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PM Modi nudges Prez Putin to end Ukraine conflict

agree to step up cooperation in defence, critical minerals, civil nuclear energy, fertiliser supplies and people-to-people exchanges.

The two leaders "shared perspectives on key regional and global issues of mutual interest, including the conflicts in West Asia and the Black Sea region which have impacted maritime trade and the safety and security of Indian seafarers", the MEA said in the readout.

"The prime minister once again reiterated that dialogue and diplomacy was the way forward in resolving conflicts and India stood ready to assist in peace efforts," it said.

Five Indian seafarers died in the Black Sea due to ongoing Russia-Ukraine hostilities, prompting India to strongly raise the incidents with both Moscow and Kyiv.

Speaking at a business forum after the talks with Putin, Modi said progress in global trade is possible only when sea lanes are secure, supply routes remain open, and seafarers are safe. "That is why India is a staunch supporter of freedom of navigation and the safety of seafarers." Modi and Putin previously met on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Bishkek last week where the prime minister called for an immediate end to the Ukraine conflict and urged the Russian leader to shift from an "endless war towards the end of war".

"The two leaders reviewed progress in bilateral cooperation in political, economic, defence, energy, space, skill mobility and people-to-people domains," the MEA said.

It said they welcomed Russia's International Industrial Exhibition "INNOPROM India", held for the first time in India (New Delhi) from September 9 to and underscored its importance in further expanding trade and industrial ties.

The two leaders also visited the INNOPROM India exhibition at the Bharat Mandapam and interacted with the participants.

The MEA said Modi and Putin exchanged views on India-Russia engagement in the multilateral sphere, in particular in BRICS under India's chairship for 2026.

"President Putin invited Prime Minister to visit Russia for the 24th India-Russia Annual Summit. The prime minister accepted the invitation. The dates of the summit will be decided as per mutual convenience through diplomatic channels," it said.

Ways to boost trade and investment ties dominated the talks, with the Indian side pitching for greater market access for Indian exporters in Russia to address the ballooning trade deficit in Moscow's favour, it learnt.

The two sides also delved into expanding their already strong defence cooperation.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday that both sides are exploring BrahMos missile upgrades, adding that Moscow remains committed to fulfilling its remaining S-400 system deliveries and discussing the proposed supply of Su-57 fighter jets.

In the energy sector, the two sides reviewed the overall scenario and agreed to further ramp up cooperation in civil nuclear energy.

Expanding industrial cooperation, collaboration in the rail and tunnelling sectors, developing the steel value chain, and broadening access to the Russian market for Indian exporters also learnt to have figured in the talks.

BJP hits back at Congress over BRICS criticism

cussion on foreign policy, Congress leaders unnecessarily attempt to create an adverse atmosphere within the country. Prasad asserted that the presence of heads of state and government from Russia, South Africa, Egypt, China and Iran at the summit reflected India's growing influence.

Separately, in a video message, BJP MP and national spokesperson Sambit Patra said that while the "I" in BRIC was "turning shaky" in 2011-12, India was now one of the strongest partners of BRICS. "Today, India has found its position in the global arena as never before," he said.

"Remember, the 'I' in BRICS stands for India, and the 'I' in India stands for the 140 crore people of India. I am India. I am one of the strongest partners of BRICS, and I am proud of it. Today, I am proud to be a citizen of India and a very strong member of BRICS," he added.

Patra cited two articles published in leading newspapers in 2011 and 2012 to back his claim. "Today, the Congress party and some opposition parties are trying to spread negativity and create a negative atmosphere around the BRICS Summit. I think they need to be shown a mirror," he said.

Citing a 2012 article based on comments by global financial services firm Goldman Sachs, Patra said its headline was "India least attractive BRICS member in valuation terms."

"Goldman Sachs clearly says that in 2012, if there was one BRIC member that was the least attractive in terms of valuation, it was India," Patra said.

He said that when Jim O'Neill, then chairman of Goldman Sachs, was asked whether Brazil was the strongest BRIC country and India the weakest, he said India was the least attractive in terms of valuation. He further said the final line of the article stated that it would not be a surprise if Indonesia replaced India, as Indonesia had moved far ahead.

"What is the essence of this article? It essentially says that in 2012, there were no meaningful reforms in India, the country was falling behind, inflation was high, and the condition of the Indian market was such that, among the BRIC nations, India was at the bottom," he said.

