



DAILY EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

TOPIC

**HARNESSING BRICS 'POWER' TO
EMPOWER THE WORLD**

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Context

- **New Delhi** is set to host the **18th BRICS Leaders' Summit** on September 12-13, during **India's BRICS presidency** is guided by the theme 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'.

About BRICS

- **BRICS** is a major platform of **emerging economies** and the **Global South**, initially comprising **Brazil, Russia, India and China**, with **South Africa joining in 2010**.
- Its expansion has substantially increased its demographic, economic and geopolitical weight.
- BRICS seeks greater cooperation in areas such as **economy, finance, trade, technology, development and global governance**, while advocating a more representative and multipolar international order.

Historical Evolution: From BRIC to BRICS+

- BRICS has evolved from an economic grouping into a broader platform for **strategic autonomy, development cooperation and reform of global governance**.
 - ♦ **2001:** Economist **Jim O'Neill** coined the term **BRIC** for Brazil, Russia, India and China.
 - ♦ **2009:** First BRIC Summit was held at **Yekaterinburg, Russia**.
 - ♦ **2010:** South Africa joined, creating **BRICS**.
 - ♦ **2024:** **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and UAE** became full members.
 - ♦ **2025:** **Indonesia** joined BRICS as a full member, further widening its Global South representation.
 - Also, Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Vietnam joined BRICS as Partner Countries.
 - ♦ **2026:** India assumes the chairship and hosts the **18th Summit in New Delhi**.

BRICS in 2026 and Future: 'POWER' Framework

- China's support for India's presidency can be viewed through the **five-letter framework of POWER**, which captures the potential future trajectory of greater BRICS cooperation.
- **P – Principle:** BRICS should uphold the **UN Charter, sovereign equality, non-interference and peaceful settlement of disputes**.
 - ♦ It can reinforce a rules-based and multipolar international order amid geopolitical conflicts, hegemonism and power politics.
 - ♦ China's vision of a **community with a shared future for humanity**, along with initiatives such as the **Global Security Initiative and Global Governance Initiative**, reflects its approach to common global challenges.
- **O – Openness:** Sluggish global recovery, protectionism, tariff barriers, decoupling and supply-chain disruptions threaten economic globalisation.
 - ♦ BRICS should therefore support the **multilateral trading system centred on the WTO**, including principles such as **Most-Favoured-Nation treatment**.
 - ♦ Greater cooperation in **energy, minerals, infrastructure and industrial and supply chains** can promote resilient and open globalisation.
- **W – Win-Win:** Development needs to remain at the centre of BRICS cooperation.
 - ♦ Members should accelerate the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**, contribute to the **post-2030 global development agenda**, and ensure equal participation of developing countries.
 - ♦ Economic cooperation can deepen through macroeconomic-policy coordination, trade and investment facilitation, local-currency transactions, cross-border payments and stronger financial safety nets.
 - ♦ Cooperation is vital for **energy, food security and resilient agriculture**.
- **E – Engine:** BRICS countries represent **nearly half of the world's population, around 30% of global economic output and one-fifth of global trade**.
 - ♦ They possess major natural resources, manufacturing capabilities and large markets.

- ♦ International-agency projections cited in the Chinese perspective indicate that **greater BRICS growth could be nearly three times faster than the G7 by 2028**.
- ♦ BRICS can become an engine of growth through the digital economy, smart manufacturing, new industrialisation, science and technology, AI, health, agriculture and education.
- ♦ China has established the **China-BRICS AI Development and Cooperation Center** and **China-BRICS New Quality Productive Forces Research Center**.
- **R – Responsibility:** BRICS carries a responsibility to promote **peace, development, fairness and Global South solidarity**.
 - ♦ India and China are to hold the BRICS presidency in succession in **2026 and 2027**, making constructive coordination between them important for continuity and stability.

Significance for India and the World

- BRICS offers India a platform to:
 - ♦ Strengthen its **Global South leadership**;
 - ♦ Push **UN, IMF, World Bank and WTO reforms**;
 - ♦ Expand economic and technological partnerships;
 - ♦ Diversify trade and financial mechanisms;
 - ♦ Advance strategic autonomy and **multipolarity**.
- The improvement in **China–India relations**, including resumed direct flights and reopening of border trade after a six-year suspension, could facilitate smoother BRICS cooperation.

Related Issues & Concerns

- BRICS faces internal geopolitical differences, divergent economic interests, India-China strategic competition, Russia-related tensions, protectionism, institutional limitations and questions over its expanding membership.
- Greater financial cooperation requires interoperability, transparency and macroeconomic stability.

Conclusion & Way Forward

- India should pursue **consensus-based, inclusive and issue-oriented BRICS diplomacy**.
- Priorities should include WTO reform, development finance, local-currency payments, resilient supply chains, food-energy security, AI governance, climate action and stronger people-to-people exchanges.
- The 2026 Summit can transform BRICS from a grouping representing emerging economic weight into a **‘POWER’ for principled, open, mutually beneficial, growth-oriented and responsible global cooperation**.
- Its success will depend not merely on expansion, but on converting collective weight into **effective institutions, practical outcomes and a stronger voice for the Global South**.

Source: TH

Daily Mains Practice Question

[Q] Examine how the Principle, Openness, Win-Win cooperation, Engine of growth and Responsibility (POWER) framework can enable BRICS to empower the Global South and strengthen global governance.

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