

Modi flags weaponisation of tech, critical minerals

BRICS, now in its third decade, should focus on concrete actions, not 'merely ideas', says Modi; he lists initiatives to bolster supply chains, boost resilience against pandemics and climate disasters

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Warning against the “weaponisation” of technology and access to critical minerals, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday highlighted new BRICS initiatives to strengthen supply chains and increase resilience against disruptions, pandemics, and climate disasters.

The rising number of global conflicts has an increasingly negative and far-reaching impact on the lives of ordinary people, Mr. Modi said on the final day of the BRICS Summit here.

As the 11-member grouping enters its third decade, the world expects concrete results from the group, not “merely ideas



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a session on the second day of the BRICS Summit at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on Sunday. PTI

and commitments”, the Prime Minister noted.

Mr. Modi also pointed out that the confidence of Global South countries in BRICS has grown because “their voices are heard, their experiences are respected, and solutions are developed not for them, but together with them”.

“The weaponisation of technology and critical minerals can hinder our shared progress,” Mr. Modi said.

“Therefore, we have emphasised inclusivity in the adoption of technology. Pandemics, climate disasters, and supply-chain disruptions have shown

that in today’s interconnected world, no crisis remains confined to a single region,” he said.

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PM flags weaponisation of tech, critical minerals

“With this approach, we have agreed on a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System for the prevention of, and response to, infectious diseases,” Mr. Modi said. “Early Warning Data Integration Guidelines have been prepared for disaster management. The BRICS Logistics Supply Chain Cooperation Framework will help make our supply chains more reliable and resilient.”

The BRICS Incubator Network will connect start-ups and incubators across member states, while a BRICS Startup Innovation Fund has been proposed to promote innovative and scalable solutions.

The Prime Minister also highlighted BRICS CONNECT, aimed at promoting skills, employability, women in the workforce, social security, and capacity building.

“The BRICS Network on Digital Agriculture will create new opportunities for farmers,” Mr. Modi said. “Through this initiative, AI, geospatial technology, and Digital Public Infrastructure will be connected to the real needs of farmers.”

“To connect small enterprises with knowledge, finance, and new markets, we have initiated the BRICS MSME Cooperation Portal,” Mr. Modi added. “The BRICS Urban Mobility Hub has been established to facilitate the sharing of best practices among our cities.”

BRICS should ensure the world is free from ‘double standards’: Xi

Ananth Krishnan

BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday called on the BRICS countries to “rally the Global South” to ensure that an increasingly volatile international order was “free from double standards”, even as he offered a five-point AI and smart manufacturing initiative to take forward the digital future of the grouping.

Speaking at the second session of the summit in New Delhi before returning to Beijing after a 24-hour visit to India, Mr. Xi said the global landscape was currently “volatile and fraught with risks and challenges”.

“To bring stability to the world and make it a better place, BRICS countries must seize the historical initiative, rally the Global South, be an active, stabilising, and positive force in



Xi Jinping

international affairs, and advance the well-being of all humanity,” he said, according to remarks released by the Foreign Ministry in Beijing.

Mr. Xi did not name the United States. Still, Chinese officials have increasingly aimed at Washington for how they see its exercise of power in a self-described “rules-based order”, especially after recent actions in Venezuela and the war with Iran.

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Xi calls for a world free from 'double standards'

"The logic of 'might makes right' does not hold, and should have been discarded long ago," Mr. Xi said. "Global South countries should jointly defend the rule of law in international affairs, safeguard the basic norms of international relations, including sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs, and the peaceful settlement of disputes, and ensure that international law and international rules are applied to all, free from double standards."

"A world without rules is like a crossroads without traffic lights, where chaos and disorder are all but guaranteed," Mr. Xi said.

Calling on BRICS countries to take the lead in doing so, including by "leveraging our close ties with fellow emerging markets and Global South countries", Mr. Xi put forward five AI- and technology-focused initiatives for the grouping. The proposal from Beijing comes against the backdrop of China's push to offer its AI platforms and smart manufacturing know-how to emerging countries and its trade and technology war with the U.S.