Patra said the second article, published on September 21, 2011, highlighted high inflation and a weak currency in India. "The second article is dated September 21, 2011, and its headline is, 'With high inflation and weak currency, India not like other BRIC countries'," he said.

"Inflation in India is the worst among the so-called BRIC nations. Current account deficit is a concern, fiscal deficit is a worry, fresh investments are stalled despite creaky infrastructure. Probably for the first time in a decade since Jim O'Neill of Goldman Sachs coined the acronym, BRIC is weakening and the I in it turning shaky," Patra said, quoting further from the second article.

"And yet, we have some politicians and some opposition leaders who are not able to digest this. Today, some members of the opposition and the Congress party are unable to digest India's progress because India is moving forward," Patra added.

DGP reviews border protection grid

and coordination among the forces deployed along the border to prevent infiltration of terrorists from across the border, officials said.

The Border Protection Grid comprises Army, BSF, CRPF and police, while the anti-infiltration obstacle system along the International Border and Line of Control forms a key component of security arrangements.

"DGP reviewed the Border Protection Grid, with the concerned formations of BSF, CRPF and JKP," the police media centre said in a post on X.

The meeting was attended by IGP (Jammu zone), senior officers of BSF &CRPF, DIGs of police ranges and SSPs of border districts, officials said.

Patwari caught red-handed accepting bribe

According to officials, a written complaint was received, alleging that the patwari had demanded illegal gratification from the complainant for issuing the fard.

The complainant had applied online for the revenue document on July 21, 2026, on behalf of his elderly grandfather.

The complainant subsequently approached the patwari to enquire about the status of the application.

The official allegedly cited technical issues with the revenue department's online portal and later continued to delay the matter on various pretexts.

The patwari allegedly demanded Rs 12,000, which was subsequently negotiated and settled at Rs 10,000, officials said.

After the complainant approached the ACB, the allegations were verified and found prima facie substantiated.

The bureau then registered an FIR under section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, at ACB Police Station, Srinagar, and launched an investigation.

A trap team was constituted, following which the accused public servant was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe of Rs 10,000 from the complainant, officials said.

The bribe money was recovered from his possession in the presence of independent witnesses, and the accused was taken into custody in accordance with law.

Further investigation in the case was underway, the officials added.

Pak intruder held near IB

He fell in the trap of forces during heightened vigil along the IB, officials said.

His sustained questioning was in progress to find out the motive of his intruding into the Indian territory, the officials added.

Murugan asks filmmakers to return to J&K

top cinematic destination.

Addressing the concluding ceremony of the first International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir here on Thursday, he extended a direct invitation to the filmmakers to return to the valley, saying J&K was fully equipped and eager to host major film productions.

"Jammu and Kashmir welcomes you with open arms, ready infrastructure, and unmatched natural wonder," the minister said.

He said the festival marks a shift from outsiders simply filming in J&K's scenic locations to young local creators taking charge behind the camera.

"This festival belongs to the vibrant youth of Jammu and Kashmir. For years, the world came here to capture our valleys through their lenses; today, our youth are stepping forward to go behind the camera themselves. From scriptwriting workshops to digital storytelling, our boys and girls are proving that imagination knows no boundaries," he said.

Murugan said J&K had the potential to once again emerge as a preferred destination for filmmakers from India and across the world.

Saxena felicitates winners of Silk Route Ultra

the Khardung La Challenge taking runners towards the world's second-highest motorable pass - Khardung La - situated at an altitude of 17,618 ft.

Nawang Tsering of Ladakh Police, with a timing of 12 hours, 12 minutes &18 seconds, won the 122-km Silk Route Ultra, claiming the first prize of Rs 5lakh. Suraj Meena from Rajasthan secured the second position and received Rs 3.5 lakh, while Rigzen Gyurmeth of 2 Ladakh Scouts finished third and bagged Rs 2.25 lakh.

In the 72-km Khardung La Challenge, Jigmet Stobdan of Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre (LSRC) emerged victorious, winning the first prize of ₹2.75 lakh. Shabir Hussain, also from LSRC, secured the second position and received ₹2 lakh, while Singay Angchok of 2 Ladakh Scouts finished third and was awarded ₹1.75 lakh.

