

'BRICS must blossom for the sake of humanity'

PM Modi warns against weaponisation of technology, critical minerals

Developing nations in the Global South increasingly trust BRICS because their voices are heard, their experiences are valued, and solutions are created in partnership with them rather than imposed on them, says PM Modi

NEW DELHI, Sept 13 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday warned that the "weaponisation" of technology and critical minerals could hinder shared prosperity, urging the BRICS nations to rise through cooperation, address the pressing challenges facing the Global South and blossom for human-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the second day of the BRICS Summit 2026 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. (PTI)

ity. In an address at the concluding session of the two-day, India-hosted BRICS summit, the Prime Minister flagged concerns over rising global conflicts and urged the bloc to work together to mitigate their far-reaching impact on ordinary lives.

Modi added that developing nations in the Global South increasingly trust BRICS because their voices are heard, their experiences are valued and solutions are created in partnership with them, rather than imposed on them. The annual summit of BRICS -- a grouping of 11 major emerging economies representing around 49.5 per cent of the global population and 40 per cent of global GDP -- concluded with key outcomes across logistics supply chains, start-ups and

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World needs peace: UN chief

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 13 (IANS)

WITH the leaders of four countries involved in conflicts disproportionately hitting the Global South at the BRICS Summit, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for peace. "From Gaza, to the broader crisis in the Middle East, to Ukraine, Sudan and beyond, our world needs peace," he said at the summit in New Delhi.

Peace "is essential for shaping inclusive global growth," he said. Adversaries in the West Asia conflict in the Gulf, Iran's

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres. (PTI)

Xi proposes five-point initiative



NEW DELHI, Sept 13 (PTI)

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Saturday announced that China will lead the creation of an open-source AI ecosystem for BRICS member nations as part of a five-point initiative to

boost cooperation in technology, manufacturing and trade, even as he called on the bloc to focus on building a large integrated market comprising emerging economies.

Xi's announcement at the concluding session of the BRICS summit is widely seen as an effort to position Beijing as a central technology partner for the BRICS amid the communist State's growing AI competition with the US.

Elaborating on the open-source AI proposal, Xi said:

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Putin proposes BRICS grain market

NEW DELHI, Sept 13 (PTI)

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Sunday proposed a new insurance mechanism and a collaborative initiative for the grain market among the BRICS nations as he called upon the grouping to adopt a holistic approach in combating pressing global challenges.

Putin proposed the new initiatives for economic growth among the BRICS member nations as well as the Global South nations amid crippling



sanctions imposed by the Western powers on Moscow for its war on Ukraine. The G-7 countries, the European Union and the UK prohibited Western companies from insuring any

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Pezeshkian wants global food security

NEW DELHI, Sept 13 (PTI)

BRICS must expand trade in national currencies and work towards an inclusive global economic framework as excessive dependence on existing financial and trade systems has made emerging economies vulnerable to political shocks, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday.

In an address at the BRICS summit, Pezeshkian, taking a swipe at Western powers, was also critical of "unilateral sanctions", saying they are directly



impacting global food security and people's welfare.

The Iranian leader's remarks came weeks after the US imposed new economic sanctions on Iran, tightening the squeeze on Tehran's finances

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Houthis launch more attacks on Saudi Arabia

ADEN, Sept 13 (AP)

THE conflict in Yemen intensified on Sunday, as Government forces launched attacks against Iran-backed Houthi rebels along the Red Sea and Houthis fired into neighbouring Saudi Arabia, which supports Yemen's Government.

The Yemeni Government vowed to send more forces to the Red Sea coast after conceding a "painful" defeat last week when Houthis captured the port city of Mokha and an island on the Babel el-Mandeb Strait, a crucial shipping alternative to the Strait of Hormuz. As the impoverished country risks descending into another civil war, the United Nations estimated that more than 80,000 people have been displaced by the fighting since the start of September.

One woman said a mortar shell fell nearby as she fled in the middle of the night from the town of Khawkha in Hodeida

province along the Red Sea, shortly before it was captured by Houthis. "I saw with my own eyes cars and buses burning, and bodies of children and women were lying on the road in a horrific scene," said the woman, who spoke on condition of anonymity out of concern for her and her family's safety. Houthis claim attacks against Saudi Arabia

Saudi authorities sounded sirens Sunday afternoon in the southern city of Abha and Khamis Mushait province, warning residents to take shelter from potential incoming fire. Both areas were repeatedly attacked by the Houthis in recent weeks. The Houthis claimed to have used drones and missiles to target Saudi Arabia, including a military base just over the border with Yemen. Houthi military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree didn't provide evidence or say when the attack occurred.

Fadnavis meets Aga Khan; assures support for devpt projects

MUMBAI, Sept 13 (PTI)

MAHARASHTRA Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis met Prince Rahim Aga Khan here on Sunday and assured full Government support for development projects undertaken by his foundation spanning education, health-care, tribal welfare, and environmental conservation.

