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India reaffirms BRICS commitment to future-ready framework

science, technology and innovation. He said the breadth of discussions, from Artificial Intelligence and High-Performance Computing to quantum technologies, advanced materials, biotechnology, health, climate and sustainability, reflects the shared opportunities and challenges that BRICS countries can address through collective action.

The Chennai Consensus records the growing maturity and depth of BRICS STI cooperation, with sustained collaborative activity across 14 thematic Working Groups, 11 editions of the BRICS Young Scientist Forum, nine editions of the Young Innovators Prize and nine BRICS STI Framework Programme calls, including research, innovation and flagship project calls. The Declaration describes this trajectory as reflecting growing strength, investment and continued engagement in the BRICS STI partnership.

DrSingh said India's Chairship theme of "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability" must translate into concrete partnerships, stronger research networks, greater mobility of scientific talent, shared research infrastructure and more opportunities for young researchers and innovators.

The Chennai Consensus also welcomes India's efforts to review and streamline BRICS STI priorities and records the consultative work towards a more future-ready STI cooperation framework.

A major area of cooperation emerging from the Ministerial Meeting is shared research infrastructure and mega-science projects. The Chennai Consensus welcomes the outcomes of the BRICS Working Group on Research Infrastructures and Mega-science Projects, including the Action Plan and Terms of Reference for the Task Force, while also recording progress towards operationalising the BRICS Global Research Advanced Infrastructure Network (BRICS GRAIN). The framework envisages greater access to research facilities, common approaches to their use, researcher mobility and stronger collaboration around large-scale research infrastructure.

The Action Plan provides a practical framework for greater access to research infrastructure, joint research, advanced technology development, researcher mobility and capacity building, including through the BRICS Global Research Advanced Infrastructure Network (BRICS GRAIN).

The Chennai Consensus also welcomes the BRICS Science and Research Repository as a structured platform for knowledge storage and sharing among BRICS countries. Its draft framework envisages a digital public good that can map scientific institutions, researchers, research outputs, datasets, infrastructure and collaboration opportunities, while promoting knowledge exchange, open science and greater visibility of BRICS research capabilities, subject to national regulations and data governance requirements.

DrSingh said the BRICS STI partnership must move beyond sustained dialogue towards demonstrable outcomes, with stronger mechanisms for joint projects, shared platforms, coordinated calls and open research infrastructure. He said that as BRICS expands and evolves, its STI cooperation must remain inclusive and responsive to the priorities of the Global South, with frontier technologies becoming accessible, affordable and responsible and directed towards improving people's lives.

The Chennai Consensus carries this approach across a wide range of emerging and strategic areas, including High-Performance Computing and Artificial Intelligence, biotechnology and human health, materials science and nanotechnology, photonics, astronomy, geospatial technologies, renewable energy, ocean and polar science, natural-disaster management and social sciences and humanities. The Declaration also welcomes continued cooperation in quantum technologies and encourages practical engagement and joint research projects among scientists, academic institutions and innovation communities.

The Ministerial Meeting also endorsed the BRICS STI Calendar of Activities for 2026-2027, providing continuity to the Working Groups, Steering Committee, Senior Officials' process, Young Scientist Forum, Young Innovator Prize and other thematic activities. The Chennai Consensus records the transition of the BRICS STI Ministerial process to the next Chairship, with the next Ministerial Meeting scheduled under China's Chairship in 2027.

DrSingh expressed appreciation to the BRICS Ministers, delegations, experts and colleagues for their contributions to the Ministerial Meeting and acknowledged the efforts of the Department of Science and Technology and partner institutions in making India's BRICS STI Chairship meaningful and outcome-oriented.

He said the spirit of Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability should continue to guide BRICS as a platform for scientific excellence, technological progress and shared prosperity.

The adoption of the Chennai Consensus marks a significant step in strengthening BRICS STI cooperation around shared research, scientific infrastructure, innovation ecosystems, talent mobility and collaborative responses to global challenges.

Under India's Chairship, the BRICS STI partnership has been positioned for a more connected, practical and future-ready phase of cooperation, with science, technology and innovation serving as instruments of resilience, sustainable development and shared progress across the Global South.

Special NIA court rejects bail plea of accused

The defence relied principally on Jan's prolonged incarceration, alleged delay in trial, and her health condition, while the NIA opposed the bail plea citing the seriousness of the charges, the material collected during investigation, and the restrictions imposed by Section 43-D(5) of the UAPA.

