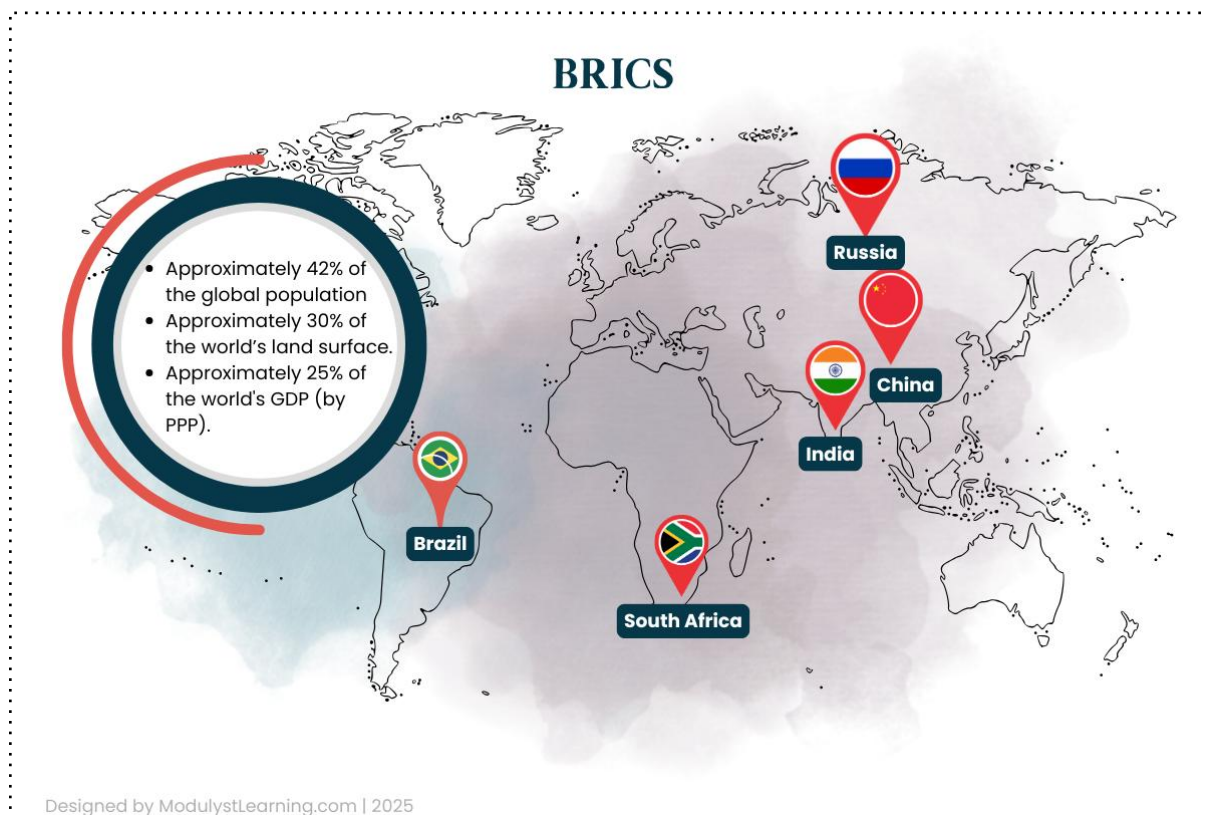


BRICS



1. BRICS stands for Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa — a group of five significant emerging economies. These nations are known for their impact on regional and global issues, representing:
 - Approximately 42% of the global population
 - Approximately 30% of the world's land surface.
 - Approximately 25% of the world's GDP (by PPP).
2. Regarding origin and evolution, the term BRIC was first coined in 2001 by Jim O'Neill, an economist at Goldman Sachs. The first formal meeting of BRIC foreign ministers, including in New York at the UNGA sidelines, took place in 2006. In 2009, the initial BRIC Summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia. When South Africa joined in 2010, the group expanded to BRICS. Significant developments include the establishment of the New Development Bank (NDB) and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) in 2014. In 2023, BRICS

announced its expansion by inviting six new countries, including Iran, the UAE, and Egypt.

3. The objectives pertain to –

- Foster peace, growth, and collaboration.
- Reform global governance organizations, such as the UN, the IMF, and the World Bank.
- Promote stronger multilateralism and deepen cooperation among South countries.
- Develop economic and financial alternatives to systems dominated by the West.
- It encourages sustainable development and inclusive growth.

4. Institutional Mechanism refers to –

- Annual Summits have been held since 2009, featuring rotating presidencies among members. The main results are the Summit Declarations.
- The New Development Bank (NDB), founded in 2014, is headquartered in Shanghai. It concentrates on infrastructure and sustainable projects within BRICS and other developing nations. Its members encompass BRICS nations along with Bangladesh, Egypt, the UAE, and Uruguay.
- The Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) is a \$100 billion liquidity support pool designed to reduce reliance on the IMF.
- The BRICS Business Council bolsters links in trade, investment, and innovation.
- The BRICS Think Tanks Council facilitates policy discussions and intellectual exchanges through the BTTC.

5. The Key areas of cooperation –

- The economic cooperation, trade, investment, and development financing
- The political coordination includes UN reforms, multipolarity, sovereignty, and non-intervention

- The security consists of anti – terrorism, cybersecurity, and counter-narcotics
 - The Science and Technology includes joint R&D, innovation
 - Health, particularly during COVID-19, e.g. vaccine sharing
 - Climate Change supports the CBDR–RC principle, such as Common but Differentiated Responsibilities
6. The 15th BRICS Summit, held in Johannesburg in 2023, announced a historic expansion of the group. Six countries were initially invited to join, starting January 1, 2024: Argentina (which later withdrew), Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. This move is perceived as a shift toward “BRICS+” and increasing Global South solidarity
7. The significance of BRICS includes –

The economic powerhouse faces significant challenges from the G7. A strategic balance is being struck that promotes multipolarity and challenges Western dominance. Additionally, there is an emphasis on development that encourages fair growth and helps reduce poverty. Furthermore, alternative institutions, such as the NDB, are being contrasted with the IMF and World Bank.

A voice from the Global South calls for a more equitable international order.

8. The included challenges are –
- Internal differences include India–China border tensions and economic disparities.
 - Asymmetry in power encompasses China’s significant influence and dominance.
 - There is a lack of institutional cohesion, unlike in the EU or NATO.
 - Diverse political systems are difficult to align with the agendas.

9. The recent developments for 2024–25 are centered around –

- Dedollarisation boosts the adoption of national currencies.
- The idea of a common BRICS currency has been discussed but not yet finalised.
- It improved collaboration in the digital and fintech fields.
- BRICS Space Collaboration and Climate Efforts
- Russia holds the presidency in 2024, focusing on a multipolar world and a peace agenda.



-XXXX-

Author: Darshita Neeraj
Senior Researcher,
Mudita Learning and Knowledge Private Limited
Email: info@muditabooks.com
Date of post: 04.07.2026