

Transcript of Special Press Briefing on the 18th BRICS Summit

September 12, 2026

Shri Randhir Jaiswal, Official Spokesperson: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I welcome you to this special press briefing on the 18th BRICS Summit which began this afternoon.

For this special press briefing, we have with us Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Sudhakar Dalela, to brief us on the developments of the day.

And for this briefing, he is joined by Joint Secretary (Multilateral Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Shambhu Hakki.

With that, I turn over the floor to Secretary (ER) for his initial remarks. Sir, the floor is yours.

Shri Sudhakar Dalela, Secretary (ER): Well, good evening, everyone. Thank you very much for joining us today. Thank you very much, Randhir, for organizing this press briefing.

The 18th BRICS Leaders' Summit Member Session just got concluded a short while ago. This has been a particularly significant year for BRICS. India assumed the BRICS Chairship in January this year for the fourth time, as BRICS marks an important milestone: the 20th anniversary of its institutionalized cooperation. It was in this context that India sought to build on the work of earlier chairships while focusing on the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability" of India's chairship.

Guided by the vision of the Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the principle of "Humanity First", our endeavor has been to make BRICS cooperation more practical, forward-looking, and responsive to the priorities of our people.

As you have seen already, as I mentioned earlier, we had the Member Session this afternoon of the BRICS Summit. We are delighted to welcome all the BRICS leaders from the member countries of BRICS. And tomorrow, we have the open session in which we will also have partner countries of BRICS and also some outreach invitees: countries who are chairing important institutions of global governance and Global South, and also heads of international organizations.

The robust participation reflected the importance attached to BRICS, its expanding engagement with the developing world and the Global South, and the confidence

placed in India's chairship. Yet, the Summit itself was only the visible peak of a much longer effort: eight months of sustained work that began when India took up the BRICS Chairship in January this year.

As you know, during the course of the year, we have organized more than 350 meetings, both in-person and virtual, across thematic clusters: ministerial meetings, working group meetings, business sessions, people-centric activities, and initiatives.

Interestingly, 12 September is also observed as the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, an apt backdrop for a conversation on the role of emerging and developing economies in a changing global order.

As I mentioned, the first session, the Member Session, took place today on the theme "Inclusive Global Governance and Strengthening Multilateralism". At the session, BRICS leaders spoke on their respective national perspectives, but there was a broad convergence on the need to strengthen multilateralism and to make our global governance institutions more representative, inclusive, effective, and responsive to today's realities.

The leaders reiterated support for comprehensive reform of the United Nations, including its Security Council, with greater representation of developing countries, and for reform of the international financial architecture to give developing countries and the Global South a stronger voice.

The discussion reaffirmed the foundations of BRICS cooperation, anchored in mutual respect, equality, solidarity, openness, inclusiveness, and consensus, with differences addressed through dialogue and consultations. That same approach shaped the exchange on the geopolitical situation. Leaders discussed the impact of ongoing conflicts, economic uncertainties, and underscored the importance of dialogue and diplomacy, and the peaceful resolution of differences.

Honorable Prime Minister, in his intervention, underlined the importance of strengthening the voice of the Global South and reforming global governance to make it more representative, inclusive, and responsive to contemporary realities. He emphasized the need for BRICS to remain focused on practical cooperation and development-oriented outcomes that can improve the lives of our people.

I am sure all of you have seen the remarks made by Prime Minister in the session this afternoon. Honorable Prime Minister shared four specific initiatives for collaboration within BRICS. Namely: first, he spoke about a BRICS Troika mechanism; Honorable Prime Minister shared the idea of building a BRICS roadmap on global governance reform; he spoke about establishing a seafarer emergency support initiative network to

help seafarers in distress around the world; and also he spoke about BRICS Global South negotiation support to build capacities in Global South for officials and young professionals to enhance their skills and capacity on new and emerging areas, such as technology, global rule-making.

The session concluded with the adoption of the New Delhi BRICS Leaders' Declaration, setting our shared priorities, commitment, and direction for BRICS cooperation going forward. The adoption of New Delhi Declaration was among the defining outcomes of India's chairship, demonstrating that BRICS members can foster, can forge consensus on matters of global importance. And in this regard, I would like to thank all our BRICS members who have been working very closely with us throughout the year, in ensuring that we work together and we work on concrete ideas, practical ideas, people-centric ideas which can help our population across our countries.

