

BRICS

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | International Organisations

Why in News?

India, as Chair of BRICS in 2026, issued a Chair's summary noting "deep concern" over the ongoing conflict in West Asia, since consensus among members was elusive.

- **BRICS** - It is a major intergovernmental organisation designed to foster economic, political, and strategic cooperation among emerging markets.
- It stands for the emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- **Coined by** - Jim O'Neill (Goldman Sachs) in 2001 to describe major emerging economies.
- **Formalisation** - 1st BRIC Foreign Ministers' meeting, UNGA sidelines, New York (2006), became BRICS when South Africa joined in 2010.
- **Membership**
- **Full Members (11)** - Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Indonesia (2025).
- **Partner Countries (10)** - Newly created category at Kazan Summit (2024), Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vietnam.

BRICS Expands Footprint in the Global South

G7 and BRICS member countries (as of Jan. 13, 2025)



- **Chairmanship** - The presidency rotates among members for a term that lasts for one year, beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31.
- **Responsibilities** - The chair country sets the theme and annual priorities, hosts the annual BRICS summit, and coordinates meetings across the political, economic, and cultural pillars.
- **Core Pillars/ Areas of Cooperation**
 - Political & Security;
 - Economic & Financial; and
 - Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges.
- **Institutional Framework**
- **New Development Bank (NDB)** - Established 2014 Fortaleza Summit; HQ in Shanghai; equal voting shares among founding members; open to all UN members.
- **Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)** - Provides short-term liquidity support to BRICS members during Balance of Payments (BoP) crises through currency swaps.
- **Secretariat** - BRICS has *no permanent secretariat* or formal charter; it operates via annual rotating chairmanship.

Role of BRICS

- **Counterbalance to Western institutions** - Challenges the dominance of G7, IMF, World Bank.

G7 (Group of Seven) - Group of Seven advanced economies - Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, United States, formed in 1975.

- **United Nations Security Council (UNSC) & multilateral reform** - Pushes for

democratisation and greater Global South representation.

- **Financial architecture** - NDB for development finance; CRA for liquidity support in crises.
- **De-dollarisation** - Encourages trade in local currencies to reduce US dollar dependence.
- **Political & security cooperation** - Counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, conflict mediation.
- **South-South cooperation** - Platform for Global South voices in trade, technology, and development.
- **Significance** - The grouping now represents nearly *half the world's population (49.5%), 40% of global GDP, and 26% of world trade.*

Reference

[Indian Express | BRICS](#)

