

BRICS SUMMIT & INDIA'S GLOBAL SOUTH LEADERSHIP



“Two-thirds of humanity still lack proper representation in global institutions built in the 20th century. Without the Global South, these institutions are like a mobile phone with a SIM card but no network” – PM Modi

Context:

- On **Saturday, 6 July, 2025** the leaders of the **11 largest emerging economies** signed the **Joint Declaration of the 17th BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro**.
- Entitled "**Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance**", the document seals the group's commitment to strengthening multilateralism, defending international law, and striving for a more equitable global order.

"Our confidence in the diversity and multipolarity of the BRICS Group is our greatest strength": PM Modi

1. What is BRICS?

- **BRICS is an acronym** that refers to a group of five major emerging national economies: **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**.
- The term **BRIC** was **coined by British economist Jim O'Neill in 2001** to represent emerging economies of **Brazil, Russia, India, and China**.
- **1st BRIC Summit** was **held in Russia in 2009** while BRIC became **BRICS** with the **inclusion of South Africa in 2010**.
- The **group began holding annual meetings** starting in **2006** on the sidelines of the **UN General Assembly (UNGA)**, and **its success led to formal summits**.

What is **BRICS**?

BRICS: Acronym for Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

Origin: Coined in 2001 by economist Jim O'Neill (initially BRIC, without South Africa).

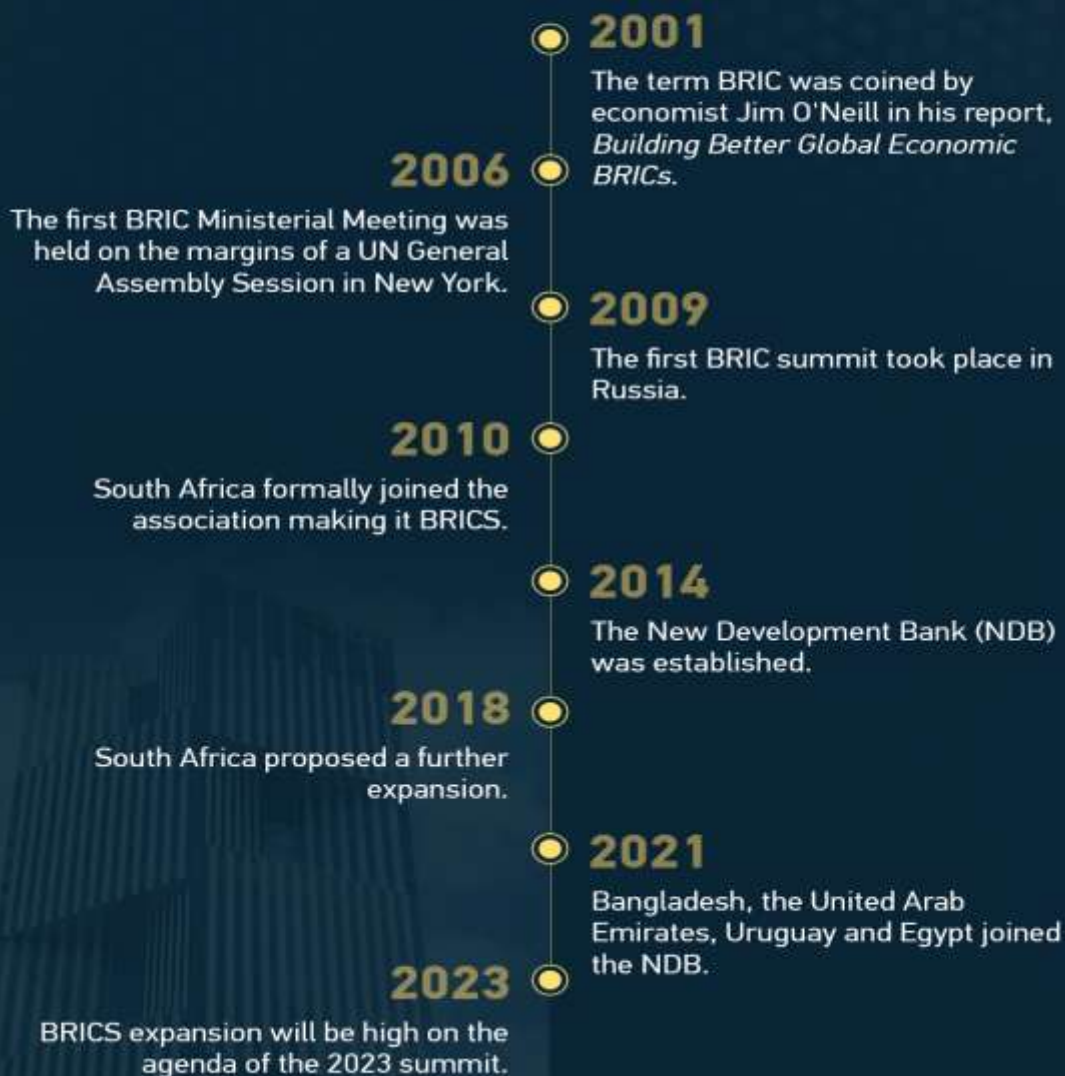
Objective: Foster economic cooperation among member nations and challenge Western economic dominance.

Expansion: South Africa joined in 2010; Saudi Arabia, Iran, Ethiopia, UAE, and Egypt joined in 2024.