The defence submitted that Jan had been in custody for more than six years and argued that the prolonged trial had made her continued incarceration unjustified.

The bail application said that 49 prosecution witnesses had been examined out of 240 witnesses at the relevant stage, with the defence arguing that, at the existing pace, the trial could continue for many more years.

It also claimed that the witnesses examined had not directly or indirectly connected the applicant with the commission of the offences and that no incriminating material had been recovered from her.

The defence also invoked her health, claiming that she was suffering from chronic dermatological problems, cervical spondylosis and chronic headache and required specialised medical treatment.

Jan also claimed that her implication in the case was "totally false without any reasonable ground".

Opposing the bail plea, the NIA said the application filed by the accused was devoid of merit and misconceived both on fact and law.

"The accused is a highly motivated terror associate involved in a grave and serious offence which she committed and gave effect to in a well-planned manner, reflecting her maturity of mind rather than innocence, indicating that her plea is more like a shield to dodge or dupe the arms of law," the NIA told the court.

The anti-terror probe agency said Jan, along with her father, facilitated safe shelter to the JeM terrorists at their house and provided them with food and other logistics.

She and her family were introduced to the JeM terrorists by her neighbour in May, 2018, it said.

"Pakistani terrorists Farooq and Ali came to their house in June, 2018. Subsequently, the JeM terrorists started coming to her home regularly with arms and ammunition.

"In January 2019, Farooq, Dar (suicide bomber) and Sameer Ahmad Dar came to her house with sophisticated arms and ammunition and stayed for many days," the NIA

said.

The agency also relied upon the communications between Jan and Farooq, including WhatsApp calls, voice notes and photographs recovered from his mobile phone after his killing.

The court also placed significant emphasis on Section 43-D(5) of the UAPA, which mandates that an accused in custody under Chapters IV and VI of the Act cannot be released on bail if the court, after reviewing the case diary or chargesheet, finds reasonable grounds to believe the accusations are prima facie true.

The court also said the medical condition of the accused did not warrant bail.

"The disease of the applicant/accused is not a life-threatening condition warranting urgent relief," the judge said, but directed jail authorities to ensure all types of medical care to her.

Importantly, the court clarified that the observations made while deciding the bail plea would not affect the merits of the main criminal trial.

Sinha briefs Modi on J&K situation

in the Union Territory.

The meeting focused on various matters concerning Jammu and Kashmir, including the prevailing situation and key issues related to the Union Territory.

During the meeting, the LG apprised the prime minister of the latest developments and the overall security, administrative ad developmental scenario in Jammu and Kashmir.

In the meeting, both discussed matters of importance concerning the Union Territory.Further details regarding the meeting were not immediately available.

Teen injured in bear attack

had gone to graze his livestock.

He was rescued and shifted to hospital by other shepherds. His condition was stated to be critical, officials said.

Rajnath flags risks of self-diagnosing via ChatGPT

doctor about the symptoms, the patient comes with his internet research and tells the doctor the name of the disease," Singh said.

Speaking on a lighter note, Singh said patients also sometimes described their problems to doctors in colloquial terms, particularly in rural areas.

He gave the example of a villager telling a doctor that he was experiencing "dhuk dhuk" in his chest.

"In the entire medical education, the doctor has never heard or studied about a symptom called 'dhuk dhuk'," Singh said, explaining that patients could find it difficult to accurately express what they were experiencing.

He said such situations made proper diagnostic testing even more important.

Singh also narrated another lighter moment involving a patient who had gone to a doctor after reading about his symptoms on the internet and said he believed he had "claustrophobia". The doctor then suggested "MRI scan" to begin the treatment and the patient instantly agreed.

The doctor responded that if he really had claustrophobia, he would not have agreed to undergo an MRI scan, Singh said.

Rs 15.20 lakh grant-in-aid for AYUSH boards

drawal of an amount of15.20 lakh in favour of the director, AYUSH, J&K, in terms of SO157 of June 5, 2026, for on-warddisbursement of the Grant-in-Aid to the concerned AYUSH boards under the relevantDetailed Heads for the financial year 2026-27."

"The amount shall be utilised strictly for the purpose for which it is sanctionedand under the relevant Detailed Heads," says the order.

Saxena launches 'Zhabstok Ladakh' portal

with and learn from the government.

Launched as part of the Youth Month, the portal (https://internship.ladakh.gov.in/) will provide students and young people of Ladakh an opportunity to participate directly in the development process by undertaking internships across 25 departments of the UT administration through a single application platform.