The first initiative, he said, would see China become "a pioneer in establishing a BRICS AI open source community" and "build an open ecosystem for AI."

China, which will host next year's BRICS summit and take over as Chair from India, has also proposed establishing a "BRICS special economic zone partnership, under which countries can set up an intelligent portal, coordinate policies, and build a new frontier for open development".

Beijing has suggested establishing a "BRICS digital ecosystem cloud platform" and an "intelligent manufacturing cooperation initiative" that would see it "assist fellow BRICS countries in building smart factories and developing standards and norms, and jointly promote manufacturing transformation and upgrading."

China has also proposed setting up a science and technology talent development initiative, including an "engineer cultivation alliance for joint development of engineers and mutual recognition of competency standards", Mr. Xi said.

Putin suggests BRICS grain trade to fight global curbs

Press Trust of India

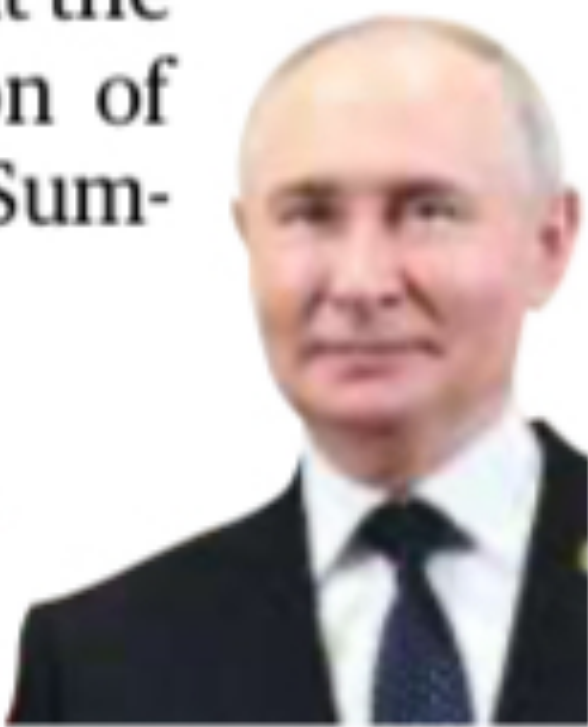
NEW DELHI

Under crippling sanctions by Western powers over the war with Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday proposed a new insurance mechanism and a collaborative grain market among BRICS nations for economic growth of the bloc as well as the Global South nations.

He urged the 11-member grouping to adopt a holistic approach to fight both symptoms and roots of global challenges. "We have independent routes for moving capital, labour, and technologies. In fact, we can operate regardless of outside pressure," Mr. Putin said at the final session of the BRICS Summit here.

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Putin suggests grain trade to fight curbs

The G-7 countries, the European Union, and the U.K. prohibited Western companies from insuring any ship transporting Russian crude unless the oil was purchased at or below a specified price cap. The Russian President pitched for setting up a dedicated platform for economic growth with the BRICS. “We have some promising initiatives going forward, such as creating an insurance mechanism and a grain market. These are Russian proposals, and we invite all other member states to make use of those,” Mr. Putin said, without elaborating.

Mr. Putin complimented the New Development Bank (NDB), saying it is handling projects worth \$140 billion. The NDB is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS nations. “As global challenges keep surfacing, we should adopt a holistic approach to address both the symptoms and root causes,” he said.

The Russian President said the global stature of BRICS is rising as it has been focusing on charting an independent course to combat pressing global challenges. “The broad participation in today’s meeting confirms that international interest in BRICS continues to grow. Many around the world find our core values and ideals appealing, including our commitment to charting an independent course and a desire to resolve problems collectively, guided by international law and the key provisions of the UN Charter,” Mr. Putin said.

Highlighting the importance of greater intra-BRICS economic cooperation, Mr. Putin said a common platform for better trade and investment ties will be helpful to all the member nations. “We have great new horizons for investment and cooperation and partnership between markets,” he said.

