

FROM PAGE ONE

Modi warns against 'weaponising' technology, critical minerals

turn the shared vision into "win-win collaboration". On conflicts, he said: "Today, the global tensions are increasing, which is negatively affecting the common man. Pandemics, climate change disasters and supply chain disruptions have shown that in the current interconnected world, no crisis remains confined to a single region. Therefore, we have placed special focus on enhancing resilience within the BRICS group."

He said that the BRICS Logistics Supply Chain Cooperation Framework will help make the supply chains "more reliable and resilient".

Under the umbrella of innovation, PM Modi said that the BRICS Incubator Network will connect startups and incubators of the member states. He said that India has proposed the BRICS Startup Innovation Fund to promote innovative and scalable solutions.

He further mentioned that the BRICS Network on Digital Agriculture will create new opportunities for farmers and, through this initiative, AI, geospatial technology, and digital public infrastructure will be aligned with the actual needs of farmers.

"The weaponisation of technology and critical minerals can create hurdles for common growth. Therefore, we have emphasised inclusivity in the adoption of technology," he added.

The Prime Minister also said that it is essential to identify challenges promptly, remain prepared for them, and take immediate action. He also announced an early warning system for infectious diseases, as well as new disaster management guidelines.

With this approach, PM Modi said: "A consensus has been reached on a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System for the prevention of and response to infectious diseases. Additionally, Early Warning Data Integration Guidelines have been formulated for disaster management."

He said that India has advanced the spirit of friendship, partnership, and cooperation through the BRICS.

"We have made efforts to ensure that BRICS cooperation is not limited to governments alone. We want our entrepreneurs, farmers, researchers, women, youth, and ordinary citizens to become active participants as well," the Prime Minister said.

In his opening statement at the BRICS summit yesterday, he had emphasised the need for immediate reform of the UN Security Council, and called for a major overhaul of global governance, urging BRICS countries to help transform the Global South from a rule-taker into a "rule-shaper."

He had said that the grouping was not directed against any country or bloc, but should instead use its growing influence to build a more representative and inclusive international order.

The Global South must become a "rule shaper" to deal with various challenges, he had said while kick-starting the two-day annual BRICS summit.

Jinping calls for stronger BRICS unity with Global South

United Nations, support multilateral institutions in advancing reform and increasing efficiency, and ensure the equal participation of all countries in international affairs," he said.

The Chinese president also called for reform of the international financial architecture to increase the representation of developing countries.

Xi's five-point initiative to enhance BRICS cooperation focuses on establishing an inclusive artificial intelligence framework, facilitating trade and investment, deepening digital industry ties, advancing "intelligent manufacturing," and launching a joint science and technology development initiative.

"China will be a pioneer in establishing a BRICS-AI open source community to support the cooperation in developing and applying large language models, hold specialised AI seminars and training courses, and build an open AI ecosystem," he said about the first initiative.

On the trade and investment facilitation initiative, Xi said China proposes to establish 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.

"China proposes to set up a BRICS engineer cultivation alliance for joint development of engineers and mutual recognition of competency standards. China will launch a BRICS youth exchange programme for scientific and technological innovation, so as to cultivate more high-calibre talent," he said.

Saxena launches project to revive Tso Kar Lake

water per day, from the Rupsho Kharnak stream to the Tso Kar Lake, which has drastically reduced by almost 70 pc in the last one decade.

Incidentally, this entire volume of untapped water, at present, goes to waste into the Sindhu River. Tso Kar, one of the most iconic glacial lakes in Ladakh, which was originally spread over nearly 11,000 acres, has now reduced to just 3,200 acres. Consequently, the lake, once a thriving habitat of migratory birds and the famed Black-Necked Crane, is also rapidly vanishing, with only a small number of birds arriving at the site now.

By fully utilising this volume of water, it is expected that the Tso Kar Lake will be revived to its original glory in a period of one year.

This is the first and only attempt of this nature and magnitude in India to revive a dying lake at this high-altitude and in such harsh conditions, where, most of the time, the temperature remains below 10 degrees in summers and in winter, goes down to minus 20 to 30 degrees.

