

Brief on BRICS

BRICS brings together eleven major emerging economies of the world, representing around 49.5 % of the global population, around 40 % of the global GDP and around 26% of global trade.

2. The acronym BRIC was first used in 2001 by Goldman Sachs in their Global Economics Paper, "The World Needs Better Economic BRICs" on the basis of econometric analyses projecting that the four economies would individually and collectively occupy far greater economic space and would be amongst the world's largest economies in the next 50 years or so.

3. As a formal grouping, BRIC started after the meeting of the Leaders of Russia, India and China in St. Petersburg on the margins of G8 Outreach Summit in 2006. The grouping was formalized during the 1st meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers on the margins of UNGA in New York in 2006. The 1st BRIC Summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2009.

4. It was agreed to expand BRIC into BRICS with the inclusion of South Africa at the BRIC Foreign Ministers' meeting in New York in 2010. Accordingly, South Africa attended the 3rd BRICS Summit in Sanya in 2011. A further expansion of BRICS took place in 2024 with Egypt; Ethiopia; Iran; and UAE becoming full members of BRICS from 1 January 2024. In January 2025, Indonesia joined the BRICS as a full member while Belarus; Bolivia; Kazakhstan; Cuba; Malaysia; Nigeria; Thailand; Uganda and Uzbekistan inducted as partner countries of the BRICS.

5. Sixteen BRICS Summits have taken place so far as under:

- 16th BRICS Summit : 22 - 24 October 2024 (Kazan, Russia)**
- 15th BRICS Summit : 22 - 24 August 2023 (Johannesburg; South Africa)**
- 14th BRICS Summit : 23 - 24 June 2022 (Beijing)**
- 13th BRICS Summit : 9 September 2021 (New Delhi)**
- 12th BRICS Summit : 17 November 2020 (Moscow)**
- 11th BRICS Summit : 13 - 14 November 2019 (Brasilia)**
- 10th BRICS Summit : 25 - 27 July 2018 (Johannesburg)**
- 9th BRICS Summit : 4 - 5 September 2017 (Xiamen)**
- 8th BRICS Summit : 15 - 16 October 2016 (Goa)**
- 7th BRICS Summit : 8 - 9 July 2015 in Russia (Ufa)**
- 6th BRICS Summit : 14 – 16 July 2014 in Brazil (Fortaleza)**
- 5th BRICS Summit : 26 – 27 March 2013 in South Africa (Durban)**
- 4th BRICS Summit : 29 March 2012 in India (New Delhi)**
- 3rd BRICS Summit : 14 April 2011 in China (Sanya)**
- 2nd BRIC Summit : 16 April 2010 in Brazil (Brasilia)**
- 1st BRIC Summit : 16 June 2009 in Russia (Yekaterinburg)**

5. BRICS cooperation has two mechanisms of cooperation— consultation

on issues of mutual interest through meetings of Leaders and Ministers and practical cooperation through meetings of Senior Officials in a number of areas including Trade, Finance, Health, Education, Science & Technology, Agriculture, Environment, Energy, Labour, Disaster Management, Anti-Corruption, Anti-Drugs, etc. BRICS Business-to-Business engagement is through BRICS Business Council and BRICS Women Business Alliance. Other BRICS exchanges can broadly be categorized as Parliamentary Exchanges, Seminars/Conferences, Business, People-to-people exchanges and Track II meetings.

India's BRICS Chairship and 13th BRICS Summit

6. India took over the BRICS Chairship from Russia in January 2021 and held it until 31 December 2021. India's BRICS Chairship in 2021 coincided with the 15th anniversary of BRICS, making it an opportune moment to review its work for greater efficiency and relevance. The theme and approach for India's BRICS Chairship was "*BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus*". The Priorities for India's Chairship in 2021 included the following:

1. Reform of the Multilateral System
2. Counter Terrorism Cooperation
3. Digital and Technological Tools for Achieving SDGs
4. Enhancing People to People Exchanges.

7. Over 150 events and meetings were concluded during India's BRICS Chairship in 2021. These include the Leaders' Summit, organized on 9 September 2021 in virtual format, the meeting of the Foreign Ministers which was held on 1 June 2021 in virtual format, meeting of the National Security Advisers which was held on 24 August 2021 and a total of close to 20 other Ministerial meetings including Finance, Trade, Industry, Agriculture, Energy, Environment, Labour and Employment, Education, Health, Science and Technology, Communications, Culture, Tourism, and Youth.

8. Many 'firsts' were achieved during India's BRICS Chairship this year, which include: (a) BRICS Digital Health Summit; (b) 1st BRICS Water Ministers Meeting; (c) Adoption of BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan; (d) Launch of BRICS Alliance for Green Tourism; (e) Operationalization of BRICS Agricultural Research Platform ; and (f) Signing of Agreement on BRICS Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation.

Brazil's BRICS Chairship 2025

9. Brazil assumed the BRICS Chairship on 1 January 2025 with the

theme as 'Strengthening Global South Cooperation for more Inclusive and Sustainable Governance'. Brazil's Presidency will focus on two priorities: the Global South Cooperation and BRICS Partnerships for Social, Economic and Environmental Development.

10. Flagship priorities of the Brazilian Chairship includes the following:

- a. Global Health Cooperation
- b. Trade, Investment, and Finance
- c. Climate Change
- d. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Governance
- e. Promote a global reform of the multilateral peace system and security architecture
- f. Institutional Development

11. Brazil has planned close to 120 events during the course of its Chairship in 2025.

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