UAE to leverage BRICS to enhance global trade

Dubai, Feb 14:
The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is leveraging its membership in BRICS to enhance global trade resilience and drive infrastructure leadership, according to panelists at the World Governments Summit 2025 in Dubai.

During a panel discussion on Wednesday, Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, chairman and CEO of DP World, and Mohamed Saif Al Suwaidi, director general of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), highlighted the UAE's strategic role in strengthening economic ties within BRICS and beyond.

"By leveraging our strategic location and advanced logistics capabilities, the UAE is enhancing supply chain resilience and strengthening trade corridors that will benefit economies worldwide," bin Sulayem said.

He noted that the UAE has positioned itself as a logistics hub for BRICS by developing multimodal trade routes that cut transit times and unlock economic growth opportunities.

"We have created new trade routes linking Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia, significantly reducing transit times ... Through strategic investments, we are addressing global bottlenecks and ensuring seamless trade flows," he said.

"The UAE's inclusion in BRICS presents a unique opportunity to strengthen economic ties, not only through government cooperation but also by engaging the private sector, Al-Suwaidi said, underscoring the UAE's commitment to fostering sustainable economic growth through its BRICS membership. "At ADFD, we are focused on financing projects that drive sustainable development, especially in sectors such as transport, energy, and infrastructure. These efforts are closely aligned with the BRICS agenda, contributing to economic integration and connectivity," he added.

Al-Suwaidi also highlighted the UAE's focus on large-scale infrastructure projects, including ports, railways, and airports, which are essential for enhancing trade flows and economic exchange.

Centre imposes President's Rule in Manipur

Imphal, Feb 14:
The Centre on Thursday announced that President's rule has been imposed in Manipur, four days after Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's resignation on Sunday.

A notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs said that the President of India, Draupadi Murmu, has received a report from the Governor of the State of Manipur, and after considering the report and other information received, she was satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the Government of that State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of India.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 356 of the Constitution, and of all other powers, the President proclaimed that all functions of the Government of the State of Manipur and all powers vested in or exercisable by the Governor of that State, powers of the Legislature of the said State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament.

The President of India will act to such extent as she thinks fit through the Governor of the said State. The operation of thep rovisions of the Constitution in relation to that State was suspended and the list of the provisions was given in the order.

Manipur Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh had submitted a resignation letter to Manipur Governor A.K. Bhalla on Sunday last immediately after arriving from New Delhi. He had arrived at Imphal along with BJP leader Sambit Patra and some other MLAs.

Biren said in the letter that it had been an honour to serve the people of Manipur thus far. He expressed gratitude to the Central government for timely actions, interventions, developmental work and implementation of various projects for safeguarding the interest of every single Manipuri. He requested the Central government to continue with the same.

He asked the Centre to maintain the territorial integrity of Manipur which has a rich and diverse civilisational history over thousands of years.

He asked the Centre to crack down on border infiltration and to formulate policy for the deportation of the illegal immigrants.

He asked the Centre to continue the fight against drugs and narco terrorism. He requested to continue the stringent and foolproof revised mechanism of FMR with the biometric being stringently applied.

The Governor had asked the CM to continue serving as the caretaker Chief Minister. Sambit Patra held talks with BJP MLAs to chalk a strategy to elect a new leader; however, so far there was no consensus among the leaders.

Manipur is also passing through a Constitutional crisis as the State Assembly scheduled on February 10 was also suspended. There cannot be a gap of six months between two Assembly sessions and the last Assembly session concluded on Aug 12,2024.

With the imposition of PR in the backdrop of the conflict which began on May 3, 2023 the Governor, A.K. Bhalla will be now responsible for restoring normalcy and managing the affairs of the state.

Meanwhile, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF) said President's rule will give a ray of hope to the Kuki-Zo community.

"The Kuki-Zo do not trust Meiteis anymore, so a new Meitei chief minister is still far from comforting. President's Rule will give a ray of hope to the Kuki-Zo, and we believe that it will be one step closer to our political solution," ITLF leader Ginza Vualzong said.