The 13th Ladakh Marathon, being held from September 10 to 13, has attracted 7,500 runners from 28 States and 6 Union Territories, with international participants expected from all six inhabited continents. More than 3,000 family members also visited Leh during the event. Since its inception in 2012, the Ladakh Marathon has grown into a prestigious international sporting event and is recognised as the world's highest AIMS-certified marathon.

This year's edition carries a record ₹1 crore prize pool, the highest-ever prize commitment in the history of the Ladakh Marathon, announced by the UT Administration.

The marathon also contributed significantly to the local tourism economy, generating more than 70,000 bed nights. The 2026 edition contributed approximately ₹240-47 crore directly to the grassroots economy. The economic activity benefits local hotels, homestays, family-run guesthouses, taxi operators, restaurants, guides, traditional artisans and small businesses.

Congratulating the winners and participants, the LG appreciated their determination and perseverance in taking on the demanding high-altitude races. He said the growing popularity of the two ultra races demonstrates Ladakh's potential to emerge as a leading destination for high-altitude sports and adventure tourism.

He also appreciated the organisers for following a strict zero-single-use-plastic policy and involving local schools and communities in environmental initiatives, stressing that the growth of sports and adventure tourism must go hand in hand with environmental responsibility.

World going through complex period, BRICS must respond: Pezeshkian

strength of BRICS is not confined merely to the size of its members' economics rather it becomes more apparent when these capacities are transformed into a network of trade, investment and joint financing - a transition from potential cooperation to operational one," he added.

The BRICS Business Forum meeting was held a day before the formal opening of the BRICS Summit in New Delhi.

Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mauro Vieira said the BRICS meeting is taking place amid profound transformations in the global landscape underpinned by decades of consistent growth within the Global South.

"From the 1960s to our days, low and middle-income countries' share of the world's GDP rose from 20% to more than 50%. BRICS members today account for 40% of the world's economic output. With its recent expansion, BRICS has consolidated itself as a platform for connecting some of the world's most dynamic and prosperous economies," he said.

"At a time when the global economy is threatened by protectionism, economic coercion and unilateral sanctions, bringing our productive sectors closer together is more relevant than ever," he added.

In his remarks at Leaders' Session of BRICS Business Forum, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said the merchandise exports from BRICS countries to the world increased from about 900 billion dollars in 2003 to nearly 6 trillion dollars in 2024.

"The growing relevance of BRICS is reflected in our trade

performance. Merchandise exports from BRICS countries to the world increased from about 900 billion dollars in 2003 to nearly 6 trillion dollars in 2024, raising our share of global exports from about 12% to now nearly 24 pc," he said.

"This remarkable expansion demonstrates the scale of the BRICS market and our potential to deepen trade further in the years ahead. Our task is now to translate this momentum of growth into stronger inter-BRICS trade, more resilient supply chains and greater opportunities for our businesses," he added.

"It must benefit our farmers, empower our women in business and beyond and provide greater opportunities for wealth and prosperity to our young entrepreneurs and MSMEs," he said.

2 killed, 3 injured in car accident

cumbed to their injuries, officials said.

The dead were identified as Balwant Singh Kotwal (61) of Dandi, Bhadarwah, and Monika Kotwal (29).

The injured included Parshanta Kotwal (59), Suveer Kotwal (33), and Vikram Singh (33), all residents of Purkhoo, Domana, here.

Police had taken cognizance of the incident.

India, China should handle differences properly: Beijing

high-quality development of greater BRICS cooperation," she said.

She said that China was ready to work with fellow BRICS countries for steady and sustained progress in greater BRICS cooperation to contribute to building a community with a shared future for humanity.

About the significance of the New Delhi summit, which is taking place amid the Iran-US conflict and the Ukraine-Russia war, Mao said China advocates a common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable approach to security.

"We are committed to promoting the political settlement of hotspot issues through dialogue. We look forward to working with fellow BRICS countries to promote dialogue and negotiation to resolve differences and jointly safeguard regional and global peace and stability," she said.

Xi's visit is expected to be a high-profile diplomatic engagement with implications for the ongoing efforts to stabilise bilateral ties between the two Asian powers as well as for BRICS cooperation amid a volatile global situation.

As the current chair of the influential grouping, India will host the 18th BRICS Summit on September 12 and 13 in New Delhi.

Xi last visited India in 2019 for an informal summit with Modi in Mamallapuram near Chennai.