So, this spirit of collaboration and cooperation among BRICS members was very key, was central in developing the New Delhi Declaration. And I am sure some of you may have seen the details and the concrete initiatives that this declaration captures, reflecting the shared commitment of BRICS members.

The detailed outcomes also are set out in a fact sheet being released today. We have tried to capture our outcomes and initiatives. There are more than 50 practical outcomes across four pillars of our priorities: resilience, innovation, cooperation, and sustainability. And I would invite my friends from media to have a look at it, which will give you the sense of the outcome that we have achieved during our chairship this year across our priorities.

The leaders participated in a joint tree plantation, in line with India's call for "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" and our shared commitment to sustainability, environmental stewardship, and resilient future for generations to come. A postal stamp was released by the BRICS leaders, marking two decades of BRICS' journey.

BRICS leaders also were given a tour of exhibition "Bharat Innovate", which was curated specially for our BRICS leaders and partners and delegation members and business people who are in Delhi right now for the Summit. And the Bharat Innovate exhibition showcased India's achievements and potential in innovation, entrepreneurship, technology, and development.

Now, let me take a maybe brief moment about the New Delhi Declaration, and I would like to highlight very briefly some of the key takeaways around the four verticals of resilience, innovation, cooperation, and sustainability, which are very important for India and for all BRICS members, and I would say for countries beyond BRICS.

Under the resilience pillar, initiatives focused on strengthening food and health security, including the BRICS Centers of Excellence on Agro-ecology, the BRICS Network on Digital Agriculture, and the BRICS Mission for Healthy Lifestyle, alongside cooperation on mental wellness and disaster risk reduction and management.

Under the pillar of innovation, initiatives to promote technology, research, and entrepreneurship, including cooperation on Digital Public Infrastructure, the BRICS Science and Research Repository, and the BRICS Startup Innovation Fund and Incubator Network were some of the important highlights.

Under the cooperation pillar, practical initiatives to deepen economic cooperation, including the BRICS MSME Cooperation Portal, cooperation on global value chains, and the BRICS Logistics Supply Chain Cooperation Framework, and even initiatives to promote traditional and indigenous knowledge and traditional complementary and integrative medicine.

Under sustainability pillar, cooperation on smart grids, energy storage, climate-resilient urban infrastructure, and sustainable urban mobility, as well as initiatives to promote sustainable lifestyles and climate-resilient agriculture were important highlights.

I would like to also say that these initiatives reflect the broader thrust of India's chairship to make BRICS more people-centric and practical and solution-oriented in terms of outcomes, which can deliver tangible benefits for people across our BRICS nations.

I would like to also say that in the outcome document, if you see the New Delhi Declaration, BRICS countries have unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. BRICS leaders have also condemned in the strongest term the terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir that took place last year.

I would like to also say draw your attention to the fact that New Delhi Declaration also reaffirms BRICS' commitment to the reform of global governance institutions and to a more representative and inclusive multilateral system. In this regard, BRICS has spoken very clearly about the reform of UN Security Council and the candidature of India and other BRICS members in that area.

All in all, I would say that four-five key dimensions of India's BRICS chairship, if I were to categorize, I would say that it has been a year of robust participation and engagement in meetings—more than 350 meetings we have organized this year.

The second thing I would say is that we have really worked together in the spirit of partnership and collaboration to deliver practical, development-oriented outcomes.

The third thing for India, I would say, it has been a whole-of-India, whole-of-nation's effort, in which we have brought together central government, state government, industry, academia, youth, civil society, and communities, with BRICS engagement organized in more than 30 cities across India.

I would like to also say that it has been a people-centric chairship of India this year. The spirit of humanity-first has informed our priorities throughout the year. This is reflected in the BRICS Solidarity Run, BRICS Film Festival, BRICS Youth Summit, BRICS Artisan Bazaar, which is ongoing right now in Delhi, and I invite all of you to participate in that and see how BRICS artists are showing their craftsmanship, and it's a really fascinating curated exhibition.

Finally, I would say that India has worked with BRICS members to ensure that the priorities and aspirations of the Global South receive greater attention in the emerging global order.