Economic Focus: Predicted to dominate global growth by 2050, offering foreign investment opportunities and strong returns for institutional investors.

THE ORIGIN OF THE BRICS

"BRICS" is an acronym for the emerging economies of

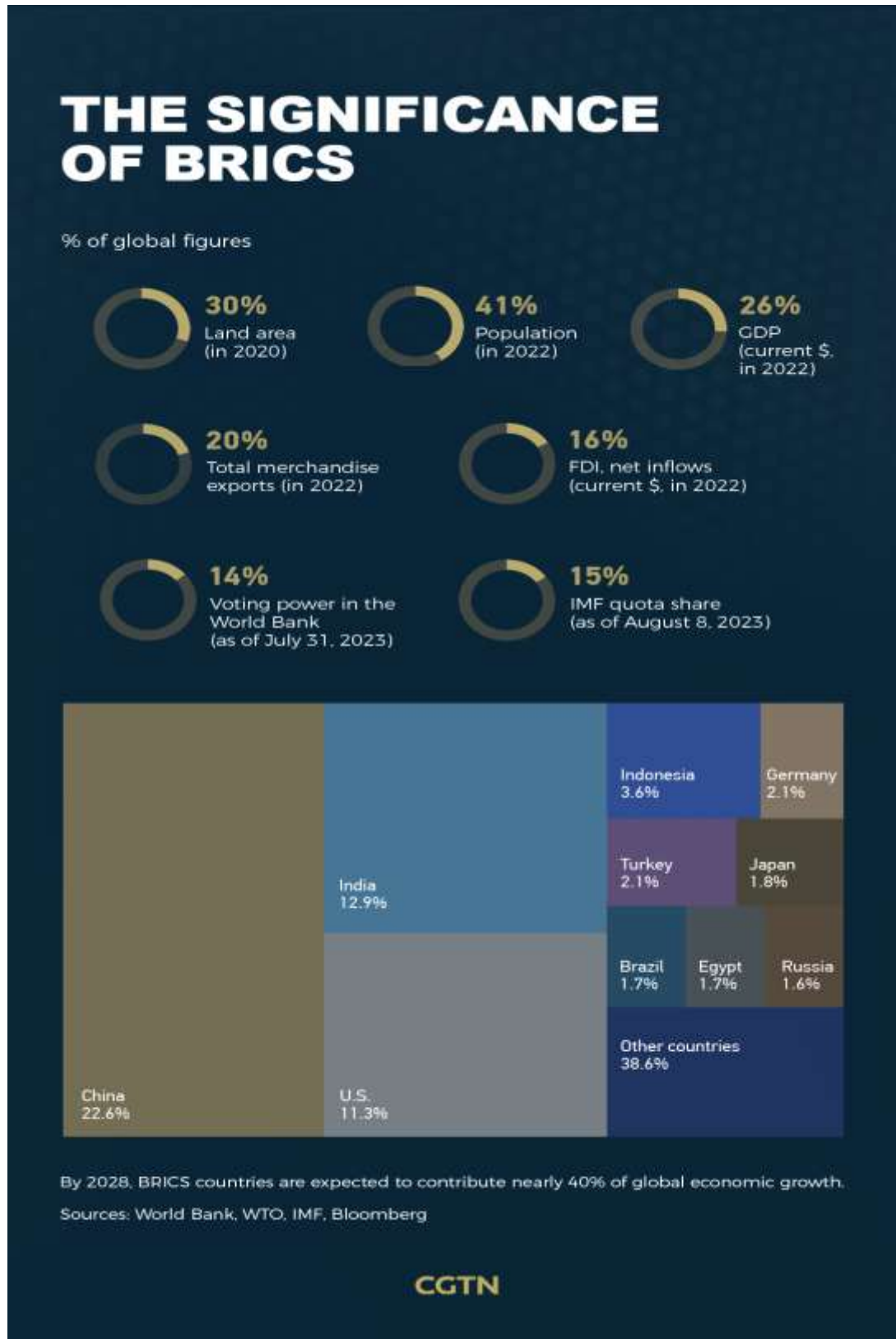


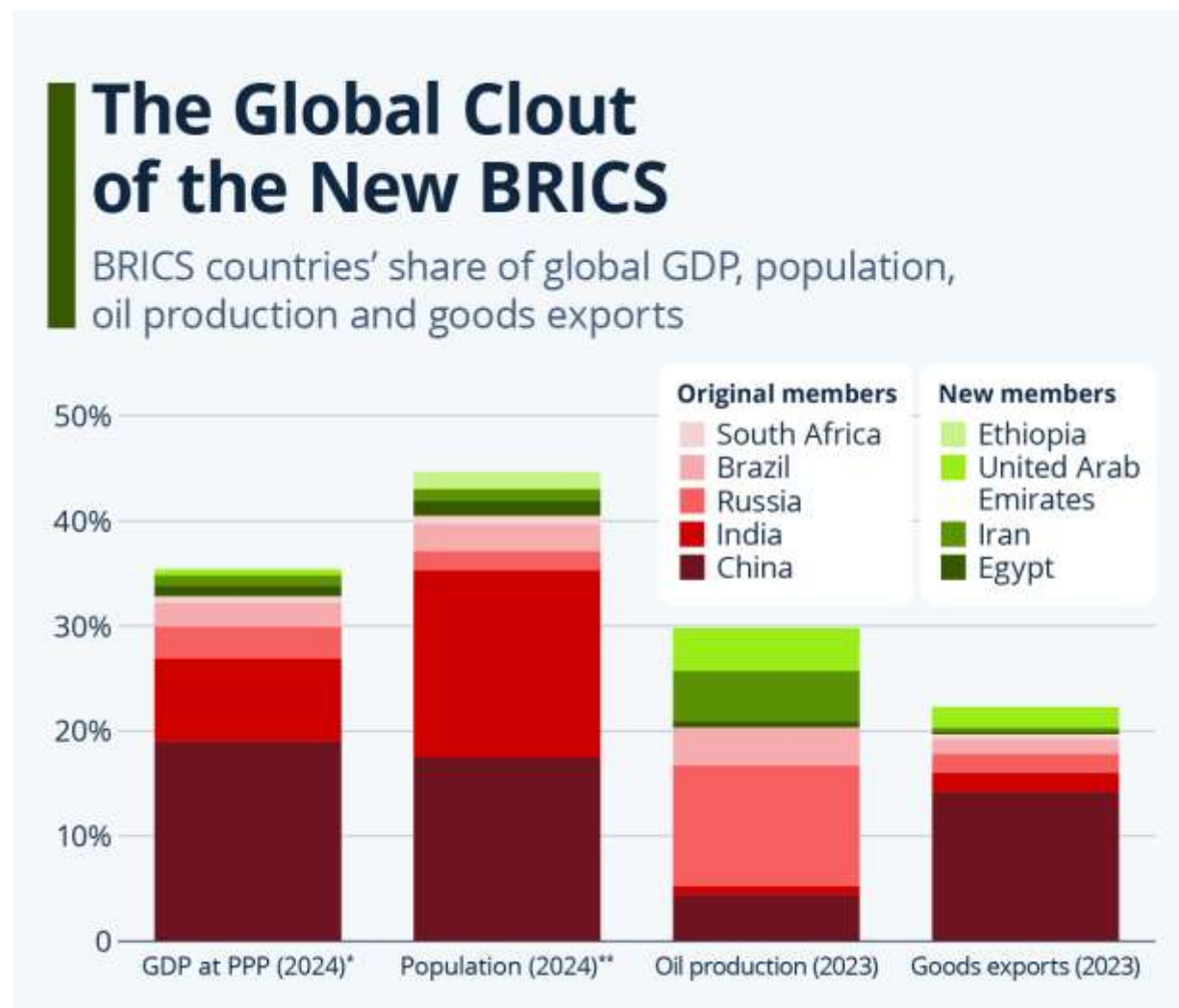
2. Enlist members of BRICS?

Founding members	BRICS Plus members	Partner States	Applied for membership
 Brazil (2009)	 Egypt (2024)	 Belarus (2023)	 Saudi Arabia (2023) (Invited in 2024, decision pending)
 Russia (2009)	 Ethiopia (2024)	 Bolivia (2023)	 Malaysia (2024) (Under consideration)
 India (2009)	 Iran (2024)	 Cuba (2023)	 Azerbaijan (2024) (Under consideration)
 China (2009)	 United Arab Emirates (2024)	 Kazakhstan (2024)	 Turkey (2024) (Under consideration)
 South Africa (2010)	 Indonesia (2025)	 Malaysia (2024)	 Pakistan (2024) (Under consideration)
		 Nigeria (2024)	 Bangladesh (2024) (Under consideration)
		 Thailand (2024)	 Sri Lanka (2024) (Under consideration)
		 Myanmar (2024)	 Myanmar (2024) (Under consideration)
		 Uzbekistan (2024)	 Senegal (2024) (Under consideration)
			 Venezuela (2024) (Under consideration)
			 Argentina (2023) (Invited in 2023, declined invitation)
			 Algeria (2022) (Application withdrawn)



