

BRICS Summit New Delhi: Declaration Outcomes and the PM Modi-President Xi's Bilateral Meeting

September 17, 2026

India hosted the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on 12 and 13 September 2026 under the theme of "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."

The summit closed with the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration, a comprehensive document covering global governance, trade, security, finance, technology and sustainable development.

On the sidelines, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, their first in-person exchange in India since 2019 and a notable marker in the gradual thawing of India-China relations. Below is a summary of the declaration's most consequential positions, followed by a brief on the bilateral meeting.

New Delhi Declaration: Key Outcomes

Global Governance and Multilateral Reform

Marking the 20th anniversary of BRICS, leaders renewed their call for a more representative UN system, including Security Council reform and greater voice for developing countries in senior UN and Bretton Woods Institutions' leadership positions. Both, China and Russia reiterated their support for India and Brazil to play a greater role in the UN, including the Security Council. Leaders also called for accelerated IMF quota realignment under the 17th General Review of Quotas and reaffirmed the 2025 World Bank Shareholding Review as a tool to correct historic underrepresentation of developing economies. The declaration repeated BRICS opposition to unilateral coercive measures and sanctions inconsistent with international law, including secondary sanctions.

Trade and the Multilateral Trading System

BRICS members reaffirmed support for WTO reform and for restoring a fully functioning, two-tier binding WTO dispute settlement mechanism, including new Appellate Body appointments. On value chains, leaders welcomed continued development of the BRICS Global Value Chain Action Plan 2026-2030 and progress on MSME internationalization, including new credit assessment guidelines and an Invoice Discounting Mechanism agreed at the Jaipur Consensus. The declaration reiterated commitment to the full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 21325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions and to the advancement of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda.

Peace, Security and Counterterrorism

Leaders expressed concern over conflicts in Gaza, the wider Middle East, Sudan, Syria and Lebanon, and called for full implementation of the Gaza ceasefire and unhindered humanitarian access. The declaration condemned the April 2025 terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir that killed 26 people and reaffirmed a zero-tolerance position on terrorism and its financing. Leaders also expressed concern over nuclear safety risks amid ongoing conflicts and reiterated support for disarmament efforts, including a legally binding instrument to prevent an arms race in outer space.

Financial Architecture and Payments

The New Development Bank was recognized as entering its second decade with a growing role in financing Emerging Markets and Developing Countries' (EMDCs) development priorities, alongside continued discussion on expanding its membership. Leaders welcomed progress by the **BRICS Payment Task Force on cross-border payment interoperability** and held discussions on trade settlement in local currencies. Other financial workstreams included technical progress on a **New Investment Platform**, a proposed BRICS Insurance Resilience Centre (BIRC) with India offering to host a related Risk Lab at GIFT City, Gujarat, and continued strengthening of the Contingent Reserve Arrangement as a financial safety net.

Technology, AI and Digital Cooperation

Leaders committed to a sovereign and self-reliant digital ecosystem across BRICS, welcoming proposals for a shared **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** repository and pilot DPI projects. The declaration endorsed implementation of the BRICS Leaders' Statement on the Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence and acknowledged India's AI Impact Summit, held in February 2026. Members also noted continued technical work on the feasibility of a dedicated BRICS submarine cable network and acknowledged the work done under the BRICS Rapid Information Security Channel (BRISC) and BRICS Fintech Working Group in adopting an EMDE-centric approach to assess the opportunities and risks posed by new technologies.

Climate, Energy and Sustainable Development

BRICS reiterated commitment to the Paris Agreement and opposed unilateral carbon border adjustment mechanisms as inconsistent with international law and a burden on developing economies. Leaders welcomed the **Photovoltaics Working Group's action plan**, ongoing work on hydrogen value chain standards, and new forest, biodiversity and wildfire-preparedness initiatives. The declaration also affirmed the need to promote 3 reliable, responsible, diversified, resilient, fair, sustainable, and just **Critical Mineral supply chains**, ensuring benefit-sharing, value addition, economic diversification, energy security, and support for zero- and low-emission energy technologies while respecting countries' sovereign rights over their mineral resources.

Chairship Transition

Leaders formally thanked India for its 2026 chairship, which convened more than four hundred meetings and engagements across thirty Indian cities and extended support to China to assume the BRICS chairship in 2027 and host the 19th BRICS Summit.

Prime Minister Modi - President Xi Bilateral Meeting

On 12 September, Prime Minister Modi met Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS summit, their first in-person meeting in India in **seven years**.

According to the [statement](#) released by Ministry of External Affairs, both leaders welcomed the steady progress in bilateral relations and agreed that ties should be viewed from a strategic, long-term perspective, with the shared position that differences should not be allowed to become disputes.

- PM Modi emphasized that the relationship should be guided by three principles of mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interest, and stressed that peace and tranquility along the border remains essential to the relationship's continued development, including adherence to existing border-related agreements.
- Both sides expressed commitment to a fair and mutually acceptable resolution of the boundary question.
- On the economic front, the two leaders acknowledged the need to address trade imbalances, supply chain concerns and predictable market access, while also agreeing to expand people-to-people ties, cultural exchange and business linkages.
- PM Modi separately acknowledged China's support for India's BRICS chairship and its contribution to the summit's outcomes.

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