The LG Yuva Internship Programme will be formally rolled out on September 17, the birth anniversary of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, observed as Seva Diwas. It seeks to move beyond conventional government-citizen engagement and create an institutional mechanism through which young people can become active partners in governance and community development.

Registration for the three-month internship programme will commence from August 22 and continue till September 5, followed by document verification from September 6 to 14. The internship will commence on September 17, with 2,000 youth to be selected for the programme.

Selected interns will receive a monthly honorarium of Rs 5,000 during the internship period. Based on their performance, the internship of the best-performing candidates may be extended by an additional three months. At the completion of the internship, participants will be provided certificates that can strengthen their academic and professional profiles and support their future employment opportunities.

The programme will enable interns to work with different departments of the UT Administration, understand how Government functions, gain first-hand exposure to public administration and learn how policies and ideas are translated into programmes and projects on the ground. Candidates will be allotted departments based on their skills and interests, enabling them to contribute in areas where their capabilities can be best utilised.

"With a large portion of our population under 30, I am confident that their ideas and energy would strengthen and enrich each of these departments and help realise the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047. With this initiative, Ladakh will lead the way in demonstrating how Government and youth can collaborate for development. The initiative would provide a new avenue for young people to serve Ladakh, gain practical experience and contribute their energy and ideas towards addressing local challenges," Saxena said while launching the portal.

He emphasised that Ladakh is a young region and its youth constitute its greatest strength. With a large proportion of the population below 30 years of age, he said, the future ofLadakh rests significantly in the hands ofits young people.

DGP reviews operational preparedness of TOBs

areas of Ganderbal district.

During the inspection, he took detailed stock of the operational preparedness, security arrangements and prevailing security situation at TOBs.

The DGP reviewed the deployment and functioning of the forces stationed at TOBs and assessed their preparedness to effectively respond to emerging security challenges in the area.

He was accompanied by the IGP, Kashmir Zone, DIG, Central Kashmir Range, SSP Ganderbal and other senior officers.

Chhari Mubarak leaves for Amarnathji cave

The Chhari Mubarakhill halt at traditional stopovers dur-

ing the pilgrimage, with further religious rituals and ceremonies scheduled along the route.

Chhari Mubarak custodian Mahant Deependra Girisaid the holy mace would reach Pahalgam after symbolic prayers at traditional stopovers.

"We are setting out on the main pilgrimage from the Dashnami Akhara. Today, we will rest in Pahalgam after performing symbolic prayers at the traditional stopovers along the way," he said.

He said the Chhari Mubarak would halt at Chandanwari on August 24 and Sheshnag on August 25, followed by a two-night halt at Panchtarni on August 26 and 27.

"Then, on the morning of the August 28, on Raksha Bandhan, we will take the sacred Chhari Mubarak to the holy cave," he said.

Giri said the Chhari Mubarak would be installed at the holy cave amid traditional prayers and Vedic chanting, following which it would return to Panchtarni for the night.

He added that the procession would depart Panchtarni on August 29 and proceed via Sheshnag and Chandanwari to Pahalgam. On August 30, prayers and Visarjan will be performed.

New panel will draft political solution afresh: Shah

The 104-day agitation in 2017 caused 11 deaths, major disruption and heavy economic losses, renewing calls for a settlement.

Darjeeling BJP MP Raju Bista said Shah assured that Centre would pursue a constitutional solution and sympathetically consider other community demands. "Union home minister promised a permanent political solution soon under the umbrella of the Constitution. He said adequate funding from Centre will ensure all pending issues are taken care of," Bista said.

Calling the day historic for coinciding with the anniversary of the 1988 Darjeeling Hill Accord, Bista said netas presented grievances of Darjeeling, Terai and Dooars regions to Shah. "Whatever the solution is, it will be under the Constitution. What we will get will be more than what we had hoped for," he added.

Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) general secretary Roshan Giri said the meeting "added momentum". "We want a constitutional and permanent political solution covering the Hills, Terai and Dooars," he said.

Communist Party of Revolutionary Marxists president JB Rai said the CM was firm against partitioning Bengal. "The CM said apart from division of Bengal, govt was ready to consider any demand and work towards resolving the long-standing problems of Gorkha community," he added.

The other attendees at Saturday's meeting included hill affairs MoS Bishal Lama, former foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, the Union home secretary, GJM president Binlan Gurung, GNLF president Mann Ghisingh and other netas. The director of Intelligence Bureau, chief secretary and DGP were also present.