He had earlier visited Goa in 2016 to attend the BRICS summit and made his first visit to India in September 2014, when he held extensive talks with Modi. The 2014 visit came during the first terms of both leaders.

Xi's forthcoming visit is significant, as it comes amid efforts by India and China to normalise relations after a prolonged freeze following the 2020 Eastern Ladakh standoff.

Ahead of Xi's visit, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held extensive talks in Beijing last month on the boundary issue, maintaining peace and tranquility along the border and steps to improve bilateral relations.

During the 25th round of Special Representatives' talks held in Beijing on August 25, the two sides reached an eight-point consensus and agreed to advance discussions on an Early and Substantial Harvest of boundary delimitation and border management.

Nitin Gadkari sets deadline for barrier-free system

enues.

The proposed tolling system will use information from both FASTag and vehicle number plates to identify and track vehicles on tolled stretches. The minister said that this will strengthen toll collection as the government moves towards a system where vehicles can continue moving through tolling points instead of stopping to pay.

FASTag was started as a pilot project in 2014 and officially launched in 2016, before being made mandatory in 2021.

"FASTag is one of the success stories...in 2014, we started this as a pilot project. Our objective for tolling was to make it seamless, transparent and efficient. In 2016, we officially launched it. In 2021, we made FASTag mandatory. And today, the results are before us. FASTag penetration at National Highway toll plazas is now more than 98 per cent. So far, more than 13 crore FASTags have been issued in the country," the union minister said.

FASTag uses radio-frequency identification technology to automatically deduct toll charges from a linked account as vehicles pass through toll plazas. Its adoption has reduced the reliance on cash and change and helped streamline toll collection.

Today, more than 98 pc of National Highway user-fee collection happens digitally through FASTag, with around 13 crore FASTags issued in the country.

Alongside barrier-free tolling, the government is also introducing One Tag to make FASTag more convenient for users. Under the system, motorists will be able to change their bank without having to obtain a new FASTag.

Earlier, changing banks meant purchasing a new FASTag and removing the existing one from the vehicle. One Tag is intended to work in a manner similar to mobile number portability, allowing users to switch banks while retaining the same tag.

"The introduction of One Tag will make FASTag more convenient by allowing users to switch banks while continuing with the same FASTag. Earlier, users had to purchase a new FASTag and remove the old one from their vehicle. Now, this will work much like mobile number portability, switch your bank, keep your tag, and keep moving," the minister said.

India experiencing demographic dividend in real time: FM

Addressing the valedictory session of Global Fintech Fest here, Sitharaman said some commentators continue to view India's demographic expansion through a lens of 'perpetual pessimism' and rely on 'vibecasting' rather than actual numbers.

"There is a persistent habit among some commentators to view India's demographic expansion through a lens of perpetual pessimism," she said.

Describing such critics as 'Naraz Foofa Jis', Sitharaman said they spend their time debating in television studios whether India's demographic dividend has slipped away or become a burden. She said such critics were measuring 21st-century economic ambition through 20th-century lenses and questioning whether India's growth could keep pace with its young population.

"But while they remain stuck waiting for yesterday's answers, the young minds of this country have simply bypassed their cynicism and gone ahead and built it," she said.

Sitharaman said the younger generation was not waiting for legacy yardsticks to validate its productivity and was already building enterprises, writing code and shaping India's future.

"This generation is not waiting for legacy yardsticks to validate their productivity. They are already writing tomorrow's code, building enduring enterprises, and proving that

India's greatest demographic advantage is an active, unstoppable reality," she said.

"It is our responsibility to build the right guardrails so that greater speed also builds greater trust. Efficiency and safety should not be competing objectives; good institutional design must make them mutually reinforcing," she said.

There is a need to ensure that innovation expands efficiency without bringing new forms of systemic fragility, she said.

J&K Bank secures 'Best Bank Award' for digital transformation

proving accessibility and delivering seamless, reliable services across geographies and customer segments. This award recognises our sustained efforts to build a secure, agile and customer-centric digital banking ecosystem."

"While we continue to modernise our technology architecture and leverage data-driven capabilities, customer trust and information security remain central to the progress of our digital journey," he added.

The Navabharat BFSI Summit & Awards -2026 had brought together thought leaders and experts from banking, financial services, insurance and financial technology to deliberate on the evolving dynamics of India's BFSI ecosystem.