I would like to also say that during the chairship of India, we have also tried to showcase India's heritage, culture, and practical, scalable solutions in areas such as DPI, innovation and entrepreneurship, disaster resilience, and traditional knowledge to our participants and guests who have come for various meetings throughout the year.

Looking ahead, India remains fully committed to the outcome of the summit and to the New Delhi BRICS Leaders' Declaration. The true measure of a chairship is not simply the number of meetings that are held; it is the quality of participation, the ability to build consensus, and outcomes that are created.

We believe that the extensive engagement during India's chairship this year, the New Delhi Declaration, and more than 50 practical outcomes that we have weaved together throughout the year provide a strong basis, strong foundation for the next phase of BRICS collaboration.

In this regard, I would like to once again underline and thank, actually, all the BRICS members and partner countries for working very, very collaboratively throughout the year, and for their active and constructive participation during India's chairship. The New Delhi Declaration is a clear manifestation of their spirit of collaboration, their spirit of building consensus, and spirit of partnership, unity, and solidarity.

The detailed outcomes, as I mentioned, are reflected in the factsheet that is being made available to you through technological means.

I would like to conclude by saying that we are delighted with the participation of BRICS Leaders' in the Summit today, and we are extremely thankful for their spirit of partnership and collaboration, and in helping us to bring all this initiative together in the

form of New Delhi Declaration.

The stocktaking by BRICS leaders today of what we have achieved together and the political direction that we have received from them today will continue to inspire and guide us as we take BRICS partnership ahead.

I think I have spoken enough. I would like to stop here, and I'll be very happy to respond to a few questions. Thank you.

Shri Randhir Jaiswal, Official Spokesperson: Thank you, sir. With that, we open the floor for questions. Just to let you know that we have the joint declaration as also the factsheet posted on our website. As you ask your question, please keep yourself brief, and please do introduce yourself. We'll take couple of questions together and then come for the second round. We'll go first with our friend from Egypt. Please.

Suzy El-Geneidy, Al-Ahram Al-Arabi: Hello, thank you. I'm Suzy El-Geneidy, Deputy Chief Editor of Al-Ahram Al-Arabi magazine and website. First of all, I would like to congratulate India for such a successful summit, actually. My question concerning, if there were any tackling in the discussion concerning dealing between the countries member in the BRICS with national currency? And is there any thinking in the future, in the coming future, concerning having a currency like the euro in the EU countries, between the countries / members of the BRICS? Thank you.

Vineeta Pandey, The Asian Age and The Deccan Chronicle: My name is Vineeta Pandey. I represent The Asian Age and The Deccan Chronicle. Sir, I add to the question asked by Suzy. You know, Mr. Putin has been constantly talking about having trade in local currency. Because in the joint declaration, we see it point number 115 that New Development Bank has been left to take care of all these issues, but is there any momentum to have trading in local currency?

Krishna Mohan Sharma, Bharat Express: Sir, Krishna Mohan Sharma, Bharat Express se. Mera sawal ye hai ki jo New Delhi Declaration hai, iske zariye kya jo West mein yuddh chal raha hai do countries ke beech mein, uska koi rasta niklega ki yahan se shanti ka ek prayas wahan pe jaake phalibhoot ho?

[Approximate Translation: Question in Hindi] Sir, Krishna Mohan Sharma from Bharat Express. My question is, through the New Delhi Declaration, is there any possibility of finding a way forward for the war currently going on between the two countries in the West, so that an effort for peace initiated from here can eventually bear fruit there?

Shri Randhir Jaiswal, Official Spokesperson: Kahan ki baat kar rahe hain aap?

[Approximate Translation: Audio in Hindi] Which issue are you referring to?

Krishna Mohan Sharma, Bharat Express: Main Iran aur uski baat kar raha hoon, West Asia ki.

[Approximate Translation: Question in Hindi] I'm talking about Iran and the conflict in West Asia.

Sidhant Sibal, WION: Hi, Sir. Sidhant from WION. My question is, how difficult it was for the Indian side to bring the two parties, the Iranian and the Emiratis, together, because it is seen as a big breakthrough. How did India achieve that? And we've heard that it took almost like 4:00 AM in the morning. If you can give us more tidbits about it.