Building consensus

The 18th BRICS Summit pushed for changes in traditional power equations

Reaffirming the importance of reformed multilateralism in a world riven with unilateral actions by superpowers emerged as a binding theme of the 18th BRICS Summit and the New Delhi Declaration. The Summit's success could be measured by three main parameters – the participation of members at the highest levels, the importance given to intra-BRICS trade cooperation mechanisms and the consensus achieved by Indian negotiators in forging a joint statement in a time of war. The government should be commended for ensuring that Iran and the UAE, two rivals in the West Asian conflict, used the occasion for their highest-level bilateral meeting since the war began. The New Delhi Declaration, which was issued despite scepticism about all the differences within the grouping, presented the BRICS as a formidable front in its 20th year. Among the BRICS members, the position of Saudi Arabia, which has yet to formally join the group, remains ambiguous, as Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud arrived after the main session where the joint statement was adopted on Saturday. For the other members, however, the consensus was clear on issues of global importance. The declaration made a call for the reform of the Security Council and support for a greater role for Brazil and India while recommending new initiatives for global governance. It condemned western sanctions and tariffs and resolved to improve intra-BRICS trade and transact more in local currencies. It also condemned unilateral wars, without criticising any member. While the statement omitted references to the U.S.-Israel attacks on Iran, the assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, and of Iran's retaliatory attacks on its neighbours, especially the UAE, it is understood that this was due to a last-moment compromise effected between the two countries so as to forge the agreed text. It also took an exceptionally strong position on Israel's actions in Palestine and Lebanon.

India's fourth BRICS chairship has given ballast to its reputation as a Global South balancer with easy access to both sides of a divided world, while delivering bilateral benefits. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's close attention to Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian would have gone some way in assuaging hurt feelings, when New Delhi appeared to be tilting towards the U.S. and Israel in the war. Mr. Modi's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping also afforded the two countries a chance to reaffirm their political will to normalise ties. And his meeting with important leaders from the ASEAN grouping and African nations paid much-needed attention to India's ties with them. This BRICS Summit will be remembered for a moment of solidarity among countries that have many differences but are together in desiring a shift in traditional power equations to one more driven by their emerging economies.

Unilateral sanctions impacting food security, people's welfare: Pezeshkian

Iranian President calls for a stronger BRICS role in building a just international order; backs trade in national currencies and strengthening the New Development Bank to enhance economic resilience; stresses that people of Gaza, Lebanon continue to face consequences of crimes and genocide

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

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 concluding session of the two-day BRICS summit, Mr. Pezeshkian, taking a swipe at Western powers, was also critical of "unilateral sanctions", saying they were directly impacting global food security and people's welfare.

The Iranian leader's remarks came weeks after the U.S. imposed new economic sanctions on Iran, tightening the squeeze on Tehran's finances amid ongoing military hostilities between the two sides.

He said BRICS had evolved beyond being merely a framework for cooperation among emerging economies and had become a manifestation of growing demand for a more balanced and inclu-



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for hosting the summit, saying its theme, 'Resilience, cooperation and sustainability', reflected fundamental global needs. ANI

sive world in which "no centre of power has the right to determine the destiny of others".

The BRICS now must play a greater role in building a more balanced, inclusive and just international order, the Iranian President said, stressing that resilience, cooperation and sustainability should be translated into practical action.

Military aggression

The Iranian President said economic resilience could not be sustained without security, referring to what

he described as the military aggression by the United States and Israel against Iran.

He said the attacks on Iran's economic, energy and development infrastructure could have consequences beyond national borders, creating regional and global repercussions.

Mr. Pezeshkian said the Iranian people had paid a heavy price, with civilians killed and infrastructure built over decades damaged. He said the international community had a responsibility to protect civilians and prevent the

"normalisation of attacks on civilian targets".

Mr. Pezeshkian thanked India, its people and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for hosting the summit, saying its theme – "Resilience, cooperation and sustainability" – reflected the fundamental global needs at a time when the destinies of nations were increasingly interconnected.

