

Roshibina, mixed relay team bag silver

Seema, mixed skeet shooters and rowers get bronze



Roshibina Devi Naorem

NAGOYA, Sept 24 (PTI)

THE track and field stars and a determined wushu player provided the desperately-needed fillip to India's Asian Games campaign on a day when shooters were mostly off-target and the rowers just about managed to save face with a solitary bronze before ending a campaign marred by dissension at the continental showpiece.

For the second day in a row, skeet shooters rescued India's faltering campaign at the ranges by clinching the mixed team bronze even though a gold is yet to be delivered by
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4x400 mixed relay team



Seema Kumari



Parinaaz and Anant



(L) Satnam, Salman

China, US should not be rivals, but partners: Xi



President Donald Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, China's President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan participate in an arrival ceremony at Joint Base Andrews, Md on Thursday. (AP/PTI)

WASHINGTON, Sept 24 (PTI)

CHINA and the US should be partners, not rivals, Chinese President Xi Jinping asserted upon his arrival in Washington

on Wednesday, and voiced confidence that the two can find a right way to get along in the new era.

China and the US are both great countries, and the two peoples are both great peoples, Xi said in written speech, state run Xinhua news agency quoted him as saying.

In a rare gesture, US President Donald Trump and his wife, Melania Trump, greeted Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, when they landed at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland on Wednesday.

Xi noted that he and Trump had agreed to build a China-US relationship of strategic stability during Trump's visit to China in May, which has
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India on 'strategic partner stream' in Pacific Islands Forum: Jaishankar

■ By Yoshita Singh

NEW YORK, Sept 24 (PTI)

INDIA has been placed on the "strategic partner stream" in the Pacific Islands Forum, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, describing it as a "positive development" that will contribute to the deepening of Delhi's cooperation with the region.

Jaishankar co-chaired the India-FIPIC (Forum for India-Pacific Islands cooperation) Foreign Ministers' meeting Wednesday at the Permanent Mission of India to the UN on the margins of the 81st Session

of the UN General Assembly.

At the meeting, Jaishankar said he was glad to receive a letter from Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Baron Waqa informing him that "India has been placed on the Strategic Partner Stream in the PIF. This is a positive development, and I'm sure that it would contribute to the further deepening of our cooperation."

Founded in 1971, the Pacific Islands Forum comprises 18 members: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Naoero,

New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Jaishankar discussed with the leaders the progress made since the 3rd FIPIC Summit in 2023, including development partnership under the forum's framework as well as India-UN Development Partnership Fund.

He noted that under both frameworks, a number of projects have been undertaken, underlining India's commitment to strengthening livelihoods.

China unlikely to back India's UNSC bid: Former US NSA John Bolton

WASHINGTON, Sept 24 (PTI)

FORMER US National Security Adviser John Bolton has said that China is not ready to move when it comes to supporting India's bid for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

Speaking to PTI Videos, Bolton said that attempts to change the composition of the 15-member council had continued for decades without result, and there are little prospects of reform. "I don't think China is movable on this question. I think that they like having five permanent members, which they are the only,

really the only Asian country. And I don't see that changing," he told PTI Videos.

Bolton said any expansion of the permanent membership would require an amendment to the UN Charter and suggested China could block India's bid. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has 15 member countries, consisting of five permanent members with veto power and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms.

Five permanent members are China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and United States.

BRICS OUTSHINING UN

BY COL MOHINDER PAL SINGH

WHEN the United Nations was created in 1945, India was still two years away from Independence, much of Africa remained under colonial rule, and today's emerging economies had little influence over global affairs. Eight decades later, the world has changed beyond recognition. Yet the architecture created to manage it has changed remarkably little. This contradiction is becoming difficult to ignore. As world leaders gather for another session of the UN General Assembly, an interesting question arises. With BRICS expanding its membership and influence, could it eventually emerge as an alternative to the United Nations?

Perhaps that is the wrong question. BRICS is unlikely to replace the UN. More importantly, it does not need to. Its real significance may lie in creating sufficient pressure on the existing international order to force it to change. The United Nations continues to possess something no emerging grouping can easily replicate—universality. With 193 member states, almost the entire international community sits under one roof. Its agencies work in areas ranging from health and hunger to refugees, development and humanitarian assistance. Despite its limitations, the UN remains the only truly global political forum.

The problem is not that the UN has ceased to matter. The problem is that its power structure increasingly appears disconnected from present-day realities. Nowhere is this more evident than in the Security Council. Its five permanent members—the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France—continue to enjoy veto powers inherited from the outcome of the Second World War. Africa has no permanent representation. Neither does Latin America. India, home to nearly one-sixth of humanity and one of the world's major economies, remains outside the permanent membership.

This raises a fundamental question: how long can an institution claim to represent today's world while its most powerful structure continues to reflect the world of 1945? Reforming the Security

Council has consequently been discussed for decades. Yet progress remains painfully slow. The reason is understandable. Reform sounds desirable until those enjoying institutional privilege are required to share it. It is against this background that BRICS assumes importance. What began as a grouping of a few emerging economies has acquired a much wider geographical and political character. Its attraction is not merely economic. For many countries of the Global South, BRICS represents the possibility of acquiring a greater voice in a system in which they often feel under-represented.

Yet BRICS cannot simply become another United Nations. The two are fundamentally different. The UN rests upon a Charter, established institutions and eight decades of international law and practice. It possesses specialised agencies and peacekeeping struc-



tures. The Security Council has powers concerning international peace and security that BRICS does not possess. BRICS is a much looser arrangement, functioning primarily through consultation and consensus. Its members also differ considerably in political systems, strategic interests and relationships with the West. India and China, for instance, cooperate within BRICS while simultaneously managing serious bilateral differences. It would therefore be simplistic to describe BRICS as an anti-Western alliance or a future UN. Its real importance lies elsewhere. The international system is increasingly being shaped by multiple institutions operating simultaneously—the UN, G20, BRICS, regional organisations, development banks and smaller strategic groupings. Countries no longer rely upon a single forum to pursue their interests.

Institutions rarely become irrelevant overnight. They gradually lose influence when important countries begin conducting meaningful business elsewhere. If states believe that existing organisations do not give them adequate representation, they naturally invest greater political capital in alternative platforms.

In that sense, BRICS is as much a symptom as an organisation. Its growth reflects dissatisfaction with the gap between the distribution of global power and its representation in international institutions. There is, however, an interesting contradiction within BRICS itself. Russia and China are permanent members of the Security Council and possess veto powers; India and Brazil do not. Thus, countries demanding a more representative international order sit alongside countries benefiting from the existing arrangement. For India, this changing environment presents an opportunity. New Delhi does not need to choose between BRICS and the United Nations. India's interests are better served by strengthening its influence in emerging forums while simultaneously pressing for reform of established institutions. This explains India's consistent emphasis on reformed multilateralism rather than rejection of multilateralism. India can also use BRICS to amplify concerns shared across the Global South. The absence of permanent African representation in the Security Council, for example, is increasingly difficult to justify. Economic, demographic and political power has shifted significantly towards Asia and the developing world. Global institutions cannot remain permanently insulated from these changes.

BRICS may never replace the United Nations. But it does not have to. If its growing influence compels the UN to broaden representation, share institutional power and adapt itself to contemporary realities, BRICS may achieve something far more useful than replacing it. It may force the United Nations to reinvent itself before history does it for them.

(Col Mohinder Pal Singh, PhD is a defence analyst with EGROW Foundation. Views expressed are personal)

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