The summit featured knowledge sessions on digital transformation, AI-driven compliance, digital onboarding, fintech innovation and systemic risk mitigation.

Amid global shocks, BRICS must strengthen trade ties: Jaishankar

complementarities between BRICS economies into viable commercial partnerships, he added.

For BRICS, greater economic activity and economic security would mean greater self-reliance, Jaishankar said. While cautioned that this should not translate into inward-looking policies.

He called for genuine market practices, dependable logistics, predictable business environment, diversified commercial relationships, and transparent trade and investment.

In addition, the minister also highlighted the growing intersection of technology, economics and geopolitics, saying digital public infrastructure, artificial intelligence, fintech and advanced manufacturing offered significant opportunities while raising issues related to access, standards, security and trust.

EAM Jaishankar said India's BRICS chairship had sought to strengthen the grouping's innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem through initiatives including the BRICS incubator network and the BRICS Startup Innovation Fund.

India can make a significant contribution to the next phase of BRICS economic cooperation through its large and growing market, expanding manufacturing capabilities, deep talent pool, digital experience and entrepreneurial ecosystem, according to him.

Northern Command ensuring security in J&K: GOC-in-C

valley youth.

He reaffirmed the Army's dual role of security and community empowerment.

"As we march towards 'Viksit Bharat', Northern Command will continue to remain committed to nation-building while ensuring peace and tranquillity in the region. That is our commitment to the people of J&K. Your peace is our purpose, your aspirations are our mission, and your success is our pride," the Lt Gen said while addressing an event at the Army Goodwill School (AGS) at Pahalgamin Kashmir.

He asserted that the security apparatus and the local population share an inseparable bond which is vital for realising the country's broader development goals.

"For over three decades, the formations of Northern Command have not only ensured a stable security environment in J&K, but also concurrently remained connected with the people and awaam to build trust and work tirelessly towards providing opportunity for growth, shaping the future of our youth, and showing them the right path to achieve glory for our nation," he added.

Lt Gen Sharma said that with a focus on the future generation, the Army's singular priority is to provide the children access to high-quality, technologically-oriented, and New Education Policy-aligned education.

"I am extremely proud of the achievements of our students due to the guidance of their parents and quality education by our efficient teachers. Our children in Army Goodwill Schools have interned with ISRO at Dehradun; more than 1,000 projects were submitted at Innofest 2025; AGS Hanzik secured third position; and AGS Wuzur, sixth position nationally at the Young Scientists India 2025," he said.

The Army Commander said AGS students are participating in ISRO YUVIKA, Young Creators League, Spell, Math and Science Wizards, and sporting competitions as well.

"AGS Bandipora and AGS Wuzur have won the Arise School Excellence Award. And most recently, AGS Wuzur has earned a place among the global top 10 schools in the innovation category," he added.

Pejawar Mutt playing key role in preserving India's spiritual heritage: Kavinder

that the Mutt was also running a Gurukul at Vasant Kunj, where students are imparted traditional Indian and value-based scriptural education in a holistic environment.

The governor appreciated the significant role being played by Mutts and spiritual institutions across the country in promoting social harmony, universal brotherhood and the timeless teachings of India's great philosopher-saints.

He lauded their contributions to social service, education, spirituality and community welfare, and said that these institutions have remained important centres for preserving India's rich spiritual and cultural traditions while strengthening the spirit of service and social responsibility.

He appreciated the Math's efforts towards preserving traditional knowledge systems and imparting value-based education. He said that the Gurukul tradition represents an important dimension of India's indigenous educational heritage, where learning is integrated with discipline, character building, spirituality, service and respect for society.

Gupta said the teachings of India's great saints and philosophers have always emphasised the ideals of harmony, compassion, service and universal brotherhood.

He said that Mutts and other spiritual institutions have played a vital role in carrying these values from one generation to another and continue to have immense relevance in contemporary society.

He emphasised the need to make the younger generation aware of India's rich cultural heritage and traditional wisdom, particularly at a time when rapid technological and social changes are reshaping society.

He sought the blessings of Tirtha Swamiji for the people of Himachal Pradesh and expressed his appreciation for the Matt's continued efforts towards the welfare of society and preservation of India's timeless spiritual and cultural traditions.

Kapil Khanna, president of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Delhi,&International President of World Brotherhood Organisation, and Ashutosh Joshi, National Convener of the Indian Youth Parliament, were also present on the occasion.