The pioneering water management initiative was conceived by Saxena during his first visit to Tso Kar Lake on August 10, where locals informed him that the majestic lake is rapidly shrinking and the avian population too had declined drastically.

The ambitious project focuses on recharging Tso Kar Lake by channelising untapped glacier meltwater from the Rupsho Kharnak stream, situated nearly 11 km from the lake, at a high altitude of 18,000 feet. The peak discharge from the Rupsho Kharnak stream during the summers is estimated at around 132 cusecs or 320 million litres per day.

These new water bodies, visible from the adjoining Leh-Manali Highway, will serve as new tourist spots and, additionally, much-needed habitats for migratory birds, effectively strengthening the region's ecological character while simultaneously recharging the main lake.

"The success of the Stok Glacier project has proven that large-scale, sustainable water management is entirely feasible in our cold desert, using simple engineering. By redirecting the Rupsho Kharnak stream, we aim to bring life back into Tso Kar Lake. The project stands as a vital blueprint for high-altitude ecological restoration. By transforming untapped glacier water into permanent lifelines, Ladakh is taking decisive steps toward agricultural prosperity, revitalised rural economies, and long-term climate resilience. This will ensure that the iconic landscapes like Tso Kar and the life they sustain are preserved for generations to come," the LG said.

Notably, Saxena, during his visit to Tso Kar on 10 August 2026, was informed by the local villagers and Nambardar (village head) that the Lake was once a massive, thriving body of glacial water that sustained centuries of local salt trading and a delicate ecological balance. However, in recent years, the Tso Kar Lake has receded by nearly 70 per cent, leading to the dwindling of bird populations and the loss of grazing land. The vast, dry patches of land can be seen around the lake, where deep waters once stood.

Accordingly, the LG directed the PHE department to conduct a detailed survey of the area. Following 15 days of intensive groundwork and survey, the department submitted its report to the LG on 30 August, suggesting construction of an 11 km RCC channel. However, considering the ecological concerns, LG Shri Saxena suggested avoiding construction of any new RCC water channel in the area, and bringing water to the first depression only through a simple earthen channel. Also, keeping in view the winter season ahead, when the water freezes, the work began on a war footing from 02 September to bring water from Rupsho Kharnak stream to the first large pond.

The revival of Tso Kar Lake will also have a major impact on the livelihood of the local communities. Most of the villagers surrounding Tso Kar Lake are Pashmina goat herders, and with the shrinking of the Lake, the grazing grounds for the Pashmina goats have also vanished. This has forced Pashmina herders to shift 50 to 75 kms away from their homes in search of grazing lands. Revival of this lake will create grasslands, livelihood opportunities for locals and bring even herders back to their homes.

J&K likely to receive widespread showers

people of J&K, especially the plains of Jammu which are experiencing intense heat and humidity for the past few days.

Searches conducted at multiple locations

The searches were carried out in the presence of an executive magistrate and were linked to a probe into subversive activities.

Further details were awaited.

BRICS chairship passes to China

The PM also congratulated China as the next host of BRICS and commended the leaders and their teams for making the New Delhi Summit a success.

"I extend my best wishes once again to China as the next host of BRICS. I especially commend all of you and your teams for making the New Delhi Summit a success. I wish you all a pleasant and safe journey," he said.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi welcomed the Leaders of BRICS Member and Partner Countries, Outreach Invitees and Heads of International Organisations at Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the summit.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister said, "Another productive morning at Bharat Mandapam. Happy to welcome the Leaders of BRICS Member and Partner Countries, Outreach Invitees and Heads of International Organisations."

On Sunday, BRICS leaders held a session on 'Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability: Shaping the Future for Inclusive Global Growth.'

Decolonisation means telling authentic history from Indian perspective: Shah

"Today, we are moving forward to liberate knowledge from that and towards decolonisation," he added.

A nation that could not protect its memory, history, traditions, culture, languages and archives could not survive for long, irrespective of its power, the senior BJP leader noted.

"But a nation which protects its memory, history, traditions, culture, archives, languages and grammar cannot be enslaved, no matter how many years it remains under foreign rule. India is an example of this," he said.

The minister said attempts had been made to destroy India's knowledge traditions, but knowledge embedded in people's memory and oral traditions could not be eliminated.