He said the international community's challenge was not merely to manage current crises, but to build a system that strengthened nations against future crises

and create a fairer world.

Delving into pressing economic challenges, Mr. Pezeshkian said excessive dependence on limited financial and trade systems had made economies vulnerable to political shocks.

Unilateral sanctions directly affected food security and people's welfare, he said, pitching for expanding trade in national currencies and strengthening the New Development Bank to enhance the economic resilience of BRICS members.

On the situation in Gaza and Lebanon, the Iranian President said the people of the region continued to face the consequences of "crimes and genocide".

He called upon BRICS to play a more effective role in defending national sovereignty, territorial integrity and the prohibition of the use of force.

Elaborating on global challenges, Mr. Pezeshkian said no country could address them alone, and called for transforming the capacities of the Global South into shared capabilities.

He highlighted Iran's geopolitical position and energy and transit capaci-

ties, saying they could contribute to the development of trade and energy corridors among BRICS members.

On sustainability, he warned that development that increases inequality or transfers today's costs to future generations could not be sustainable.

The Iranian President also flagged concerns over the environmental consequences of war, saying damage to energy and industrial infrastructure could affect natural resources beyond economic losses.

Key elements

Mr. Pezeshkian identified knowledge and innovation as key elements of the BRICS agenda, stressing that AI and emerging technologies should serve as tools for empowering nations rather than instruments of domination.

The Iranian President also reaffirmed Iran's readiness to contribute its capacities to BRICS cooperation, emphasising that resilience required sustained cooperation, cooperation required justice, and sustainability was impossible without peace and security.



Iranian Finance Minister Abbas Araghchi during a meeting with Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and others in New Delhi. PTI

Iran's Araghchi holds talks with Kashmiri leaders

Peerzada Ashiq

SRINAGAR

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held a separate meeting with senior Kashmiri religious leaders, including Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Aga Syed Hassan, Muntazir Mehdi and Molvi Imran Raza Ansari, on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in New Delhi on Saturday.

The Kashmiri leaders pitched for “diplomacy over war as a means to resolve issues”.

Iranian official news agency, Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), also released photographs of the meeting. “A delegation of Indian clerics and religious leaders held a meeting with the Foreign Minister on the margins of the BRICS summit,” the IRNA said.

A spokesman of Mirwaiz said the religious leaders “exchanged views with Mr. Araghchi on the grave situation confronting the region”. The leaders called for “safeguarding unity within the Muslim Ummah”. The delegation also conveyed solidarity with the people of Iran and expressed deep concern over the loss of innocent lives, destruction of homes and infrastructure, and the “climate of fear and insecurity created by war”, said the spokesman.

The Kashmir leaders, according to the spokesman, also referred to the “continuing devastation in Palestine and the loss of life and instability in Lebanon”. “War only multiplies human suffering. However serious the differences may be, endless confrontation cannot resolve them. Ultimately, even the most difficult disputes have to return to dialogue, engagement and negotiation,” Mirwaiz told the Iranian Foreign Minister, according to the statement.

Mirwaiz also warned that the present conflicts “must not be allowed to deepen sectarian divisions within the Muslim world”. “The suffering of people in Iran, Palestine, Lebanon and elsewhere should bring us closer in compassion and responsibility, not push us further apart,” said Mirwaiz, as he mentioned Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei’s visit to Kashmir in the years following the Islamic Revolution in the 1980s.

Modi's bilateral meets put defence, security cooperation in focus

Saurabh Trivedi

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bilateral engagements with leaders from Asia and Africa on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on Sunday emphasised defence and security cooperation, alongside trade, technology and strategic partnerships, as India sought to deepen its engagement with key partners across the Global South.

Mr. Modi held separate meetings with Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Philippines President Ferdinand R. Marcos

Jr., Ugandan Vice President Jessica Rose Epel Alupo, Nigerian Vice-President Kashim Shettima Mustapha, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and the President of Burundi and chairperson of the African Union, Évariste Ndayishimiye.

