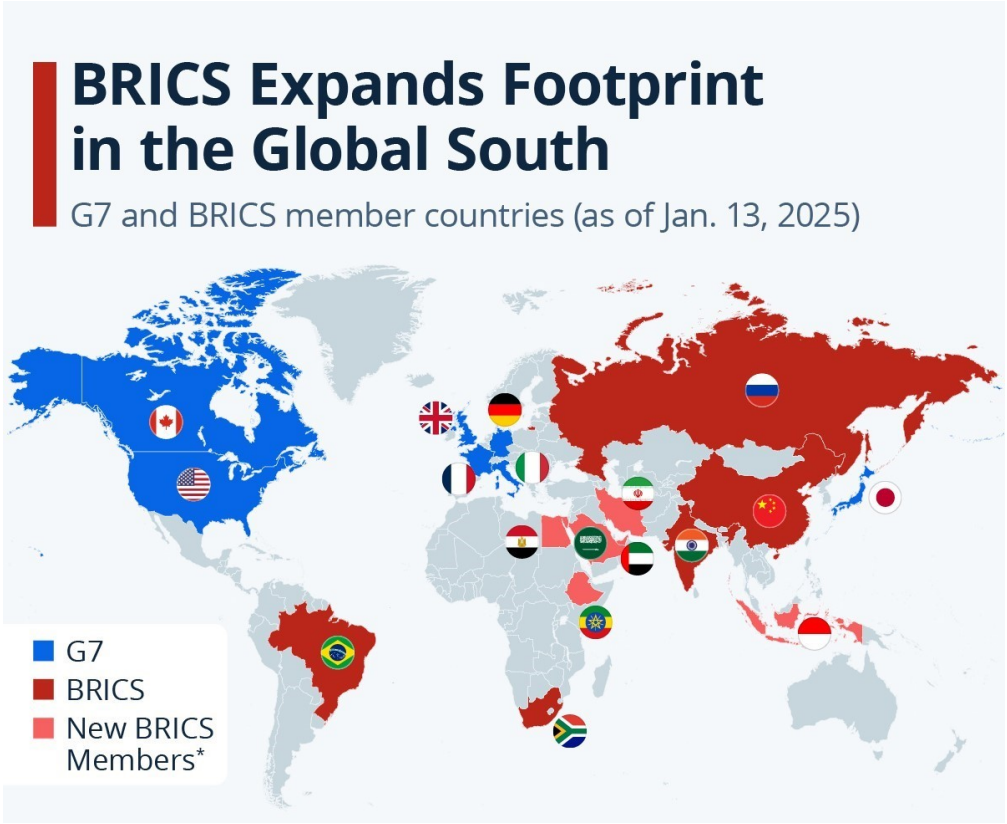
BRICS

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.



- **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