3. What is the significance of BRICS?





4. What are the key outcomes of the 17th BRICS Summit?

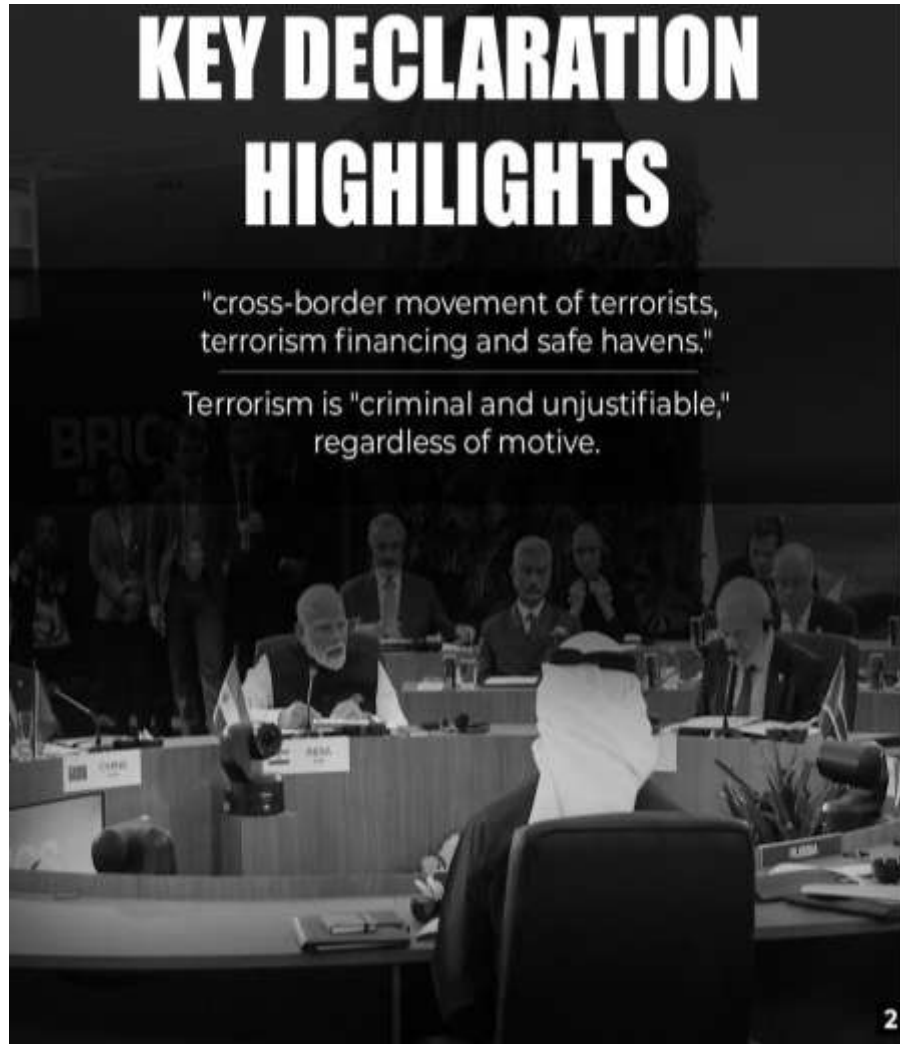
- At the 17th high-level leaders' meeting, BRICS adopted 126 commitments covering global governance, finance, health, artificial intelligence, climate change, and other strategic areas.

Key outcomes	Analysis
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the financial realm, the 11 countries emphasized the need to increase IMF quotas and World Bank shareholding of emerging and

	developing countries.
Opposition to unilateral sanctions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BRICS declaration strongly condemned the imposition of “unilateral coercive measures”, such as economic sanctions, arguing that they violate international law and harm human rights. • BRICS members Iran and Russia have been targets of longstanding US sanctions. • With the global economy in turmoil over Trump’s trade policies, BRICS voiced concern over his tariffs regime. • The BRICS bloc, a major force in the global economy, is projected to outpace global average gross domestic product growth in 2025. • According to April data from the International Monetary Fund, the economies of BRICS countries will collectively grow at 3.4 percent compared with a 2.8 percent global average. • The group warned that protectionist trade policies risk reducing global trade, disrupting supply chains and heightening economic uncertainty, undermining the world’s development goals.
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BRICS committed to actively supporting efforts to strengthen the global health architecture by promoting equality, inclusion, transparency, and responsiveness. • This ensures that no country is left behind in achieving the health-related Sustainable Development Goals. • Another milestone is the launch of the Partnership for the Elimination of Socially Determined Diseases, which promotes health equity and demonstrates the BRICS' commitment to

	addressing the root causes of health disparities , such as poverty and social exclusion .
Artificial Intelligence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the first time, artificial intelligence (AI) governance plays a prominent role in the BRICS agenda, offering a shared Global South perspective on this innovative technology and bringing economic and developmental aspects to the forefront of the discussion. • In their joint declaration, the countries recognize that AI presents a unique opportunity to drive progress toward a more prosperous future. • However, to achieve this, global AI governance must mitigate potential risks and meet the needs of all countries, including those in the Global South.
Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In preparation for COP30 also under Brazilian leadership in November the countries recognized the Tropical Forest Forever Fund (TFFF) as an innovative mechanism to mobilize long-term financing for tropical forest conservation, encouraging ambitious donations from potential partners.
Promoting Peace, Security, and International Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the pillars of the declaration is its commitment to addressing ongoing conflicts in various parts of the world, and the current polarization and fragmentation of the international order. • The leaders express concern over the current trend of sharply rising global military expenditures at the expense of adequate financing

for the development of emerging countries.



- They advocate for a **multilateral approach that respects diverse national perspectives** and positions on crucial global issues, including **sustainable development, hunger and poverty eradication, and global climate action.**
- They also express deep concern over attempts to link **security with the climate agenda.**

**Pahalgam
attack
condemned**

BRICS CONDEMNS PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

**BRICS UNITED
AGAINST PAHALGAM TERROR**

BRICS Leaders Strongly Condemn
Pahalgam Terror Attack.

Reaffirm Commitment to Countering
Terrorism in All Forms.



ZERO TOLERANCE & NO DOUBLE STANDARDS

Call for ensuring "zero tolerance" for terrorism.

Reject "double standards" in countering terror.

Terrorism should NOT be linked with any religion, nationality, civilisation, or ethnic group.

All involved in terrorist activities and their support must be held accountable.



BRICS COUNTER-TERRORISM EFFORTS

BRICS Leaders welcome the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Working Group (CTWG).

Highlighting the five Subgroups, BRICS Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Action Plan, and CTWG position paper.

Commitment to strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation among member nations.