"They could burn the library of Nalanda... but they could not destroy the knowledge that had become embedded in people's minds through memory and oral traditions," he pointed out.

Referring to the discipline of Indology, Shah said it brought together subjects including history, archaeology, linguistics, philosophy, literature, religion, grammar, anthropology, epigraphy and numismatics.

He, however, said Indian knowledge had for a long time been interpreted through a colonial perspective.

"Indian knowledge was not being written in India's own voice. It was being written from a colonial perspective," Shah said.

This approach had contributed to creating an inferiority complex among Indians and weakening their confidence, he noted.

According to Shah, the objective of studying Indian society during the colonial period was not the welfare of the world, but to understand the country's systems and facilitate long-term rule.

The situation had changed after India's independence, he said, expressing confidence that the knowledge preserved by institutions such as the Asiatic Society would now be used for the welfare of the country and the world.

Shah asked the newly elected committee of the Asiatic Society, headed by BJP leader Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, to expand access to its vast collection.

Shah said he had come to the society not merely as a union home minister but as a participant in the movement to take the Indian knowledge tradition forward for thousands of years.

"I have come here as a campaigner for taking the Indian knowledge tradition forward for thousands of years," he said.

He expressed his best wishes to the new committee and urged it to take forward the Indian knowledge tradition and use Indology for the welfare of the world.

India largest vaccine producer, supplier: Jitendra

brant bioeconomy, strong vaccine development capabilities and a scientific ecosystem capable of contributing to the world's preparedness for future epidemics and pandemics," he said while speaking at a High-Level Evening Reception for the "Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations" (CEPI) Board and Investors Council, jointly hosted by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, and the CEPI at India International Centre, New Delhi.

The reception brought together CEPI's leadership, Board and Investors Council members, policymakers, scientists, industry representatives and other stakeholders engaged in vaccine development and epidemic preparedness. The CEPI Board and Investors Council meetings in New Delhi come a decade after the previous governance meeting was held in India, reflecting the depth of the India-CEPI partnership.

Congratulating CEPI and its partners, DrSingh said India's association with CEPI goes back to its formative years, with India as a founding member and a long-standing strategic partner.

He also acknowledged the contribution of scientists and institutions that have helped build India's vaccine and bio-

medical capabilities, including the teams led by senior scientific leaders such as DrRajesh Gokhale, and the wider scientific fraternity.

Himalayan conservation must become people's movement: Kavinder

ernment; it is a collective responsibility of society," the governor said.

"The Himalayan region is facing growing ecological pressures arising from climate change, changing weather patterns, forest fires, landslides, cloudbursts and increasing stress on natural water sources. These challengescall for a fundamental shift towards environmentally responsible and scientifically informed development," he added.

He emphasised that development and environmental protection should not be viewed as competing priorities. The need of the hour, he said, is to build a development model that respects the ecological carrying capacity of the Himalayas while creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities.

"The Himalayan ecosystem is fragile, and every development intervention must take into account its long-term ecological consequences. Scientific research, sustainable planning, disaster preparedness and active participation of local communities must form the pillars of Himalayan development," he said.

Referring to the recent natural disaster in Nepal, Gupta said the vulnerability of the Himalayan region transcends political and geographical boundaries.

He stressed the need for stronger scientific studies, effective early-warning systems, disaster-resilient infrastructure and continuous capacity-building of communities living in vulnerable areas.

Expressing solidarity with the families affected by the disaster in Nepal, he said such incidents reinforce the urgency of treating Himalayan conservation as a matter concerning not only the environment but also human security, livelihoods, disaster resilience and the future of millions of people dependent on the Himalayan ecosystem.

The governor said the transformation required in Himalayan conservation can begin with simple actions at the grassroots level. A young person nurturing a tree, a village reviving its traditional water source, citizens reducing plastic use, communities protecting local biodiversity or preserving their folk traditions may appear to be individual efforts, but collectively they can create a powerful movement for environmental conservation and nation-building.

Appreciating the initiatives of Himalaya Parivar, he said that bringing together issues such as forest conservation, water-source rejuvenation, disaster management, cultural preservation, youth participation and national integration provides a comprehensive framework for addressing the challenges confronting the Himalayan region.