Strategic partner

The meeting with Mr. Marcos of the Philippines assumes particular significance for India's defence outreach in Southeast Asia. The two leaders agreed to further deepen cooperation in defence and security, along with trade and investment, space, railways,



Closer ties: Prime Minister Narendra Modi holds a meeting with Philippines's President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. in New Delhi. PTI

fintech, education, science and technology and innovation.

The Philippines, which became a strategic partner

of India in August 2025, is also a key defence partner in the region. The country has emerged as an important customer for Indian

defence equipment, particularly the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system. It is the first foreign customer for BrahMos under a \$375-million deal, with deliveries and training under way.

Defence and security also figured prominently in Mr. Modi's discussions with Kazakhstan President Tokayev, with the two sides reviewing cooperation in these fields as well as in connectivity, energy, critical minerals and emerging technologies.

The defence dimension of India's engagement with Malaysia also received attention during BRICS-relat-

ed diplomacy. Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said exploratory discussions were under way on Kuala Lumpur acquiring the BrahMos missile system, though no final decision had been taken.

Defence ties with Africa

With Nigeria, Mr. Modi discussed defence and security alongside trade, investment, energy, agriculture, health and digital technologies. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the strategic partnership.

The broader engagements also underlined India's push for greater se-

curity cooperation with African partners. Discussions with Uganda focused on technology partnerships, capacity building and private-sector collaboration, while the meeting with the African Union Chairperson covered development partnership and capacity building.

Taken together, the meetings highlighted New Delhi's effort to leverage the BRICS platform to reinforce defence partnerships, capacity building and indigenous defence exports, while expanding India's strategic footprint across the Indo-Pacific, Central Asia and Africa.

Pezeshkian says Iran and UAE want to 'turn the page' on war

Iranian President's remarks follow his meeting with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince on the sidelines of a key summit in New Delhi. Iran says meeting planned with Oman today regarding the Strait of Hormuz and enhanced security cooperation in the Gulf

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran and the United Arab Emirates, whose relations have deteriorated since the start of the war in West Asia, want to "turn the page," Iranian President Massoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday.

"For the first time since the war, we had a constructive exchange with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi," said Mr. Pezeshkian a day after a meeting with Sheikh Khaled Bin Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan in New Delhi, on the sidelines of the BRICS summit. "It was agreed that we would turn the page, look to the future and build it together."

After U.S.-Israeli attacks



Regional rumble: Iran carried retaliatory strikes against America's allies in the region, with the UAE bearing much of the brunt. REUTERS

on Iran in February launched the war, Tehran retaliated against America's allies in the region, with the UAE bearing much of the brunt.

Ship strike on Hormuz
Meanwhile, Iranian state media reported that an Iran-

nian commercial ship was struck early on Sunday off the Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz and one person was killed in the attack.

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency quoted the governor of Qeshm, the island crucial for Iran assert-

ing control over the strait, as blaming a "terrorist enemy" for the attack.

Separately, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations monitor said a vessel was hit by a projectile while transiting the strait, with no further details.

The incident occurred a day before Tehran plans to brief countries in the region on its contested efforts to manage shipping traffic at the crucial waterway. The official IRNA news agency reported on Sunday that the meeting with Gulf states in Oman on Monday will be "the first step towards establishing a regional framework for security cooperation" in the region.

Iranian Foreign Ministry

spokesman Esmail Baqaei said "it will serve as an essential cornerstone for ensuring stability and security" in a statement.

Tehran has been pushing to formalise its control over the waterway, including charging fees for passage, and has been in negotiations with Muscat, whose territorial waters also cover Hormuz.

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Sunday he does not "care" about the proposed meeting between Iran and Gulf states, while suggesting that the U.S. could stay in Iran and "keep the oil", drawing a parallel with a U.S. push to take control of a fifth of Venezuela's vast oil reserves.