Suhasini Haidar, The Hindu: Suhasini Haidar from The Hindu. I wanted to add to Sidhant's question to ask specifically which other countries helped India in this consensus? Did Prime Minister Modi himself reach out to the Russian and the Chinese leadership? And how did Iran, which has so far made a point of saying it wanted a mention of the attack on Iran by the US and Israel on February 28th to be in the document, agree to a document that does not mention Iran or the UAE in it?

Mentesnot Nigussie: First of all, thank you for the opportunity. This is Mentesnot Nigussie, a business journalist and editor based in Ethiopia. So currently, there is a growing division between the BRICS member countries. So, I would like to know the implication of this New Delhi Declaration. What is its implication in addressing this divisions between the BRICS members countries? So, I also try to go through this New Delhi Declaration, and one of the main topics that highlighted is geopolitical representation of the developing countries. So, in light of this, how do you see the role of BRICS in Ethiopia's push to access, you know, a reliable port? Thank you.

Shri Sudhakar Dalela, Secretary (ER): Thank you very much for these questions.

I think the first two question was about trade in local currency and what BRICS countries are doing in this regard. I would like to just mention that discussion on trade settlement in local currency has been underway for some time in BRICS. It's not a new subject, maybe more than over a decade we have been discussing it.

We believe that local currency settlement is a practical mechanism to reduce transaction costs in bilateral trade, and this has been encouraged as a complementary to global payment and settlement system, improving overall global trade across nations.

You also asked a question about BRICS currency, and I would like to say that there is no proposal in the BRICS for BRICS currency as of now.

And I would like to say that all these questions about trade in local currency and other payment system, the focus is how can we do more intra-BRICS trade and how we can engage with the global business community more actively and reduce transaction costs.

And we are trying to develop bilaterally or within BRICS frameworks which can help address these questions. These questions are part of the Finance Minister and Central Bank Governors track, and I'm sure they will be able to give you more precise information about this initiative. But that is to answer your question on settlement of trade in local currency.

There were two questions about the Middle East and West Asia situation, and how we could forge consensus and bring countries together to reflect the perspective of BRICS country as a whole. And I would like to say that, as I mentioned earlier, during our chairship, what we have seen and what we have managed to achieve working together is to ensure that every member is able to share its perspective and bring new ideas on the table. And we then discuss it threadbare and try to see how best all of us can work together among ourselves, how can we frame the requirements of Global South in a manner which is visible on a global scale, on the world stage, and how can we highlight the aspirations of Global South effectively.

In that context, I would say that in the preparation for the BRICS Summit, we have been discussing these issues for some time. I think it is the essence of the BRICS view ... is captured in para 28 of the New Delhi Declaration.

Yes, in a grouping like BRICS, where we have members with diverse development experiences, diverse economic systems, it is important that we allow discussions to evolve, emerge. And we, as chair, have provided a forum for very, very transparent discussion among us, and we have ensured that that everybody's comfortable expressing their national perspective. And then within that framework, we try to build consensus and see which are the landing zones, which are which are the comfort areas. Ultimately, the declaration can only represent what is common denominator. Of course, each one of us may have our national position.

So, I would say that we are very happy that we have an agreed approach on West Asia, and the centerpiece of that approach is that we all believe that dialogue and diplomacy should be the guiding parameter for addressing any conflict, any situation which requires solution. And that is the only way to build lasting peace, security, and stability in any part of the world.

So that is where we are on the issue of Middle East and West Asia. And as I said, as BRICS Sherpa for India, I'm very pleased that we could bring everybody together and

facilitate dialogue in a very objective and transparent manner.

I think I have answered these four sets of questions. I hope I have not ignored any question that that were raised in the first round itself. I must also say that that the fact that in every meeting—and you have 22 ministerial tracks in BRICS, you name a sector and you have a ministerial track, a focus track which has been working in those areas for years—and in every meeting, I would say, we have we have managed to get very effective participation from our BRICS members. And that also speaks of India's convening power, the trust that BRICS members have on India's ability to steer discussion in a very transparent and objective manner and to build bridges and forge consensus. So, we are very happy with this cooperation that we have achieved from our BRICS members, in some cases partner countries also. Thank you.