5. Enlist the challenges faced by BRICS?

Issues	About
BRICS and inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The growth process in BRICS countries in the recent decades has witnessed increasing income and asset inequality within the countries (except in Brazil, where it has shown a decline). • The benefit of economic growth has been concentrated among households at high income levels. • Between early 1990s and late 2000s, in China, India, Russia and South Africa, the increase in real household income was concentrated in the top 20 percent of households.
Trump tariffs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trump's statements show an aggressive attitude towards the BRICS countries and their efforts to create a multipolar world order. • In the finance sector in particular, many companies face the decision of whether to give up access to the US market in favor of the Iranian market. • Trump's threats of high tariffs underline the US determination to defend economic supremacy and aim at forcing other countries to take a clear stand on these conflicts.
Russia Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russia uses the BRICS platform to mobilize international support and circumvent Western sanctions. • President Vladimir Putin regularly emphasizes the importance of a multipolar world order and looks for allies within BRICS to counter Western influence - most recently with Iran with the comprehensive strategic partnership agreed in Moscow which includes military cooperation.

China factor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• China, on the other hand, is trying to give the impression that it is trying to mediate peace in the Ukraine conflict.• At the UN General Assembly, China promoted its “peace initiative” for Ukraine, with no reference to the territorial integrity of Ukraine or the withdrawal of Russian troops and is instead supported by Russia.• This shows that China is not neutral as a peace mediator.
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6. Why did President Vladimir Putin skip the 17th BRICS summit?

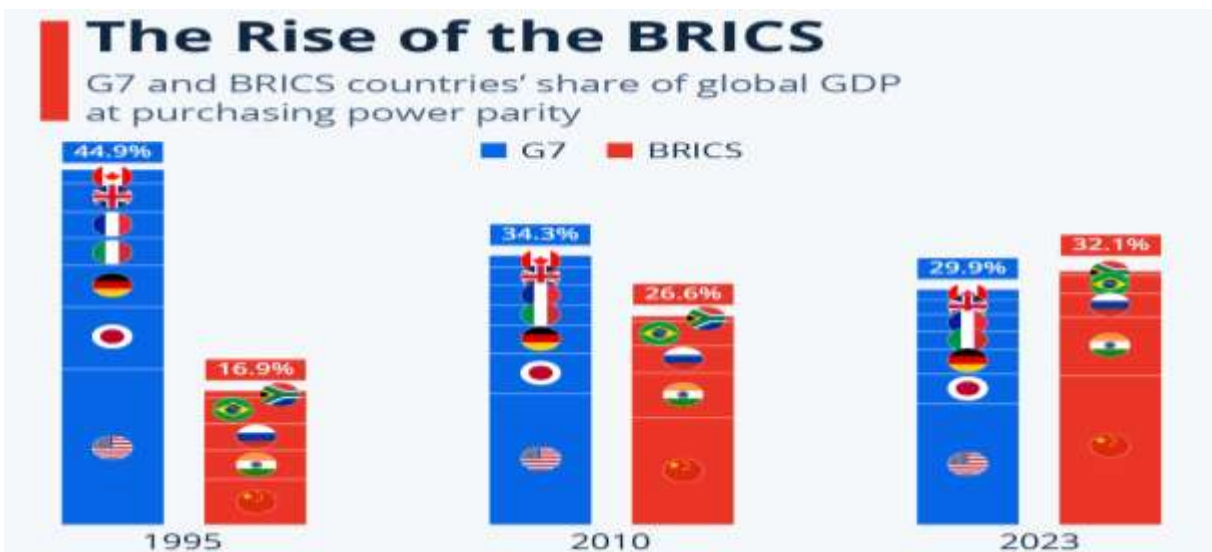
- **Russian President Vladimir Putin**, also a key member of the **BRICS core**, is participating virtually, **avoiding international travel due to an active International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant** related to **alleged war crimes in Ukraine**. While **Brazil** is a **signatory to the Rome Statute**, hosting Putin in person would have placed **Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva’s** government in a diplomatic quandary.
- Putin’s virtual participation follows the **precedent set at last year’s summit in South Africa**, where he also joined remotely.
- The **ICC accuses him** of overseeing the **abduction and deportation of Ukrainian children**, charges the **Kremlin has denied**.