(With inputs from Associated Press)

Saudi Arabia pipeline outage puts global oil supply at risk

Reuters
LONDON

Saudi Arabia will run out of oil stocks for exports if it doesn't restart its major pipeline to the Red Sea within days, leading to a loss of 10 to 4% of global supply, Saudi oil buyers and traders said.

Saudi Arabia shut its east-west oil pipeline on Friday following drone strikes by Iran-aligned Houthis in Yemen.

The world's biggest exporter has used the pipeline to reroute around 4 million barrels per day – around 4% of global supply – to the port of Yanbu on the Red Sea. But with the pipeline out of service, Yanbu now has stocks to maintain exports for just five to seven days, according to three industry sources.

Saudi Arabia also has stocks to supply customers for several days from



Desert plume: Satellite image shows smoke rising from an area of Saudi Arabia's East-West pipeline. AFP

Egypt's ports of Ain Sukhna on the Red Sea and Sidi Kerir on the Mediterranean, a fourth source said.

Stocks are not full and will ultimately run out without the east-west pipeline resuming operations, the sources said.

New attacks

Meanwhile, the Houthis on Sunday claimed more attacks on Saudi Arabia.

A Houthi military spokesperson, Brigadier General Yahya Saree, said in a

statement that the group targeted a military base in Sharurah province in Saudi Arabia's Nairan region. Houthi media reported on Sunday that Saudi Arabia had carried out two strikes on Saada, in the north of Yemen.

Tens of thousands have taken flight in the wake of escalating conflict. "Displacement in Yemen has now reached 85,818 people," the International Organization for Migration said.

Houthis claim new attacks on Saudi Arabia while Yemeni forces prepare to fight back

Associated Press

CAIRO

Iran-aligned Houthi militia in Yemen on Sunday claimed new attacks on Saudi Arabia, as internationally recognised Yemeni government described the rebels' swift advance along the Red Sea coast as a "painful" development in a new front in the Iran war.

The Houthis claimed more attacks with missiles and drones on Saudi Arabia, which supports Yemen's internationally recognised government. A Houthi military spokesperson, Brigadier General Yahya Saree, claimed in a statement that the group targeted a military base in Sharurah province in Saudi



A screengrab from a video released by the Houthis on Saturday shows fighters near military vehicles in southern Yemen. AP

Arabia's Najran region.

The Saudi Arabian civil defence said a projectile fell in al-Tawwal governorate near the border with Yemen along the Red Sea, injuring two people and damaging a mosque and several other buildings.

There was no statement from Saudi Arabia on Sunday on any new attacks targeting the Houthis, who have been hitting the kingdom's oil infrastructure and shipping as part of a recently declared blockade. However, Houthi me-

dia reported on Sunday that Saudi Arabia had carried out two strikes on Sada, in the north of Yemen.

While the rebels, who now control the Red Sea coast and the crucial Bab el-Mandeb Strait, have said there is no threat to commercial shipping, markets remain wary and oil prices have risen again. Meanwhile, a government official in Yemen said its forces will return to the coast and fight back. Sultan al-Arada of the presidential council in Yemen said late on Saturday that forces "are currently regrouping and will return to the battle in one form or another."

PIPELINE OUTAGE IMPACTS

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10 PLA combined arms brigades remain deployed along LAC: report

Saurabh Trivedi

NEW DELHI

There was a significant reduction in the deployment of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) along India's northern borders in 2025, even as Beijing continued to maintain 10 combined arms brigade-sized formations in areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and in traditional training areas, according to the Defence Ministry's annual report for 2025-2026, released on Sunday.

The report said the Indian Army's deployment across all sectors along the LAC remained robust and prepared to deal with any emerging contingency.

On India-China engagements, the Ministry said sustained political, diplomatic, and military interactions between the two countries had facilitated positive developments along the northern bor-



The report says the Indian Army's deployment along the LAC remains robust and prepared to deal with any contingency.

ders and contributed to stability.

