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BRICS summit gives boost to Global South

High-quality cooperation, solidarity strengthened, foreign minister says

By **MO JINGXI** in Beijing and **XU WEIWEI** in Hong Kong

The BRICS summit in New Delhi strengthened common ground among major Global South countries on development, cooperation, multilateralism and global governance reform amid global volatility and recurring regional conflicts, officials and analysts said as President Xi Jinping concluded a two-day visit to India on Sunday.

The summit, which brought Xi and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi together for their third consecutive year of bilateral talks, also gave fresh impetus to improving relations between the two neighbors, with broader implications for regional stability and Global South cooperation, they said.

Speaking to reporters upon the conclusion of Xi's visit, Foreign Minister Wang Yi described the trip as a major diplomatic engagement with Global South countries in the opening year of China's 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) period.

Coming after Xi's visits to Central Asia and the Middle East earlier this month, the trip was strategically significant for advancing high-quality cooperation within the expanded BRICS grouping and strengthening Global South solidarity, Wang said.

In less than 24 hours in the Indian capital, Xi attended nearly 10 events, discussed development and cooperation with BRICS leaders, and held in-depth talks with Modi to chart the course of bilateral relations, Wang said.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of BRICS cooperation.

At the summit, Xi said solidarity and cooperation had always been the source of the grouping's strength.

He called on BRICS countries to take a leading role in innovation-driven development, safeguarding peace and stability, promoting exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, and reforming and improving global governance.

At a new historical juncture, Xi had responded to the high expectations of Global South countries by reaffirming the historic mission of BRICS cooperation and charting its future course, Wang said, noting that Xi's urging elevated the strategic importance of BRICS cooperation and bolstered members' resolve

and confidence to seek strength through solidarity.

Speaking at a media briefing on Saturday, Sudhakar Daleda, secretary for economic relations at India's Ministry of External Affairs, said that there was a broad convergence among BRICS leaders on the need to strengthen multilateralism and to make global governance institutions more representative, inclusive, effective and responsive to today's realities.

To bolster the strength of the Global South, Xi said during the summit that Global South countries should jointly defend the rule of law in international affairs, hold high the banner of multilateralism, remain committed to a people-centered development philosophy and jointly advance security governance.

He proposed five initiatives for "greater BRICS" cooperation in artificial intelligence, trade and investment facilitation, digital industry, intelligent manufacturing and talent development.

Lawrence Loh, director of the Centre for Governance and Sustainability at National University of Singapore's Business School, said "greater BRICS" distinguished itself through concrete plans to benefit people in countries beyond its membership.

"The BRICS summit has a broader implied message for the international community — global development cannot be based on a zero-sum game mentality where development is pursued at the expense of others," he said.

Swaran Singh, a former professor of international relations at Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi, India, said that Xi had presented "greater BRICS" as a platform for a more multipolar, rules-based order, with a strong emphasis on practical cooperation.

He said Xi's proposals overlapped significantly with India's own emphasis on technology, resilient supply chains and a stronger role for the Global South in shaping international affairs.

With China set to assume BRICS' rotating presidency for the fourth time next year, Wang said the country would remain committed to, rooted in and supportive of the Global South, sharing opportunities and pursuing common development on the path toward modernization.

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Tour offers governance insights



Diplomats and envoys visit Suzhou Yunsheng Qianli Low-Altitude Industry Operation Co on Wednesday in Suzhou, Jiangsu province, during the event "Explore People-Centered Cities: China's Governance, Global Engagement (Shanghai and Jiangsu)". The five-day program, which began on Sept 7, brought 30 diplomats and envoys from 20 countries, including Belarus, Spain, Bangladesh, Latvia, New Zealand and Thailand, to Shanghai as well as to Nanjing and Suzhou in Jiangsu to explore China's technological advancement and urban governance. **YANG BO / CHINA NEWS SERVICE** See story, page 5

Nation to advance fertility-friendly push

By **WANG XIAOYU**
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China will maintain a relatively ample workforce and will press ahead with efforts to build a fertility-friendly society, Lei Haichao, minister of the National Health Commission, said on Monday.

China's total population has declined for four consecutive years, but the nation remains home to 1.405 billion people and will continue to be a major demographic power for years to come, Lei said at a news conference in Beijing held by the State Council Information Office.

With more than 10 million students enrolling in colleges and universities each year amid a boom in the higher education sector, China is building an expanding and highly skilled workforce, Lei said.