Welcoming Prince Rahim on his first official visit to the State as the fifth Aga Khan, Fadnavis highlighted Maharashtra's readiness to scale up public-private partnerships with the AKDN. Fadnavis commended the network's efforts in rural water conservation and environmental protection, noting that its interventions in water-scarce regions had produced noteworthy results. He added that the State was eager to partner with the organisation to scale these projects in larger regions.

The Government would

extend full support to initiatives aimed at improving quality of life through public-private partnerships, Fadnavis said.

The meeting also discussed setting up an institutional mech-

anism for dialogue between the State Government and the AKDN. Both sides agreed to review various projects through such a mechanism and explore their expansion.



Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis with Shia Ismaili community's 50th Imam and Chairman of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) Prince Rahim Aga Khan V during their meeting, in Mumbai, on Sunday.

(ANI)

PM Modi holds talks with top leaders of SA, Egypt, Philippines and Kazakhstan

NEW DELHI, Sept 13 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday held bilateral discussions with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi on the sidelines of the BRICS summit, with a focus on boosting trade and investment ties.

Modi also held a series of meetings with other global leaders, including Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, Burundi President Evariste Ndayishimiye, Ugandan Vice President Jessica Alupo, and Nigerian Vice President Kashim Shettima. Officials said boosting cooperation in trade, investment, defence and people-to-people



Prime Minister Narendra Modi holds a bilateral meeting with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit, in New Delhi. (PTI)

ties was a dominant theme at the meetings,

In a social media post, Modi

said he and Ramaphosa reviewed the full breadth of the India-South Africa strategic partnership

including cooperation in mining and critical minerals, infrastructure, food security, digital public infrastructure and emerging technologies.

"Our partnership is rooted in history and firmly focused on the future. We will work closely for Africa's progress, the priorities of the Global South and a more balanced global order," he said. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the two leaders exchanged views on a range of global issues of mutual interest and agreed to maintain close coordination in multilateral fora.

"In the context of the successful translocation of cheetahs from South Africa to India, the Prime Minister invited South Africa to consider joining the International Big Cat Alliance," it said.

BRICS voices concern over 'growing risks' of N-conflict

NEW DELHI, Sept 13 (PTI)

BRICS leaders have voiced serious concern over "deliberate attacks" on civilian infrastructure and peaceful nuclear facilities under full safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), underlining that nuclear safety must always be upheld, including in "armed conflicts".

In the 'New Delhi Declaration' adopted on the first day of the two-day BRICS Summit, being hosted by India, the leaders on Saturday also expressed concerns over the "growing risks of

nuclear danger and conflict".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the adoption of the declaration at the end of the opening day's deliberations in the presence of Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and other top leaders of the bloc.

In a major diplomatic victory for India, BRICS reached consensus on the joint declaration after overcoming sharp differences between the United Arab

BRICS calls for protection of cultural heritage

NEW DELHI, Sept 13 (PTI)

BRICS leaders have called for protection of cultural heritage, including in regions affected by conflict, and laid emphasis on repatriation of antiquities and objects of spiritual, ancestral, historical and cultural val-

Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Vietnam became BRICS partner countries last year.

"We call for the protection of cultural heritage, including in regions affected by conflict, to prevent the destruction and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other world leaders, during a session 'Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability: Shaping the Future for Inclusive Global Growth' on the second day of the BRICS Summit 2026, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. (PMO via PTI)

Emirates and Tehran regarding the West Asia conflict, but skipped any direct mention of the US strikes on Iran or the Iranian

military's attacks on Gulf Arab nations. The declaration, without naming any country, said, "We express serious concern over

BRICS New Delhi Declaration shows India's forward-looking leadership: Assam CM

GUWAHATI, Sept 13 (PTI)

ASSAM Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma hailed the New Delhi Declaration of the BRICS countries, stating that it highlighted a "pragmatic, inclusive and forward-looking leadership" that Indian foreign policy brings to an evolving global order.

The declaration adopted during the 18th BRICS summit in New Delhi also welcomed the recent Guwahati Declaration issued by the BRICS Heads of Anti-Drug Agencies "that would facilitate operational and technical cooperation among BRICS anti-drug agencies".

"This document (New Delhi Declaration) exemplifies the

pragmatic, inclusive and forward-looking leadership that Indian foreign policy brings to an evolving global order," Sarma said in a social media post on Saturday. He lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the successful adoption of the historic document.

"The declaration is a resounding testament to India's Chairship, substantive in content and far-reaching in vision.

"From multilateral reform to counter-terrorism, and closer collaboration in new-age technology, agriculture and animal conservation, several critical issues have found consensus among global powers, including the voice of the Global South," Sarma said.

deliberate attacks on civilian infrastructure and peaceful nuclear facilities under full safeguards of the International

Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in violation of international law and relevant resolutions of the IAEA," it said.