The meeting follows months of consultations by Singh, appointed in Oct 2025 as interlocutor for the region. Singh previously served as BSF director general. His appointment was opposed by Trinamool govt, which said it was not consulted. The former TMC govt had skipped all tripartite meetings since.

The meeting took place 38 years after Left Front govt signed the hill accord on Aug 22, 1988, which created the Subash Ghisingh-led Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC) to end violence over the demand for Gorkhaland. In July 2011, TMC govt replaced DGHC with Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA), handing its leadership to Gurung.

'Nyaya-Nomics' needed to promote economic growth through adjudication: CJI

CJI Kant said.

"Nyaya-nomics, or more simply, the economics of justice. It is a fact that consistent adjudication and trust in the process reduce the cost of each transaction built upon it, thereby levelling the playing field for market forces, and in turn, making way for growth," he said.

No BRICS+ economy, including India, has achieved growth solely through its resources. Development in these countries has been proportional to the enforceability of their commitments, he added.

Further, the CJI said, "If there is one phrase you absorb into your vocabulary this morning, let it be 'Nyaya Setu', a bridge of justice that connects 11 legal traditions which have mutually agreed that trust should be cultivated deliberately rather than awaited passively."

"Institutions are not scaffolding we erect around growth once it has already begun, but they are its architecture. Take the architecture away, and in truth, what looks like a rising economy is a stack of good fortune waiting for its first storm," he said.

NIA searches 10 locations in Kashmir

and other forms of support to infiltrated terrorists.

According to officials, the teams of NIA raided 10 locations in Srinagar, Kupwara, Anantnag, Pulwama and Budgam.

The searches were aimed at securing further documentary, digital and material evidence relating to the conspiracy and at ascertaining the roles of persons allegedly associated with the local support network, officials said.

The case was first registered at Zakoora Police Station, Srinagar, and was subsequently re-registered by NIA under Section 23 of the UA (P) Act, 1967, Sections 7 and 25 of the Arms Act, 1959, and Section 4 of the Explosive Substances Act, 1908.

The investigation followed the arrest of an OGW associated with LeTon March 31, 2026, at a naka point, "from whose possession a hand grenade and live ammunition were recovered".

During investigation, Pakistani terrorists connected with the conspiracy were arrested and the identities and roles of members of the local support network were also ascertained.

The investigation conducted so far has indicated linkages between Pakistan-based handlers and local associates, who were "being used for communication, logistical arrangements, movement and concealment of terrorists, provision of shelter, reconnaissance" and other forms of facilitation.

The agency also stated that the investigation was examining the financial trail, communication channels, movement of the accused, and the source of arms and explosives, with a view to establishing the complete network and the extent of its activities.

Education must create responsible leaders, not just professionals: Kavinder

anniversary celebrations of IIM Jammu.

Gupta congratulated the institute's faculty, students, alumni, staff and governing body, describing its decade-long journey as "truly inspiring".

He highlighted the institution's remarkable growth from its first batch of 56 students in 2016 to more than 1,400 students today, reflecting its expanding academic stature and the growing opportunities for young people in management education.

He said the completion of ten years should not merely be seen as a milestone, but as an opportunity to assess the institution's achievements and prepare for a more ambitious second decade.

Emphasising the changing nature of leadership and management, Gupta said contemporary challenges could no longer be addressed within the boundaries of a single disci-

pline.

"Technology, economics, ethics, healthcare, entrepreneurship and human behaviour are increasingly interconnected, making interdisciplinary education and a holistic approach essential for preparing future leaders," he said.

Referring to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the governor said India's higher education ecosystem was being transformed towards greater interdisciplinarity, research, innovation and creativity.

He stressed that education must go beyond producing employable graduates and should nurture individuals equipped with knowledge, skills, ethical values, sensitivity and a strong sense of responsibility towards society and the nation.

He highlighted the important role of institutions such as IIM Jammu in contributing to the vision of a developed India by 2047. He said that the youth currently studying in universities and management institutions would, by 2047, be leading India's industries, start-ups, research institutions, technology enterprises, public administration and social organisations.

He called upon IIM Jammu to strengthen its contribution to the economic development of Jammu and Kashmir through research and innovation in sectors including tourism, agriculture, horticulture, handicrafts, start-ups, local products, rural entrepreneurship and sustainable development.