He said youth must be placed at the centre of the Himalayan conservation movement, as they possess the energy, technological capability and innovative thinking required to create sustainable solutions. Educational institutions, he added, can play a crucial role by connecting students with local environmental challenges and encouraging community-based research and action.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign, the Governor said it has provided a powerful platform for turning environmental consciousness into a mass participatory movement. He urged citizens, particularly the youth, to make environmental protection a part of their everyday lives rather than limiting it to occasional campaigns.

Gupta welcomed the Dharamshala Declaration-2026 presented during the programme and said that its real significance would depend upon translating its recommendations into measurable action on the ground.

"A declaration becomes meaningful only when it leads to action. The Dharamshala Declaration should become a roadmap for strengthening Himalayan conservation, rejuvenating traditional water sources, improving disaster preparedness and deepening community participation," he said.

Vice Chancellor of Himachal Pradesh Central University ProfSPBansal and Founder of Himalaya Parivar Indresh Kumar also shared their perspectives on Himalayan conservation and the way forward.

National Executive Member Ashok Berri, National Executive President Dr. Paramjit Singh Gill, Chairman, Department of Sanskrit, Panjab University, Himanshu Aggarwal, Provincial President of Himalaya Parivar Himachal Pradesh Mohinder Singh Salaria, office-bearers associated with the programme, university faculty and officials and participants from various fields were present on the occasion.

Iranian ship struck near Strait of Hormuz, 1 killed

eign ministers from regional countries will meet to discuss efforts by Iran and Oman, located on the other side of the Strait of Hormuz, to manage shipping on it. Already, however, Bahrain has said it will not attend, and it was not clear what other nations would be there.

Iran has said reaching an agreement with Oman on the strait doesn't mean it will open for shipping. "The waterway would be opened up on the condition that the US will terminate its blockade," Iran's president told broadcaster India Today TV on Saturday.

Commercial ship traffic remains low on the strait as attacks continue. Iran has expressed interest in having ships pay fees for transit. It has also said traffic into the Persian Gulf would pass through Iranian waters, while the outbound route would pass partly through Iranian waters and partly through Oman's.

Russia imports record fuel from India

The volume of Russian fuel imports was more than seven times the previous monthly record and three times the total imported during all of 2025.

All of the gasoline from India was loaded at the Vadinar refinery and sold by EU-sanctioned Nayara Energy to Rosneft, CREA said. Rosneft owns 49.13 per cent of Nayara Energy, while Vadinar sourced all of its crude from Russia during the first eight months of 2026, compared with 81 per cent for all of 2025, according to the report.

"Russia is therefore paying a refinery that it partly owns to process its own crude into fuel it can no longer produce domestically, before shipping it back halfway around the world," CREA said.

The shipments underscore the impact of a sustained Ukrainian drone campaign against Russia's oil refineries and energy infrastructure, which has reduced domestic fuel production and contributed to shortages, according to CREA.

Each cargo of gasoline exported from Vadinar to Russia was transferred between vessels in a ship-to-ship operation off Egypt before being unloaded at Russia's Arctic port of Beloe More, the report said. All the vessels involved were sanctioned tankers, while four of the six had previously operated under false flags, CREA said.

Russia's gasoline imports surged even as the country, historically one of the world's largest exporters of refined petroleum products, faced declining exports. Gasoline accounted for 74 per cent of its total oil-product imports in August, compared with just 6 per cent on average between 2023 and 2025.

South Korea supplied a further 18,000 tonnes of oil products to Russia in August, mostly gasoil, while Egypt exported 25,000 tonnes of diesel worth 16 million euros, CREA said.

Russia's seaborne oil-product exports fell 21 per cent by

volume in August, while revenues from products unloaded at destination ports dropped 32 per cent from July to 78 million euros per day - the lowest level since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

China was Russia's largest fossil-fuel customer in August, accounting for 8.4 billion euros, or 51 per cent, of the revenues generated by its five largest buyers. Russian seaborne crude imports into China rose 16 per cent month-on-month and were 62 per cent above August 2025 levels, CREA said.

Despite the decline in export volumes, Russia continued to benefit from elevated global energy prices.