Modi, Trump talks focus on...

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And this mega spirit gives new scale and scope to our goals." he said.

He said the two sides have set a target of more than doubling bilateral trade to 500 billion dollars by 2030 and both their teams would work on an early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Trade Agreement.

"We will strengthen the oil and gas trade to ensure India's energy security. Investment in energy infrastructure will also increase." In the field of civil nuclear energy, the two leaders talked about increasing cooperation in the direction of Small Modular Reactors, the PM said.

On defence relations, he said the two sides are "actively moving in the direction of joint development, joint production and transfer of technology".

"In the coming time, new technology and equipment will increase our capability. We have decided to launch the Autonomous Systems Industry Alliance.

"The Defence Cooperation Framework will be created for the next decade. Defence interoperability, logistics, repair and maintenance will also be its main parts," he added.

On cooperation in the technology sector, he said that India and the United States will work together in Artificial Intelligence, Semiconductors, Quantum, Biotechnology, and other technologies.

"Today we have agreed on TRUST, i.e. Transforming Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology. Under this, emphasis will be laid on creating strong supply chains of critical minerals, advanced materials and pharmaceuticals. It has also been decided to launch a recovery and processing initiative for strategic minerals like lithium and rare earth." "We have had close cooperation with the US in the field of space. The "NISAR" satellite, built in collaboration with "ISRO" and "NASA", will soon fly into space on the Indian launch vehicle," he added.

PM Modi said the two sides will work together to enhance peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific. The Quad will have a special role to play in this.

On the Quad, he said during the Summit to be held in India this year, the four nation bloc will increase cooperation with partner countries in new areas.

He said under the "IMEC" -India-Middle East-Europe Corridor - and "I2U2" India-Israel-US-UAE - initiative, the two sides will work together on economic corridors and connectivity infrastructure.

"India and the United States have stood firmly together in the fight against terrorism. We agree that concerted action is necessary to eradicate cross-border terrorism." He thanked President Trump for deciding to hand over "the culprit who committed the killings in India in 2008, to India now. Indian courts will now take appropriate action",in reference to Tahawwur Rana, who is set to be extradited to India.

He also said that India will soon open new Indian consulates in Los Angeles and Boston and that India has invited American universities and educational institutions to open off-shore campuses in India.

He thanked President Trump for his friendship and steadfast commitment to India. "The people of India still remember your visit of 2020, and hope that President Trump will come to them once again." He invited President Trump to visit India.

"On behalf of 1.4 billion Indians, I invite you to come to India." Earlier in his address, the PM thanked President Trump for the gracious welcome and hospitality. "Through his leadership, President Trump has cherished and revitalised the India-US relationship. The enthusiasm with which we worked together in his first term; I felt the same enthusiasm, the same energy and the same commitment today," the PM added.

"Today's discussions were a bridge of satisfaction with our achievements during his first term and deep mutual trust. At the same time, there was also a resolve to achieve new goals. We believe that the collaboration and cooperation between India and America can shape a better world," the PM said.

Talks maximum governance with Musk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today met with Tesla chief Elon Musk and his family at Blair House. The PM interacted with the multi-billionaire US businessman's three young children during the meeting.

The PM said in posts on X: "Had a very good meeting with @elonmusk in Washington DC. We discussed various issues, including those he is passionate about such as space, mobility, technology and innovation.

"I talked about India's efforts towards reform and furthering 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance.'" The PM said it was a delight to meet Musk's family. He is seen in photos talking to the children, two boys and a girl. Two of the children, one boy and girl, are seen sitting on the carpet in front of the PM and looking at magazines or books. The PM is talking to them, while Musk is looking on smiling indulgently.

In another photo, the PM is seen handing over gifts to the young kids.

"It was also a delight to meet Mr. @elonmusk's family and to talk about a wide range of subjects!", the PM posted on X.