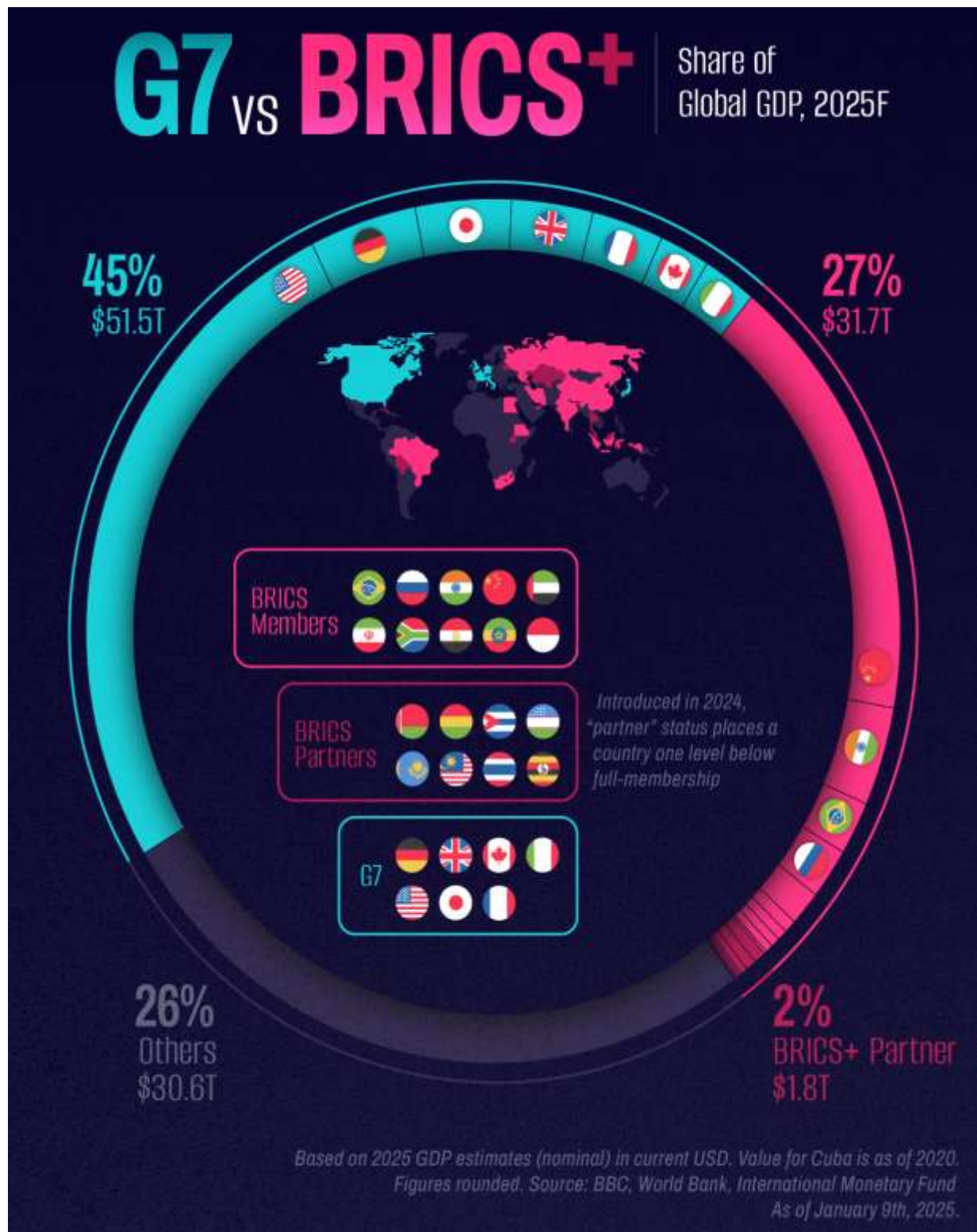
7. Why did China's Xi Jinping skip the 17th BRICS summit?

- This will be the **first time since** taking power in 2012 that **Xi Jinping** skipped the BRICS summit.
- **Beijing has given no official reason** for sending the premier, Li Qiang, to the summit, other than scheduling conflicts.

- **Jinping's absence from the two-day summit comes at a critical time** when BRICS (which owes its acronym to early members Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) will be **discussing ways to increase cooperation amid what member countries say are serious concerns over Western dominance.**
- Since 2024, **BRICS has expanded to include Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Indonesia and Iran.**
- According to CNN, **China is grappling with steep economic challenges amid ongoing trade frictions with the US,** with its leaders busy charting a course for the five years ahead of a key political conclave expected this year, and **Xi maybe prioritising domestic planning over international travel.**
- According to The Times, another possibility behind **Xi Jinping skipping the BRICS Summit** could be that the Chinese leader is **unhappy with Brazil first lady Rosangela Lula da Silva** after an extraordinary turn of events over a month ago in Beijing.
- During a **state visit to China, Brazilian President Lula and First Lady Janja** were reportedly **critical of the Chinese social media company, TikTok, whose algorithm, she claimed, favoured right-wing views and was potentially harmful to children.**