Shri Sudhakar Dalela, Secretary (ER): I think, yes, I missed the question from our friend from Ethiopia. As I mentioned, if you look at the factsheet that we have issued, which lists 50 practical outcomes under Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability pillar, if you look at the New Delhi Declaration, you will find that the attempt is to really frame collaboration on development agenda. And that agenda also resonates very well with our partners in Africa or Asia, in Global South. India has been sharing its development experience and expertise through various initiatives with the Global South countries, and we are also learning from our Global South members in different sectors. And that is the spirit of BRICS in which we can learn from each other. We bring different experiences.

I think it was discussed in the closed session today that this diversity is also the strength of BRICS. And we celebrate that diversity. And through discussion and dialogue, the fact that we could forge consensus across every matter that is on the agenda of BRICS as a whole, around its three verticals—political and security, economic and financial, and people-to-people collaboration gives us a tremendous satisfaction that we could achieve this working together with our BRICS members. Thank you.

Ekaterina Fomina, TV BRICS International Media Network: Yeah, thank you very much. Your Excellencies, good evening. TV BRICS International Media Network. So, this year, BRICS celebrates its 20th anniversary. Which areas do you consider to be the most prospective for strengthening cooperation within the grouping for the next decade?

Sahil Pandey, ANI: Sir, I am Sahil Pandey from ANI news agency. The New Delhi Declaration expressed concerns over the unilateral tariffs and non-tariff measures. Did BRICS countries reach common understanding on how to respond to the growing use of unilateral tariffs in global trade? Thank you.

Manish Chand, India Writes Network: Manish Chand, India Writes Network. Sir, coming to the earlier question of bridging differences on Middle East peace, was there any burning of midnight oil? And how much was Prime Minister Modi personally invested in, you know, in this diplomatic coup of sorts? And number two, going forward, will there be any BRICS-led initiative on promoting peace in West Asia? Thank you.

Sudhi Ranjan, Bloomberg: Thank you, sir. Sudhi Ranjan from Bloomberg, sir. As the BRICS Summit was happening, the situation in West Asia changed considerably and may have a very severe effect on energy supplies to all BRICS members. Did this come up in the discussions? If you could give us an understanding on that, sir?

Unidentified Speaker, CGTN, China Global Television Network: Thank you very much. I'm with CGTN, China Global Television Network. We know that this is the first time in seven years that Chinese President Xi Jinping has visited India and attended the BRICS Summit and had the bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Modi. And just now in his speech, he said that BRICS should be a pioneer in advancing innovation-driven development and help steer the world toward a more just and an equitable international order. So, as two important BRICS members and major voices of the Global South countries, how do you see India and China working together in advancing these goals? Thank you very much.

Madhurendra, News Nation: Sir, Madhurendra main News Nation se. BRICS declaration mein khas taur pe Pahalgam aatanki hamle ka zikr kiya gaya hai. Aatankwad ke har swaroop ko nakara gaya hai. Kya baat-cheet ke dauran cross-border terrorism ka jo mudda hai, usko bhi uthaya gaya? Aur yeh bhi dekha gaya ki jab Pahalgam aatanki hamle ki baat hum kar rahe hain, toh Operation Sindoor ke dauran Pakistan ko Cheen ka support mila tha, yeh already public domain mein hai. Kya yeh bhi charcha ka ek mukhya bindu raha hai?

[Approximate Translation: Question in Hindi] Sir, Madhurendra from News Nation. The BRICS Declaration specifically mentions the Pahalgam terrorist attack and condemns terrorism in all its forms. Was the issue of cross-border terrorism also raised during the discussions? And it is already in the public domain that China supported Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. When we are talking about the Pahalgam terrorist attack, was this also a key point of discussion?

Amrashree Mishra, ANI: Sir, I'm Amrashree Mishra from ANI. So, my question is, honorable Prime Minister highlighted four initiatives earlier today. Could you please elaborate on the Seafarers Emergency Support Network? When can we expect implementation to begin on it?

