BRICS - A United Front

Why in news?

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The 9th annual BRICS summit had just concluded in Xiamen in China recently.

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How was the India – China Bonhomie?

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- By putting up a united front at the BRICS summit, and proposing a revival of the Panchsheel principles of peaceful cooperation, India & China displayed a strong willingness to strengthen cooperation.
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- The conference sent a clear message that both sides are willing to look beyond the recent Doklam military stand-off and solve future issues through negotiations and diplomacy.
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- There were also indications that new mechanisms to strengthen the border defence agreements are being considered.
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- China also chose not to speak of the contentious Belt and Road Initiative at the summit, respecting India’s concerns.
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How was the overall consensus?

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- Member countries expressed their displeasure with the kind of economic protectionism that the US is now espousing.
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- They also asserted their commitment to an “open and inclusive” multilateral trading system.
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- North Korea was univocally condemned for its aggressive posturing by all

members, while at the same time they advocated dialogue to resolve the crisis.
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- All member countries had endorsed the labelling of “Lashkar-e-Taiba” and the “Jaish-e-Mohammed” as terrorist groups threatening regional stability.
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How does the future hold?

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- China & India must restart meetings of the Special Representatives, to speed up discussions on border disputes in Sikkim & the eastern sector.
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- Also, the BRICS view on terrorist groups like the LeT and JeM needs to be translated into actionable points.
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- UN Security Council’s meeting in October will see the issue of designating JeM chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist.
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- China’s stand at the ‘Security Council” will be closely watched as it had blocked previous such resolutions.
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Source: The Hindu

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