The year 2025 saw the resumption of key dialogue mechanisms, including the 33rd and 34th meetings of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC), held in March and July respectively. The Special Representatives (SR) dialogue on the India-China boundary question also resumed, with rounds held in December 2024

and August 2025.

The report said the improvement in bilateral relations was further reinforced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to China for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Tianjin in August 2025.

Military engagement

The military-to-military engagement also saw a positive trajectory, with the 23rd Corps Commander-le-

vel meeting held in eastern Ladakh on October 25 and 26, 2025.

At the ground level, border personnel meetings between the Indian Army and the PLA continued across all sectors, with the report stating that these engagements were conducted in a cordial and friendly environment to address issues of concern.

The latest assessment indicates a gradual stabilisation of the situation following sustained diplomatic and military-level engagements.

On September 6, amid continuing concerns over conflicting territorial claims and military build-up along the LAC, the Indian and Chinese Armies held their first Corps Commander-level meeting in the Eastern Sector, marking a significant expansion of the military dialogue mechanism beyond the Ladakh sector.

UN chief backs demand for expanding Security Council

Divya A

New Delhi, September 13

SPEAKING AT the BRICS Summit on Sunday, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres backed the demand from the Global South to expand the UN Security Council, which, he said, will help "bring balance and equity to global systems and institutions". He also underlined that India has been at the forefront of this demand.

Emphasising that today's economic, demographic and geopolitical realities are not those of 1945, Guterres said that "the institutional structures must reflect it".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on Saturday pitched for a greater role for developing countries in global decision-making, saying the Global South should move from being a "rule-taker" to "rule-shaper".

Echoing that sentiment, Guterres said: "Countries represented at this Summit speak to that changing reality." Over the past several years, he said, major emerging nations have called for an expansion of the UN Security Council. "India has been at the forefront of this



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres at Bharat Mandapam on the second day of the BRICS Leaders' Summit in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

demand," Guterres said.

He also weighed in on how the world is increasingly moving towards multipolarity, adding that it "helps bring balance and equity to global systems and institutions". "But this requires reforming global multilateral institutions — including the UN Security Council and the Bretton Woods system — to reflect the world of today," he said.

"As your Summit's theme rightly frames it, we must build for resilience, innovation, co-

operation and sustainability, he said at a session on Sunday, adding that it is an imperative for "shaping inclusive global growth".

In the New Delhi Declaration issued on Saturday, China and Russia have reiterated their support for India and Brazil to play a greater role in the United Nations. According to the Declaration, the leaders of BRICS countries reiterated their support for a "comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council".

The Declaration pressed for the need to make the UN body "more democratic, representative, effective and efficient, and to increase the representation of developing countries in the Council's membership so that it can adequately respond to prevailing global challenges and support the legitimate aspirations of emerging and developing countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America, including BRICS countries, to play a greater role in international affairs, in particular in the UN, including its Security Council".

The UN Security Council has five permanent members — China, France, Russia, the UK and the US. Each permanent member holds veto power over resolutions. This number has remained unchanged since the Council's inception in 1945.

Guterres also spelt out an agenda for the world facing a geopolitical flux. "First — through financing... Multilateral Development Banks must also become bigger, better and bolder, with a new business model to mobilise massive private investment and expand concessional funding to developing countries," he said.

Defence Secy meets Vietnam Dy Defence Minister, discusses regional security

Amrita Nayak Dutta

New Delhi, September 13

DEFENCE SECRETARY Rajesh Kumar Singh and Senior Lieutenant General Nguyen Truong Thang, the Deputy Minister of National Defence of Vietnam, on Sunday discussed advancing regional security and deepening the bilateral Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, while also strengthening the friendship between India and Vietnam.

This meeting followed a high-level discussion between the Prime Ministers of both countries on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the Ministry of Defence said the discussions centred on accelerating joint initiatives, technology sharing and defence industrial collaboration.

The two sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to expanding maritime and defence ties to ensure a peaceful, stable, and rule-based regional security architecture, it noted.

