaders of major emerging economies to play the "due role" in bringing peace to West Asia, urging member states to stand on the right side of history.

He said BRICS countries should oppose the Cold War mentality and called on the member states to oppose violations of other countries' sovereignty and interference in their internal affairs.

Xi said the BRICS countries should strengthen cooperation in AIÂ initiative to promote new industrialisation through AI among BRICS countries.

He called on BRICS countries to lead global governance in cyberspace, outer space, and the deep sea and amplify the voice



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit, in New Delhi. (PTI)

of the Global South.

He said that BRICS countries should pioneer in innovative development as well as in maintaining peace and stability, boosting mutual learning among civilisations. He said the members should focus on improving global governance, noting that the grouping should steer the international order toward greater justice and equity, and work together to build a community with a shared future for humanity. Xi arrived here early Saturday, marking his first trip to India in seven years.

He was received at the Bharat Mandapam for the 18th BRICS summit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The other leaders attending the summit in New Delhi are

Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Vietnamese Prime Minister Le Minh Hung.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, WTO Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, WHO Chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, New Development Bank (NDB) President Dilma Rousseff and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank Chief Zou Jiayi are also attending the BRICS summit.

BRICS leaders recognise women as decision makers, growth drivers



From left, Brazil's Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali amid the ongoing 18th BRICS Summit, at the Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi. (@pmindia/YT via PTI)

NEW DELHI, Sept 12 (PTI)

LEADERS of BRICS countries on Saturday asserted that they recognise women as leaders, decision-makers and drivers of economic growth and social transformation.

In a declaration, the leaders also said after their meeting that they recognise the vital role of women in the peacebuilding process in accordance with the global Women, Peace and Security agenda.

"We affirm that women's participation in governance; their financial and digital inclusion; their capacity building, access to skill development and entrepreneurship opportunities, sup-

Europe sending troops to Ukraine, means war with Russia: Putin

NEW DELHI, Sept 12 (ANI)

AMID the ongoing conflict with Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin warned European nations against sending troops to Kyiv, clarifying that the nation does

port to entrepreneurship, access to productive and social services and their crucial role in climate action, food security and nutrition, which are interconnected is key for sustainable development," the declaration

not threaten European countries.

Speaking to reporters in New Delhi on the sidelines of the 2026 BRICS Summit, Vladimir Putin affirmed that sending troops to Ukraine will mean "war with Russia."

said. "We also recognise the importance of policies that support women's full participation in economic life, including through appropriate care policies, in accordance with national circumstances," the leaders

said. The leaders also said they look forward to the convening of the XII BRICS Parliamentary Forum in October 2026, including the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and the Meeting of International Affairs Committee Chairpersons towards strengthening exchanges and cooperation among our parliaments.

"We emphasise the importance of these engagements as useful platforms to enhance mutual understanding and trust among nations, drive innovation and strengthen institutional resilience towards building an inclusive, sustainable and equitable future for all," leaders said.

BRICS leaders join PM Modi in tree plantation initiative



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping during a joint tree plantation initiative amid the ongoing 18th BRICS Summit, in New Delhi. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, Sept 12 (IANS)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and leaders of other BRICS member countries participated in a joint tree plantation initiative in New Delhi on Saturday.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping,

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali and Brazil Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira joined

PM Modi at the tree plantation initiative.

Holding hands, all leaders also posed for the traditional family photo during the event held at the lawns of Bharat Mandapam.

Earlier in the day, the leaders of BRICS member countries attended the BRICS Summit's Session on Inclusive Global Governance and Strengthening Multilateralism at Bharat Mandapam. India is hosting the two-day BRICS Summit in New Delhi from today, bringing together leaders of member and partner countries as well as outreach invitees.

PM Modi announced the unanimous adoption of the New Delhi Declaration 2026 and launched two postage stamps commemorating 20 years of BRICS at the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi.

In his closing remarks at the BRICS Summit's session on 'Inclusive Global Governance and Strengthening Multilateralism', PM Modi said, "The New Delhi Declaration adopted today gives clear direction to our shared resolve. Now it is our responsibility to convert these resolutions into concrete results."