Among those present at the meeting were External Affairs Minister S.Jaishankar, NSA Ajit Doval, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Indian Ambassador to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra.

Turkey urges India, Pak to resolve J&K issue via talks

Islamabad, Feb 14:
Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday said that the Kashmir issue should be resolved through dialogue between India and Pakistan, with due consideration for the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

President Erdogan, who is in Pakistan on a two-day visit, made the comments after holding one-on-one and delegation talks with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The leaders also witnessed the signing ceremony of 24 agreements and a Memorandum of Understanding between the two sides.

Following this, they read statements to the media, expressing resolve to strengthen their bilateral ties, during which Erdogan also talked about the Kashmir issue.

"The Kashmir issue should be addressed according to the UN resolution through dialogue and keeping in mind the aspirations of the people of Kashmir," Erdogan said.

"Our state and our nation, as in the past, stands in solidarity with our Kashmiri brothers today," he stated.

India has repeatedly emphasised that the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were, are, and "shall forever" remain an integral part of the country.

The ties between the two countries nosedived after India abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution, revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcating the State into two Union Territories on August 5, 2019.

In his statement, President Erdogan also showed keen interest in promoting ties with Pakistan. "In the seventh session of our council, which we just concluded, we have agreed to further strengthen our relationship," he said.

"Within the framework of this visit, we have signed a total of 24 agreements and MoUs in the fields of trade, water resources, agriculture, energy, culture, family, and social services, along with science, banking, education, defence, and health." Speaking on the occasion, Shehbaz said that Pakistan was the second home of the Turkish leader and added that it was wonderful to have him back after five years.

"The people of Pakistan are extremely happy today to see you, along with your delegation, visiting your brotherly country," he said.

He thanked Turkiye for standing by Pakistan "through thick and thin" during earthquakes and floods. "Your visit to Pakistan today has given a new level to our brotherly relations," Shehbaz said.

The Prime Minister and President Asif Ali Zardari received Erdogan at the Nur Khan airbase when he arrived early in the morning.

The Turkish president was accompanied by First Lady Emine Erdogan and a delegation of investors and business leaders.

US NSA discusses civil nuke energy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today had a fruitful meeting with US National Security Advisor Michael Waltz in Blair House, during which they discussed defence industrial cooperation and civil nuclear energy cooperation with emphasis on small modular reactors.

In a post on X, the PM noted that there is strong potential for bilateral cooperation in sectors like AI, semiconductors and space.

"Had a fruitful meeting with NSA @michaelgwaltz.

"He has always been a great friend of India. Defence, technology and security are important aspects of India-USA ties and we had a wonderful discussion around these issues.

"There is strong potential for cooperation in sectors like AI, semiconductors, space and more." According to a readout: "The discussions touched upon ways to further deepen the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, with a focus on strategic technologies, as well as defense industrial cooperation and civil nuclear energy with an emphasis on small modular reactors, and counterterrorism."

Political Vein — V.V.S. Manian

Blurt out

To blurt something out means to say it suddenly, without thinking about the consequences. A "money blurt" is a political tactic where controversial statements by a politician are used to attract campaign donations.

Quote: "It often happens that we blurt out things that may harm us, but we stay silent about things that may make us look ridiculous; because in this case, the effect follows quickly after the cause." - Arthur Schopenhauer.

India-Greece-Cyprus biz council launched

Mumbai, Feb 14:
The India-Greece-Cyprus (IGC) Business and Investment Council was officially launched here on Thursday, marking a significant milestone in strengthening the economic ties among the three nations.

The landmark initiative follows the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Eurobank S.A. and the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in September 2024.T The event was graced by representatives of the Ambassadors of Greece & Cyprus, and eminent business leaders, including Abhyuday Jindal, president, ICC & managing director, Jindal Stainless Ltd., and Fokion Karavias, CEO, Eurobank S.A..