8. Enlist comparison between G7 and BRICS?



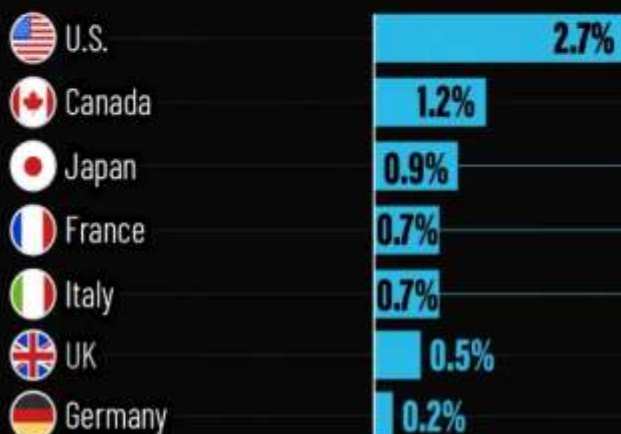


G7 & BRICS

Real GDP Growth
Forecasts 2024

G7

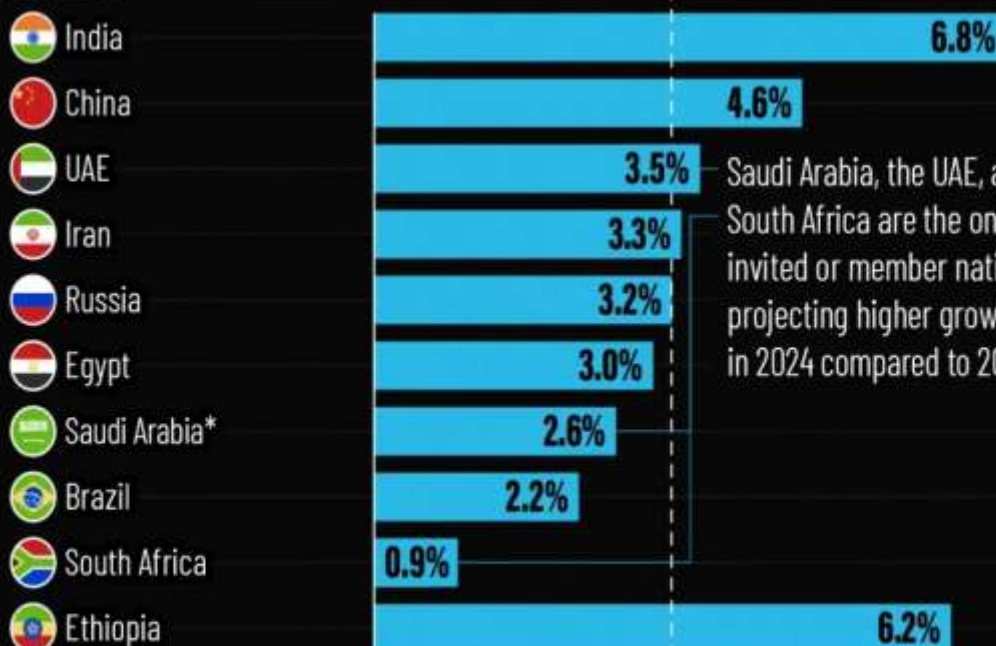
World  2024P **3.2%**



Japan's forecasted growth is an entire percentage point lower than in 2023.

France and Italy are the other two G7 nations with lower growth prospects in 2024 compared to 2023.

BRICS



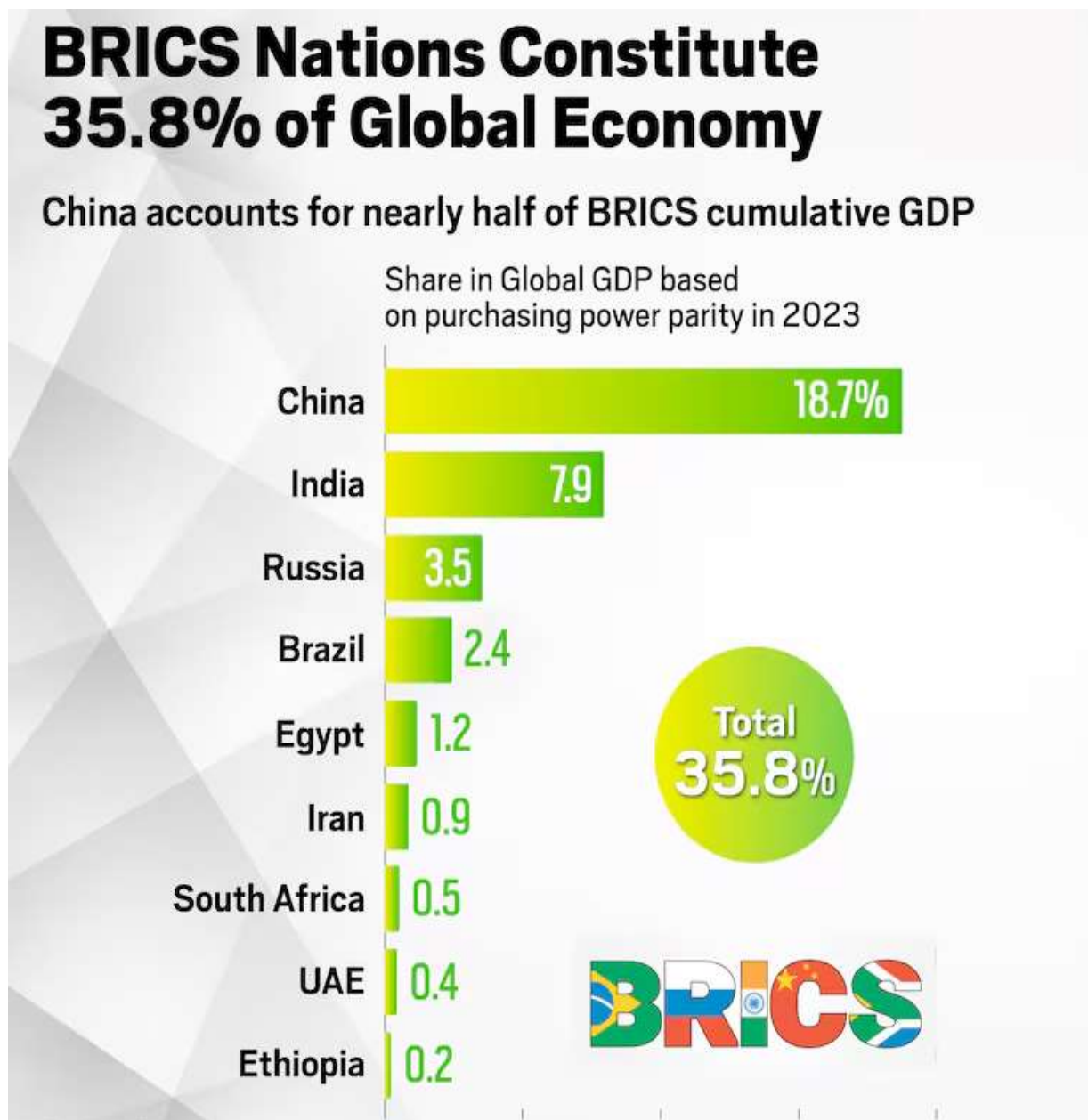
Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and South Africa are the only BRICS invited or member nations projecting higher growth in 2024 compared to 2023.