He also urged the institute to undertake more research on the unique challenges of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and the wider Himalayan region and develop policy and management solutions that could be replicated across other mountain regions of the country.

"Local strengths must be connected with national and international opportunities. IIM Jammu can play an important role in taking local products, talent and enterprises from local to global," he said.

The governor also emphasised that institutional success should not be measured solely through rankings and accreditations. While these are important indicators of quality, the true identity of an institution, he said, is ultimately reflected in the character, competence and social commitment of the leaders it produces.

Calling upon IIM Jammu's alumni to remain actively connected with their alma mater, Shri Kavinder Gupta urged them to contribute through mentorship, internships, placements, research, innovation and other institutional initiatives.

He expressed confidence that the second decade of IIM Jammu would be more impactful and distinguished than its first and that the institute would play a significant role in strengthening India's global standing and contributing to the realisation of the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

The governor extended his warm congratulations to the entire IIM Jammu community on completing a decade and wished the institution continued success in its journey towards global excellence and greater national and regional contribution.

Among those present on the occasion included Milind Kamble, Chairman of Board of Governors, IIM Jammu; Raj Kumar Chaudhary, Chairperson of Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission; members of the Board of Governors; faculty members, officials, staff, alumni and students.

NHRC directive to probe allegation against CM's wife

weeks.

No immediate reaction was available from the Punjab government.

"The complainant alleged that a retired judge publicly stated that a demand of Rs 5 crwas made in connection with a rape case, allegedly involving the wife of the chief minister of Punjab," the proceedings dated August 21 read.

An NHRC official said the commission had taken cognisance of the allegation of the complainant that the wife of Chief Minister Mann sought Rs 5 crto suppress a rape case. According to the complaint, the allegation has been levelled by a former Punjab judge, the official said.

The complaint, filed by Legal Rights Observatory (LRO), raised concerns that such "interference" could compromise the victim's right to dignity, safety, fair investigation and access to justice, they said.

J&K Tourism Deptt bags best 'Pilgrimage, Religious Tourism Destination'award

22. Director Tourism Jammu, Vikas Gupta, received the award along with the delegation of officers from J&K Tourism Department.

The three-day tourism fair provided an important platform for J&K Tourism to showcase its rich and diverse tourism potential, interact with the travel trade and industry stakeholders, and promote the Union Territory as a year-round destination.

Earlier, additional chief secretary, tourism department, J&K, Ashish Chander Verma, visited the J&K Tourism Pavilion and interacted with tourism stakeholders.

He also visited the stalls of other participating states and Union Territories and took an overview of the tourism products and destinations being showcased at the fair.

The J&K Pavilion highlighted iconic destinations including Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg, Katra, Patnitop and Bhaderwah, besides emerging and offbeat destinations such as Gurez, Pancheri, Bani, Bangus Valley and Aithem.

The pavilion showcased the Union Territory's diverse tourism offerings spanning pilgrimage, adventure, nature, heritage, wellness, handicrafts, handlooms and unique local experiences.

Tourism stakeholders from both the Jammu and Kashmir divisions appreciated the J&K government, particularly the tourism department, for providing them a valuable platform at TTF Mumbai to showcase their products, connect with the travel trade and promote J&K's tourism potential before a wider national audience.

They also thanked the department for facilitating their participation and creating opportunities for greater engagement with the tourism industry.

Govt announces 6.83 pc power price hike from Sep 1

Rs 5 per kW per month, while agricultural connections up to 20 HP will be charged Rs 1.05 per unit and Rs 23 per HP per month as a fixed charge.

Commercial consumers will also see revised rates, with single-phase non-domestic users paying Rs 3.75 per unit up to 200 units and Rs 5.70 per unit thereafter, along with a fixed charge ofRs 75 per kW per month.

JERC has approved a combined Annual Revenue Requirement of Rs 10,275.72 crore for JPDCL and KPDCCL for 2026-27. Revenue under the revised tariff is projected at Rs 7,854.94 cr, leaving a gap of Rs 2,420.78 crto be met through government subsidy and grants.

The Commission said recovering the entire revenue gap through tariffs alone would have required an increase of around 40 per cent, indicating that government support helped limit the hike.

The revised tariff order also covers industrial consumers, EV charging stations, government departments, railway traction, bulk supply and temporary connections. The Green Power Tariff has been retained at ?0.50 per kWh over and above the applicable tariff.

JERC has also approved the Business Plan and Multi-Year Tariff framework for JPDCL and KPDCCL for the period 2026-27 to 2028-29.