

India and BRICS

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India and BRICS: A Partnership for Sustainable and Inclusive Development

Context

The **recent BRICS Summit held in Brazil** witnessed the adoption of the **BRICS Leaders' Declaration**, which reflected many of **India's strategic and diplomatic concerns**. With the inclusion of new member nations in 2024 and growing focus on issues like **terrorism, UNSC reforms, artificial intelligence, climate finance**, and **global governance**, BRICS continues to position itself as a significant voice of the **Global South**. This summit is particularly relevant for UPSC as it demonstrates **India's multilateral diplomacy**, focus on **reform of global institutions**, and **leadership in sustainable development and digital governance**.

Theme of the Summit

- **"Strengthening Global South Cooperation for a More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance"**
 - The theme underscores the **collective push by emerging economies** to reshape global decision-making and build **inclusive international systems**
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Key Focus Areas of the Summit

- **Global governance and institutional reform**
- **Climate change and sustainable development finance**
- **Artificial intelligence and digital governance**

- **Public health and disease elimination**
 - **Counterterrorism cooperation**
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Major Initiatives and Agreements

- Adoption of the **BRICS Leaders' Framework Declaration on Climate Finance** to enhance funding access for sustainable development projects
 - Release of the **BRICS Leaders' Statement on Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence**
 - Launch of the **BRICS Partnership for the Elimination of Socially Determined Diseases**, focusing on health inequality
 - Announcement of a **new guarantee fund** to promote local currency trade, reduce external borrowing costs, and mitigate currency risks
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India's Concerns Reflected

- Called for **zero tolerance towards terrorism**
 - Rejected **double standards** in counterterrorism efforts
 - Condemned the **terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir**
 - Emphasised the need for **comprehensive reforms in global governance institutions** including the **UNSC**
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Highlights from the Declaration

- **Pahalgam Attack Condemned:** Clear stance against terrorism with a specific reference to the **Jammu and Kashmir attack**
- **Support for Palestine:** The **Gaza Strip** was described as an **inseparable part of the**

Occupied Palestinian Territory

- **Violation of International Law:** The **Israel-U.S. attack on Iran** was termed a **violation of international law and the UN Charter**
 - **UNSC Reform:** Support from **Russia and China** for **India and Brazil's aspirations** to play a **larger role in the UN Security Council**
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BRICS - An Overview

- **Members:** Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa
- **Formation:** Established as **BRIC in 2006**, **South Africa joined in 2010**
- **New Members (2024):** **Indonesia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE**
- **Objectives:**
 - Promote **peace, development, and economic cooperation**
 - Strengthen the collective voice of the **Global South**
- **Focus Areas:**
 - **Trade and investment**
 - **Multilateral reform** (UN, IMF, World Bank)
 - **Digital economy and AI governance**
 - **Sustainable development**
- **Institutions:**
 - **New Development Bank (NDB)** - Also known as the **BRICS Bank**, finances **infrastructure and sustainable projects**

- **Global Role:**

- Represents over **40 percent of the world's population**
- Contributes to approximately **25 percent of global GDP**

Potential Benefits for India

- The **guarantee fund and shift to local currency trade** can help reduce **borrowing costs** and **currency risks** for **Indian exporters and infrastructure developers**
- **AI governance cooperation** under BRICS aligns with India's push in **software, artificial intelligence, and digital services**
- The declaration promotes **wider global participation**, strengthening India's stand on **inclusive global governance**
- These developments can attract **foreign investment** and support the goals of **Atmanirbhar Bharat**