Russia imports record fuel from India as Ukraine strikes hit refineries

NEW DELHI, Sept 13 (PTI)

RUSSIA imported a record 172,000 tonnes of oil products in August, including gasoline refined from Russian crude at a refinery in India that is partly owned by Russia's Rosneft, as Ukrainian drone strikes disrupted Moscow's domestic refining capacity, according to a report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

India supplied 70 pc of Russia's oil product imports in August, including 120,000 tonnes of gasoline worth 78 million euros, CREA said in its monthly analysis of Russian fossil fuel exports and sanctions. The volume of Russian fuel imports was more than sev-

en times the previous monthly record and three times the total imported in 2025. All of the gasoline from India was loaded at the Vadinar refinery and sold by EU-sanctioned Nayara Energy to Rosneft, CREA said. Rosneft owns 49.13 pc of Nayara Energy, while Vadinar sourced all of its crude from Russia during the first 8 months of 2026 report said.

"Russia is therefore paying a refinery that it partly owns to process its own crude into fuel it can no longer produce domestically, before shipping it back halfway around world. The shipments underscore the impact of a sustained Ukrainian drone campaign against Russia's oil refineries and energy infrastructure, has reduced domestic fuel production and contributed to shortages", CREA said.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICES FOR S&T

'One Earth, One Family': Oman, S Africa, UAE laud India's vision

NEW DELHI Sept 13 (ANI)

COMMENDING India's approach to regional stability and dialogue at the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, Oman's Ambassador to India, Issa Saleh Abdullah Alshibani, on Sunday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's global vision and stressed the need for peaceful dialogue to address global crises.

Referring to India's efforts towards de-escalation, conflict resolution and neighbourhood stability, the Ambassador said Oman's foreign policy aligns with India's guiding philosophy.

Speaking to 'ANI' on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, Alshibani said the impact of geopolitical crises extends beyond directly involved Countries and affects

the wider global community.

"I think we are part of the motto of the Prime Minister, when he said there is One Earth, One Family. In a geopolitical context, the impact of such crises affects not only the direct Countries but also indirectly all Countries," he said. "Oman has a genuine policy in terms of peaceful dialogue, peaceful neighbourhood, and I think we are pursuing that. I think this is the way forward for resolving so many of the issues and difficulties that the world faces right now," Alshibani added.

INDIA HOSTED A VERY SUCCESSFUL BRICS SUMMIT: SOUTH AFRICA: SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Sunday praised India's leadership as BRICS Chair, saying New Delhi hosted a "very successful" summit and

managed to bring member Countries together to adopt the New Delhi Declaration despite doubts over reaching consensus.

Addressing a press conference after the conclusion of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, Ramaphosa said the successful adoption of the declaration was a result of collective efforts by all BRICS members, while congratulating India for its organisation and leadership.

'INDIA HAS DONE A GREAT JOB': UAE: THE United Arab Emirates' BRICS Sherpa Omran Sharaf on Sunday lauded India's role as the chair for the 18th BRICS Summit, saying New Delhi "has done a great job" in hosting and chairing the meetings and played a "very vital role" in helping the grouping reach consensus on issues that serve the BRICS agenda.

UK breaking-up?

Leaders from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are expected to sign a deal today to initiate the process of break-up of the United Kingdom

LONDON, Sept 13 (Agencies)

LEADERS from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are expected to sign a deal Monday to initiate the process of break-up of the United Kingdom, 'The Telegraph' reported.

The joint declaration seeking the right to hold independence referendums will be signed by the Scottish, Welsh and Irish first Ministers at a summit in Cardiff.

This comes in the wake of remarks made by United States President Donald Trump during his visit to Dublin, wherein he said he would "love" to see a united Ireland.

UK PM Burnham's 'clear con-

sensus. He said the "same situation" applies to Scotland. Burnham made the remarks during Prime Minister's questions, a convention in the UK where the PM spends 30 minutes answering questions from MPs every Wednesday afternoon.

Why are first Ministers meeting now?

Following the Labour Party's loss in the elections in Wales in May, there are now pro-independence parties in power in all three of UK's devolved nations – Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland – for the first time. In Wales, Plaid Cymru became the largest party in the Cardiff Senedd in May, with Rhun Iwan taking



UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham with SNP MP Swinney, who claimed the PM was "facing up to the idea that he will go down in history as the final Prime Minister of the United Kingdom." (AP)

sensus' remark signals potential shift. United Kingdom Prime Minister Andy Burnham had also suggested to Members of Parliament (MPs) in the country that he would authorise another Scottish referendum if there were a "clear consensus" in favour of one, according to 'The Telegraph'.

Responding to an MP from the Scottish National Party (SNP) on the lack of formal secession mechanisms for Scotland compared to Northern Ireland, Burnham said a border poll in Northern Ireland is triggered when there is a clear public con-

ing over as the first Minister.

Meanwhile, the SNP also fortified its position as the dominant party in Scotland. In Northern Ireland, Sinn Féin won the Assembly elections in 2022. However, a walkout by the Democratic Unionist Party meant that Michelle O'Neill took over as first Minister in 2024. Sinn Féin is expected to retain its hold on the votes in Northern Ireland next year, 'The Telegraph' reported. Scottish First Minister and SNP leader John Swinney, Wales' Iwan and O'Neill will be joined by Mary Lou McDonald, Sinn

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