Official data shows that, by the end of 2025, China had about 851.36 million people ages 16 to 59, and that group had an average of 11.3 years of schooling, up 0.1 year from a year earlier.

Lei added that the annual number of newborns has remained at about 8 million despite an overall downward trend.

"Compared with other developed and developing countries, very few have births at this level, so China will still have a relatively ample labor force in the future," he said.

Lei noted that China will continue to roll out fertility-friendly measures to ease the burden of childbirth, child-rearing and education.

Among the latest fertility support policies are the rollout of a fertility subsidy, which has so far benefited more than 30 million families, and the establishment of nearly 12,600 early pregnancy care clinics nationwide, providing counseling and assessments.

He said that the nation will work harder over the next five years to integrate nursery and kindergarten care services and support communities and employers in setting up more convenient and affordable nursery care facilities.

Under the national health plan released in July for the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) period, one goal is to raise the nursery care enrollment rate by 6 percentage points for children age 3 and under, Lei said.

It is also important to promote a positive view of marriage and fertility, he added.

Guo Yanhong, vice-minister of the National Health Commission, said that the authorities will continue to improve early pregnancy care, as well as the prevention and treatment of birth defects and developmental problems.

"We will also step up efforts to build fertility-friendly hospitals and improve conditions in obstetric, neonatal and pediatric wards. Each province will be supported in building at least one high-level maternal and child health institution to strengthen fertility support functions," she said.

Health authorities said that China has built the world's largest medical service system. As part of efforts to provide life-cycle healthcare services, priorities in the coming years include improving pediatric care and early childhood development services, and building more child-friendly hospitals.

Lei said that China aims this year to add 1,000 more community- and township-level healthcare centers offering pediatric care.

By the end of 2026, more than 95 percent of such grassroots health facilities are expected to provide pediatric diagnosis and treatment, he added.

Stable ties to lift business confidence, say executives

By **ZHONG NAN**
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Greater stability and predictability in China-US economic ties would enable companies in both countries to invest, trade and plan for the long term with more confidence, market watchers and business executives said.

Their comments came after the Ministry of Commerce announced last week that China and the United States are in consultations on a framework arrangement for reciprocal tariff reductions covering \$30 billion worth of products from each side.

The talks are part of broader efforts by the two countries to implement the consensus reached by the two heads of state and stabilize bilateral economic and trade relations.

Although the framework is yet to be formally implemented, experts said potential beneficiaries could include US agricultural products, pharmaceuticals and industrial equipment, as well as Chinese consumer goods, machinery, electronics and intermediate products.

Wan Zhe, a professor of international trade at Beijing Normal University, said progress in tariff talks would help reduce policy uncertainty, improve the business environment for companies on both sides and encourage US companies to expand their investment and operations in China.

Da Wei, a professor of international relations at Tsinghua University in Beijing, said global supply chains have proved far more resilient and interconnected than anticipated by many, with restrictions prompting companies to reorganize and diversify their production networks rather than sever existing economic ties.

"Even as China and the US seek to reduce vulnerabilities in strategically sensitive sectors, their broader commercial ties will remain deeply intertwined, as extensive supply-chain connections and business relationships continue to underpin economic interdependence," he said.

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INSIDE

Proactive IP rules target emerging tech

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CHINESE E-BIKES POWER WORLDWIDE SHIFT IN URBAN MOBILITY

Brands tap premium design, manufacturing strength for greener commuting

By **WANG ZHUOQIONG**
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The best thing about having an electric bike is that you just go past people," said a reviewer of DYU, an e-bike brand based in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, in an Instagram video. "Put it on high assist, and it helps with the pedaling. You can take the hills, miss all the crowds. It's a dream ride."

That feeling of effortless mobility is one reason why e-bikes are reshaping urban transportation

and why Chinese manufacturers are rapidly expanding overseas.

China was once known as the "bicycle kingdom", when bikes were used by Chinese residents as the most common means of transportation. Today, it is becoming the world's e-bike powerhouse.

Walk along the canals of Amsterdam in the Netherlands, through the streets of Munich in Germany or on the greenways of Portland, Oregon, in the United States, and bikes are hard to miss.

See **E-bikes**, page 3



A worker assembles an artificial intelligence-powered electric bike at a workshop of Huizhou Ruijianxing New Energy Technology Co in Huizhou, Guangdong province, on July 1. **LIANG XU / XINHUA**