“Both sides reaffirmed their joint commitment to enhanc-

ing practical defence cooperation through ASEAN-led mechanisms, noting that collaborative platforms like the ADMM-Plus Experts’ Working Groups are vital for maintaining regional stability and building collective security architectures in the Indo-Pacific,” the statement noted.

They agreed on the scheduled conduct of the next Defence Policy Dialogue to be hosted in India on the sidelines of Aero India 2027.

The Ministry of Defence statement noted that the interaction underscores the growing momentum in defence ties between India and Vietnam, building directly on the strategic vision set forth by both Prime Ministers at the BRICS summit.

Over the last few years, the defence cooperation between India and Vietnam has deepened substantially. This includes Defence Policy Dialogues, military-to-military exchanges, high-level visits, capacity building and training programmes, cooperation in UN Peacekeeping, ship visits and bilateral exercises between the countries.

Censured by HC, Noida DM moves SC against order quashing student NSA case

Express News Service
New Delhi, September 13

THE DISTRICT Magistrate of Gautam Buddha Nagar, Medha Roopam, has approached the Supreme Court challenging the Allahabad High Court order quashing the detention of a Delhi University student under the National Security Act, 1980.

The September 2 order of the High Court pulled up the District Magistrate (DM) over the manner in which she passed the NSA order detaining 25-year-old student Akriti Chaudhary, and directed a payment of Rs 5 lakh from her salary as compensation. The court also observed that unchecked abuse of power by Uttar Pradesh police and officials risk reducing the state to an "Orwellian Dystopia."

Stating that the "casual and cavalier exercise of authority" by the state through the DM had "violated the Constitutional rights" of the petitioner, the court had ordered Rs 5 lakh as compensation to her, and directed that the amount be recovered from the "salary of the District Magistrate Gautam Buddha Nagar, who has passed this order of detention without



DM Medha Roopam

application of mind and from all such other officers who may have been responsible, right down to the SHO".

The High Court said that the conduct of the DM, who passed the detention order, was "worthy of derision" and added that she should have examined how the general law was inadequate against a female student activist with no previous criminal record agitating for the rights of labourers, and that the material on record did not disclose that she had in any way incited violence.

The ruling said the material "reveals that the District Magistrate desired to set an example out of the petitioner and deter others from exercising their right to freedom of speech and

expression in public spaces in support of the labourers".

"The District Magistrate Gautam Buddha Nagar is guilty of violating her oath of allegiance, making this a fit case for the imposition of compensation to the petitioner," it said.

The High Court also elaborated on the relationship between the IAS and IPS with the citizens of Uttar Pradesh "whom they serve" and said it defined the existence of the rule of law or its absence – as the case may be.

"The officers are endowed with immense powers by law and for very good reasons, as they bear the responsibility of improving the lot of the citizens by maintaining that delicate balance of upholding the Constitutional and legal rights, dignity, honour and welfare of the citizens by just and good governance, while ensuring the stability of the State and the unity and integrity of the nation," it noted.

The court highlighted that "with great powers come great responsibility" and an introspection on the part of the bureaucracy to examine to what extent such power is exerted.

"Else, in the words coined by Rudyard Kipling (spoken

publicly by Stanley Baldwin) that 'power without responsibility – the prerogative of the harlot throughout the ages', will ring true whenever the power is exercised by the bureaucracy in a cavalier manner, devoid of human sensitivity resulting in deleterious consequences for the citizen," the ruling said.

The ruling clarified that any detention under the NSA was an exception and not a "substitute to ensure that a person who may receive bail on account of merits of his case" remains detained in custody under a "concocted reasoning" by the state.

Coming down heavily on the District Magistrate, the bench termed the grounds of detention as "repetitive, speculative and only an opinion based without referring to a 'shred of evidence/material' in support of sustaining those opinions."

"Preventing people from gathering in public spaces or agitating their rights on the grounds of assumed breach of peace, would be throwing the baby out of the bath water. If such a view is taken by the state and approved of by the courts, it would lead to a cessation of the collective expression of opinion in public spaces," the ruling said.