Shri Sudhakar Dalela, Secretary (ER): Thank you very much once again for these very, very useful important questions. I think I missed to answer the question about West Asia, Middle East in terms of how did we achieve consensus of this nature and who were involved in building that consensus. As I mentioned, BRICS is a large grouping, of course, of emerging markets and developing economies, and when we try to work and forge consensus on important matters of global importance, obviously, these consultations require conversations at various levels: Sherpa level, which I steer, the Foreign Ministers, and the leaders. So, I would say that throughout the year, we have been engaged with our BRICS members at various levels, and only because of that engagement—and I would like to underline this word, engagement at various level—that has enabled us to forge consensus on this particular matter in terms of reflecting the views of BRICS countries in the New Delhi Declaration in para 28.

I think a colleague asked about BRICS at 20. As you know, the first meeting of the BRICS took place in New York on the margins of UNGA in 2006, and we have issued postal stamp to celebrate two decades of BRICS journey together. Now, how BRICS will unfold in the coming years, what will be the important priorities, I do not have a crystal ball, but what I would say is that if you look at the outcomes of India chairship and previous chairship also, every chair brings try to continue what has been started by previous chairship but also bring new focus.

During our chairship, the theme was “Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability”, with an underlying theme of people-centric approach to our work. And I really request all of you to please study the factsheet that we are going to share with you, or may have shared with you already.

And when you look at the outcomes that we have achieved, that gives you a sense of direction in which BRICS countries would like to go. Apart from matters regarding reform of global governance, about which I spoke, our Prime Minister spoke about it in the closed session today, and also other important matters ... either fight against terrorism, or how do we work together with Global South and make sure that the institutions of global governance represent the voice of Global South.

So, all these matters, to my mind, are important. I can't sort of put a hierarchy to these, this set of outcomes. But I would like to really invite you to look at the New Delhi Declaration and also our factsheet that we have prepared, just to facilitate your focus in terms of looking at these outcomes.

I think there was a question about the unilateral tariff measure, and, and I would like to say that on this matter—unilateral coercive measures, unilateral tariff measures, unilateral measures, unilateral environmental measures—I think BRICS has had a very consistent position] on this theme. We have taken a very clear position in the BRICS

that any measure which is contrary to international law or contrary to WTO law ... all measures which affect trade should be in line with the international law. So, so I would invite you to look at para 22 of the New Delhi Declaration, which will give you a full flavor of where BRICS stand on the issue of unilateral coercive or unilateral tariff measure.

I think I have answered the question of Manish ji about the investment from our leadership. The overall chairship of India this year has been grounded in the Prime Minister's vision, which he laid out at the Rio Summit last year, where he said, "We have to look at outcomes in BRICS which resonate with the people. Unless people see benefit of what we do in BRICS, then it is doing something concrete."

So, with that inspiration and that vision of our Prime Minister, we have tried to focus on people-centric outcomes, development-centric outcomes, and our Prime Minister spoke about recalibrating BRICS through "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability", the acronym. And, and so our focus has been to, to work under the guidance of Honorable Prime Minister and EAM during our chairship.

So, of course, our leadership has been deeply invested during the chairship as to how we take it forward. And as a result of that only, through that political guidance ... clear direction from our leadership, we have managed to, to secure a very robust New Delhi Declaration, which has important outcomes and position of BRICS on multiple matters of importance to BRICS and beyond.

I think there was a question about energy supplies in the context of West Asia. I mean, these matters did come up. I mean, we have a sort of a very important track on energy also within the BRICS, but in the context of geopolitical situation, these matters are discussed.

The economic consequences of geopolitical challenges is something where BRICS members have engaged throughout the year. And if you look at the paragraph 28, in which we have tried to capture the view of BRICS members on this matter. We have articulated very clearly that all of us, have to work together to maintain smooth flow of global trade, supply chains, and energy supplies, which are in accordance with the international law, of course. So, this is an important matter for all of us, and we will continue to engage with BRICS members going forward as well.

I think our Chinese colleague mentioned about innovation and how India and China can work together. As I mentioned, innovation is the central theme of our chairship. And the fact that we have curated a special exhibition for the BRICS leaders and participants and the business people who are participating in the BRICS Business Forum underlined the fact that innovation is very, very close to our heart in India. We do

recognize the importance of innovation for rapid development in India and BRICS nations, and we do have active collaboration within the BRICS already.