The average price of Russia's Urals crude rose 23 per cent in August to USD 69.90 a barrel, well above the G7 and European Union price cap of USD 44.10, according to CREA.

The research group estimated that higher oil and gas prices following the US-Israel strikes on Iran increased Russia's seaborne fossil-fuel export revenues by about 31 billion euros in the six months after the strikes.

EAM meets Saudi FM; discusses regional, global developments

The meeting comes as India hosts the 18th BRICS Summit under its chairship theme of "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral meetings with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Uganda Vice President Jessica Alupo and Philippines President Ferdinand RMarcos Jr on the sidelines of the summit.

BRICS leaders on Sunday held a session on "Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability: Shaping the Future for Inclusive Global Growth".

PM Modi said the trust of Global South nations in BRICS had grown and highlighted initiatives related to disaster management, MSME cooperation and the environment.

Cong slams PM after his meeting with Xi

Congress' claims.

Ramesh's remarks came a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed to Chinese President Xi Jinping that peace and tranquility along the frontier remain an "essential" basis for development of India-China relations, even as the two leaders welcomed "steady progress" in the bilateral ties.

In their talks on the sidelines of the BRICS summit, the two leaders reaffirmed that both the countries should take a strategic and long-term perspective of their ties and differences should not become disputes, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

In a statement posted on X, Ramesh said, "Now that his bilateral summit with President Xi Jinping is over, here are four questions for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to which the nation continues to seek answers. Did not your infamous clean chit to China on June 19, 2020 weaken India?"

"On July 4, 2025, Lt. General Rahul Singh, the Deputy Chief of Army Staff, had publicly spoken of the military establishment's assessment of the deep and pivotal role of China in assisting Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. But all of a sudden, on August 25, 2026, the former Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Anil Chauhan took a completely different position in a lecture at the VIF with which the National Security Adviser has himself been closely associated. Was this part of a strategy to change the atmospherics leading up to yesterday's meeting?" the Congress leader said.

"Why has the PM allowed the trade deficit with China to reach record levels?" Ramesh asked.

WB govt closes 252 madrasas, sends show-cause notices to 100

ment will not allow madrasas to be opened indiscriminately and cause trouble."

The opposition Trinamool Congress's MLA Kunal Ghosh said all madrasas should not be painted with the same brush.

"The 252 madrasas that have been served closure notices are devoid of minimum infrastructure. The 100-odd that have been issued show-cause notices will have to respond and if their replies are found to be unsatisfactory, we will take action against them too. We want students studying in madrasas to pursue modern, mainstream education and shine in life just like students from other schools," Tudu said.

Putin proposes BRICS grain market to counter global pressures

The restrictions have affected Russia's crude oil exports.

Putin also pitched the creation of a dedicated platform for economic growth within BRICS, saying it could bring together the competitive strengths of member countries and create new opportunities for investment and cooperation.

"We have great new horizons for investment and cooperation and partnership between markets. We're talking about forming a joint platform for growth within BRICS that would combine the competitive advantages of all members of the group," he said.

"This platform must be built on the principles of openness and availability to not just the partners of BRICS, but to all of our friends," he added.

Putin praised the New Development Bank (NDB), the multilateral development bank established by BRICS nations, saying it was handling projects worth USD 140 billion.

He called for a broader response to emerging global challenges, saying BRICS and other Global South countries should work towards improving global governance and addressing both traditional and non-traditional security threats.

"As global challenges keep surfacing, we should adopt a holistic approach to address both the symptoms and root causes," Putin said.

"Global South countries should jointly advance better (global) governance structure and tackle both traditional and nontraditional security threats," he added.

Putin said the growing participation in BRICS reflected increasing international interest in the grouping and its emphasis on an independent approach to global issues.

"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," he said.

The concluding session was attended by the full BRICS member nations as well as partner countries.

Putin said the expanded format provided an opportunity for direct dialogue between full members, partner countries and other states and multilateral organisations interested in working with the grouping.

BRICS originally comprised Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. It expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the UAE and Saudi Arabia, while Indonesia joined in 2025.

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

The grouping now brings together 11 major emerging economies, representing around 49.5 per cent of the global population, 40 per cent of global GDP and 26 per cent of global trade.