

2. Brics- International Relation

As India takes over BRICS 2026 presidency, Jaishankar says focus on 'humanity-first' strategy to promote global welfare India officially assumed its fourth BRICS presidency on January 1, 2026, succeeding Brazil, with a focus on "Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability" to champion the Global South. Key priorities include promoting digital public infrastructure (like UPI), reforming global governance, and operationalizing the newly introduced "BRICS Partner Countries" framework.

1. India's BRICS Presidency 2026

Launch and Assumption

Formal Launch- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar formally launched the logo, theme, and official website in New Delhi.

Timeline- India officially assumed the Chairship from Brazil on January 1, 2026.

Tenure History- This marks India's fourth term as the BRICS President. Previous terms were held in 2012, 2016, and 2021.

Logo, Theme, and Digital Platform

Logo Design

1. Inspiration- The design is inspired by the lotus flower, India's national symbol.
2. Symbolism- The central portion depicts the 'Namaste' gesture, symbolizing respect and unity.
3. Unity- The petals represent the five founding members (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa).

Theme

Focus- Strengthening capacities, promoting innovation, and ensuring sustainable development.

Tagline- "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."

Website- The newly launched BRICS India 2026 website serves as a common digital platform.

Purpose- To offer transparency, engage stakeholders, and disseminate information regarding meetings, initiatives, and outcomes.

India's Key Priorities

Resilience- Strengthening cooperation in critical sectors such as agriculture, health, disaster risk reduction, energy, and supply chains.

Innovation- Leveraging the role of startups, MSMEs, and emerging technologies to solve development challenges.

Cooperation and Sustainability

- a. Emphasizing climate action and clean energy.
- b. Ensuring efforts are fair and sensitive to the specific national circumstances of member states.

Significance of India's Presidency

Continuity with Reform Agenda- India will prioritize key issues like AI governance, climate finance, health cooperation, and sustainable development.

Voice of the Global South- India aims to position BRICS as a platform for inclusive growth and equitable global governance. It ensures the concerns of emerging economies are addressed globally.

Strategic Balancing Role

- a. India is uniquely positioned to bridge diverse and conflicting interests among members.
- b. It acts as a mediator to foster cooperation amidst global geopolitical polarization.

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)- India plans to promote DPIs (e.g., UPI) as a scalable development model for the Global South.

2. History of BRICS Presidencies

Year	Presidency	Theme
2026	India	"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"
2025	Brazil	"Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance"
2024	Russia	"Strengthening Multilateralism for Fair Global Development and Security"
2023	South Africa	"BRICS and Africa- Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development, and Inclusive Multilateralism"
2022	China	"Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development"
2021	India	"BRICS @ 15- Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus"

3. About BRICS- The Institution

Genesis and Evolution

Origin- The term "BRIC" was coined by British economist Jim O'Neill in 2001.

2006- First meeting held at the Foreign Ministers level on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

2009- First Summit of Heads of State held in Ekaterinburg, Russia.

2010- Expansion to BRICS with the inclusion of South Africa.

2023- The Johannesburg Summit led to the second expansion, admitting six new members.

Aim and Structure

Primary Aim- To reform global governance and offer alternatives to Western-dominated institutions like the IMF, World Bank, and UNSC.

Nature- An informal coordination mechanism with a rotating presidency.

Three Pillars of Cooperation

1. Political and Security Cooperation
2. Economic and Financial Cooperation
3. People-to-People (P2P) or Civil Society

Membership Status

Founding Members (BRICS)- Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa.

New Members (BRICS+)- Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

BRICS Partner Countries (Introduced at Kazan Summit 2024)- Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Malaysia, Thailand, Cuba, Vietnam, Uganda, Uzbekistan.

Global Interest- Over 30 countries expressed interest in joining as members or partners throughout 2024.

Engagement Modalities

BRICS Outreach (Started 2013)- Meetings between BRICS members and nations from the geographic region of the current presidency holder.

BRICS Plus (Started 2017)- Meetings between BRICS members and invited non-regional countries.

4. BRICS- Global Stature and Data

Economic Power

Global GDP- Share of global GDP (PPP) increased to approximately 39% in 2023.

Trade- Accounts for 24% of total global trade.

Growth- IMF projected positive growth for all members in 2024 (ranging from 1.1% to 6.1%).

Demographics and Geography

Population- Represents 48.5% of the world's population.

Area- Covers approximately 36% of the world's territorial area.

Resource Control

Rare Earth Minerals- Holds 72% of global reserves.

Energy

- a. 43.6% of global oil production.
- b. 36% of the world's natural gas.
- c. 78.2% of global mineral coal production.

5. Key Initiatives and Institutions

New Development Bank (NDB)

Founding- Established at the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza (2014).

Purpose- Mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects.

Capital- Authorized capital of \$100 billion; Paid-in capital of \$52.7 billion.

Governance

1. Headquarters- Shanghai (Offices in São Paulo and Gujarat).
2. Managed by a Board of Governors (Finance Ministries).
3. Rotating Presidency among members.

Membership Expansion

1. Original- BRICS 5.
2. Added (2021-2023)- Bangladesh, UAE, Egypt.
3. In Process- Uruguay and Algeria.
4. Note- Joining BRICS does not automatically grant NDB membership.

Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)

Founding- Established at the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza (2014).

Purpose- A \$100 billion emergency fund to support members during balance of payments crises.

Status- Fully operational and available upon member request.

BRICS Pay

Concept- A proposed payment system to facilitate trade using local currencies.

Goal- To bypass traditional systems like SWIFT and reduce dependency on the US Dollar.

Source- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-brics-2026-logo-theme-unveiled-jaishankar-humanity-first-people-centric-strategy/article70505078.ece>