I spoke about BRICS Incubator Network, which is linked to innovation; we are talking of BRICS Startup Innovation Fund. And so, these are very important outcomes of our chairship on innovation, and we would like to pursue collaboration with China and with other BRICS nations going forward.

On the question of seafarer, as I said, this Honorable Prime Minister has articulated very clearly when he proposed the idea of a mechanism through which we can assist seafarers if they are in distress, and how we can work collaboratively to assist them is something that we would like to pursue from now onwards.

And, and I'm very confident that we would get good support on this very important matter for India and for many other countries in the world.

Shri Sudhakar Dalela, Secretary (ER): I think on terrorism ... my colleague is reminding me that perhaps I missed the question on terror. I think, as I mentioned to you, the BRICS leaders have taken a very clear stance on condemning terrorism in all its forms, and that also includes cross-border terrorism. And I would like to invite you to look at the New Delhi Declaration, which has very, very clear articulation of BRICS members on this matter of fight against terrorism.

There is also, I would say, a strong outcome, I would say, and consensus on the financing of terrorism also. And I would request all of you to please look at in detail relevant paragraphs in New Delhi Declaration. But we are very happy that BRICS has spoken strongly, condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Thank you.

Daniel Alling, Swedish Radio, Stockholm: Yes. Daniel Alling from Swedish Radio, Stockholm. There's a lot of formulations in the declaration about the need for diplomacy instead of war. One of your members is still fighting a war, killing people in Ukraine. Has the BRICS Summit tried to convince Russia to stop that war and focus on diplomacy instead? Thank you.

Unidentified Speaker, Al-Dostor Newspaper: Thank you. Al-Dostor Newspaper (unclear audio) ... strategic location connecting between continents. So, how can BRICS make benefit from such location? Also, Egypt stressed that the importance of maintaining stability and freedom of national navigation. So, what role can BRICS regarding this point? Thank you.

Brahma Prakash Dubey, Zee News: Sir, main Brahma Prakash Dubey hoon Zee News se. Mera sawaal yeh hai ki ismein UN reforms ki baat hai jo declaration mein, toh Security Council mein jo sudhaar ki baat hai, usme samarthan kya Cheen... iske

maayne yeh hain ki Cheen bhi kya Bharat... Bharat ki jo hai sthaayi membership ka samarthan karta hai Suraksha Parishad mein? Kya iske yeh maayne hain? Clarity agar de paayein aap. Thank you.

[Approximate Translation: Question in Hindi] Sir, I am Brahma Prakash Dubey from Zee News. My question is regarding the UN reforms mentioned in the declaration. With regard to the proposed reforms in the Security Council, does China's support imply that China also supports India's permanent membership of the Security Council? Is that what this means? Could you please provide some clarity on this? Thank you.

Keshav Padmanabhan, ThePrint: Thank you, Secretary. Keshav Padmanabhan from ThePrint. Just wanted to follow up on the question on Ukraine because there really isn't any clear mention of Ukraine in the joint declaration which was found in the previous joint statement from Rio. So, what was the sense behind why Ukraine was dropped? And also on global reforms, South Africa has been mentioned alongside Brazil and India in past BRICS statements. And in this statement, it says Brazil and India specifically and no mention of South Africa when it comes to greater UN reforms and engagement. So, any reason why South Africa in particular has been dropped from the statement? Thank you.

Yvonne, LN24 International: Thank you. I'm Yvonne from LN24 International. My question is, we heard President Putin clearly saying that India is our country and an enemy of India is also like going to go against Russia. Now, speaking on that, does it mean that—because there's also been talks on defence—does it mean that the BRICS nations will at some point, I don't know anytime soon, given the growing multipolarity of the world and also the geopolitical military kind of like warfares that are going on, does it mean that BRICS nations, are they considering somehow also having that kind of like defence pact, like a global NATO? If one nation is in trouble, they will come together against that nation. And also, in addition to that, I also wanted to find out: the BRICS Pay, does it automatically eliminate SWIFT or this is just going to be a competition that we will be seeing growing? Thank you.

