

BLOGS

India Officially Becomes BRICS Chair in 2026

Aditya Aryan · 30 Jan 2026

From **1 January 2026**, India officially assumed the chairmanship of the **BRICS group**, the coalition of major emerging economies originally formed by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. India's assumption of the BRICS Chairmanship marks a significant moment in its foreign policy and global economic engagement.

What Is BRICS?

BRICS is an **intergovernmental organisation** consisting of key emerging economies. Beyond the original five members, the group has expanded to include **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the UAE, and Indonesia** as full members, making it a larger platform for cooperation among the Global South.

BRICS aims to enhance cooperation on economic growth, trade, technology, and sustainable development. It also provides a platform for emerging economies to boost their influence in global governance.

The Chairmanship Handover

India took over the **BRICS chairship from Brazil**. The formal handover took place during a meeting of BRICS Sherpas (senior diplomatic representatives of member states) in **December 2025**. India's Sherpa, Ambassador Sudhakar Dalela, received the traditional **gavel symbolising the chairmanship** from Brazil's Sherpa, Ambassador Mauricio Lyrio, marking the official start of India's leadership for the year 2026.

India's Leadership Role in 2026

India's BRICS Chairship for 2026 coincides with the **20th anniversary of the BRICS grouping**. The theme announced for this year is **"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."** This theme reflects India's emphasis on inclusive growth, technological collaboration, sustainable development, and cooperation among member countries.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar launched the official **BRICS 2026 logo and website** in January 2026 as part of India's preparations under its chairmanship. The logo symbolises unity and shared purpose among BRICS countries, and the website serves as a hub for information on upcoming meetings and initiatives throughout the year.

What India's Chairship Means

1. **Agenda Setting:** As Chair, India will set the BRICS agenda for the year, including ministerial meetings, working groups, and the 18th BRICS Summit, scheduled to be hosted in India in 2026.
2. **Global South Focus:** India is expected to highlight issues of concern to developing and emerging economies, including equitable growth, sustainable development, technological innovation, and reforms in multilateral institutions.
3. **Enhanced Collaboration:** India's leadership comes at a time when BRICS represents a large portion of the world's population, global GDP, and trade, making it an influential platform for global cooperation.

Why This Matters

- **International Relations:** BRICS chairmanship illustrates India's role in global diplomacy and multilateral cooperation.
- **Global Governance:** It shows how emerging economies work together to influence international economic and political norms.
- **Economics and Policy:** India's focus on innovation and sustainability underlines priorities in global economic governance, relevant for questions on international economics and policy.
- **Legal and Constitutional Context:** Leadership in such forums involves international treaty commitments and diplomacy-related constitutional powers.