Neeraj, News18 India: Sir, Neeraj hoon News18 India se. Aaj ka jo satr tha woh inclusive vaishwik governance aur multilateralism pe tha. Aur jaisa ki BRICS Declaration mein Suraksha Parishad vistar aur UN mein reforms ki baat ki gayi hai, toh mera sawal yeh hai ki jo do permanent member hain BRICS ke jo UN mein, UNSC mein, unka paksh kya raha? Dono deshon ke Rashtrapatio ne kya kaha is masle par? Aur ab tak jo baatcheet rahi BRICS Sammelan ke dauran, un baithako mein kya charcha hui? Kya Cheen aur Russia ki taraf se Bharat ke permanent membership ki daavedari ko samarthan kiya gaya?

[Approximate Translation: Question in Hindi] Sir, I am Neeraj from News18 India. Today's session focused on inclusive global governance, and multilateralism. As the BRICS Declaration mentions the expansion of the Security Council and reforms in the United Nations, my question is: what position did the two permanent members of the BRICS in the UN Security Council take on this issue? What did the Presidents of the two countries say about it? And what discussions took place on this matter during the meetings held throughout the BRICS Summit? Did China and Russia support India's claim for permanent membership of the Security Council?

Shri Sudhakar Dalela, Secretary (ER): Okay, thank you once again for these questions. I think I'll try to respond to these questions. I think there were a few questions about the reform of UN Security Council. So, I would like to address those ... that theme first.

So, as I mentioned earlier, not only in the New Delhi Declaration, but also in the discussion in the closed session today, there was a clear convergence that we need to focus clearly on UN reforms, UN Security Council reform.

And in that context, BRICS members have articulated their position in the New Delhi Declaration. And I would like to invite your attention to para 13, where we have clearly said that the BRICS members recognize the legitimate aspirations of African countries. Since there was a question about African candidature. And in the context of South Africa, you have the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration, where there is a African position captured in these two documents.

So, in our declaration, we do recognize that emerging and developing countries from Africa, Asia, and Latin America should play greater role in international affairs. But in the context of UN Security Council, there is a specific reference to Africa as well. There is also a clear reference to previous BRICS consensus, which was captured in the BRICS meeting in Beijing and thereafter in Johannesburg, where both China and Russia, who are the permanent members of the UN Security Council, they have reiterated their support to the aspirations of Brazil and India to play a greater role in the UN, including its Security Council. So, that is where we are in terms of the UN Security Council reform and the views of BRICS as a whole and of its membership.

There was a question about Egypt. So, of course, we are delighted to have Egypt as member of BRICS as part of the recent expansion. And I would like to also say that Egypt, although it is a new member, has been participating very, very actively in the BRICS meetings and engagements. And we are very happy to the Government of Egypt and all its constituents who have wholeheartedly supported India's chairship and our priorities and have helped us forge consensus across sectors. So, Egypt is playing a very, very active role, I would say, in BRICS, and we look forward to even greater role

of Egypt in BRICS grouping in terms of our sectoral collaboration in different areas.

There was a question about security and, I would only say that, as I mentioned number of times, BRICS has three verticals, of course: political, economic, and people-to-people collaboration. And our focus ... certainly during our chairship, the focus has been to prioritize development agenda, development cooperation, development-oriented initiatives that can help people's life, can directly relate to people, whether it's trade, or investment, agriculture, health, or technology. So that is, our focus, and we would like to continue building on that theme. And I'm very confident that in the coming times also, we will continue to enhance our collaboration on the development side of partnership.

I think I have tried to answer most of the questions. And there was some question about the, the BRICS position on geopolitical conflicts. I think BRICS has very clearly articulated its preference for dialogue and diplomacy as a guiding parameter for addressing tensions, addressing conflict, and this has been also reflected very clearly in the New Delhi Declaration in multiple places actually, in para 28, in para 23, I think, if I'm not mistaken. We believe in adherence to international law, peaceful settlement of dispute, the critical importance of UN Charter.

And that, I would say, is something which BRICS and its members continue to articulate, and I would not like to go to specific issues, specific geopolitical matters that are before us.

I hope I have attempted to respond to all the questions Randhir. Thank you.

Shri Randhir Jaiswal, Official Spokesperson: Thank you, sir. With that, ladies and gentlemen, we come to the close of this press briefing. We shall keep you updated with rest of the developments of today, as also tomorrow. So, with that, thank you very much for your participation.

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