*Saudi Arabia has not yet accepted and is still considering the invitation to join BRICS

Source: IMF, World Economic Outlook, April 2024

9. How is BRICS's growth a concern for Trump?

- The **nine economies together constituted 35.8 percent** of the global GDP based on purchasing power parity in **2023**.
- **China alone accounted for 18.7 percent.**
- **India accounted for 7.9 percent, Russia 3.5 percent, Brazil 2.4 per cent, Egypt 1.2 percent and others accounted for two per cent, according to the International Monetary Fund.**

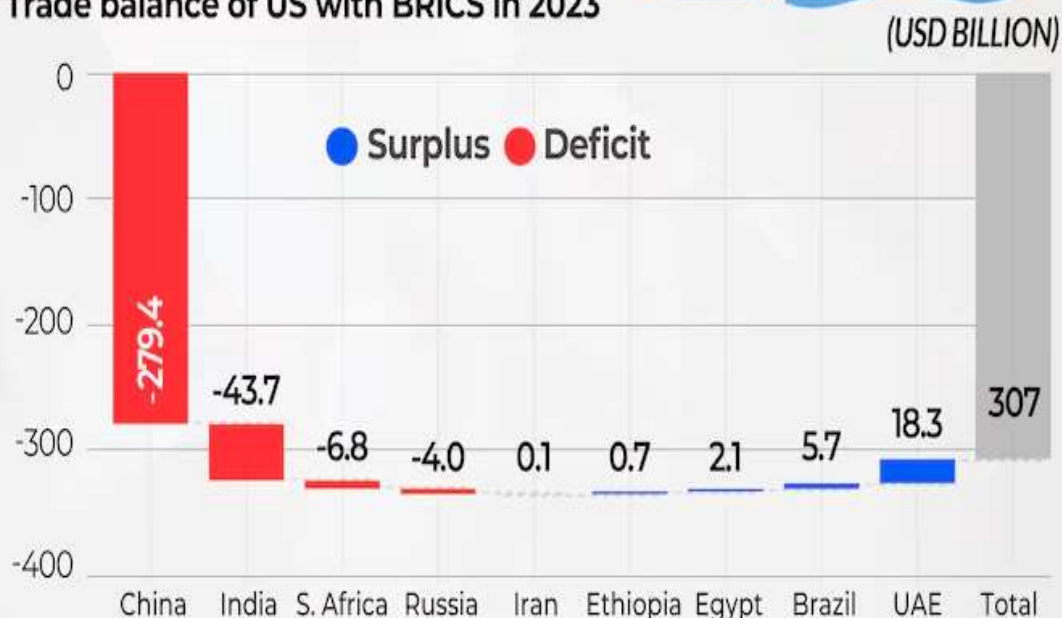


US in Wide Trade Deficit with BRICS

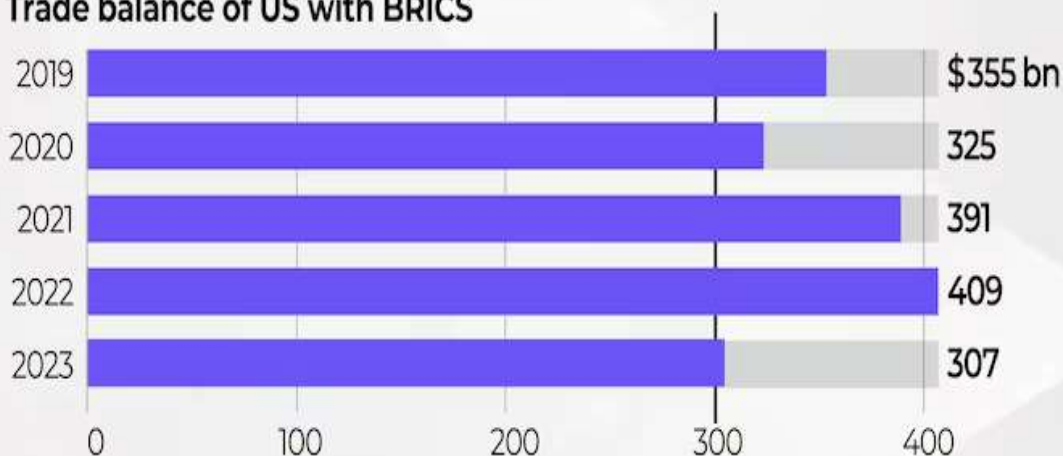
US has clocked a trade deficit of over \$300 billion each year since 2019



Trade balance of US with BRICS in 2023



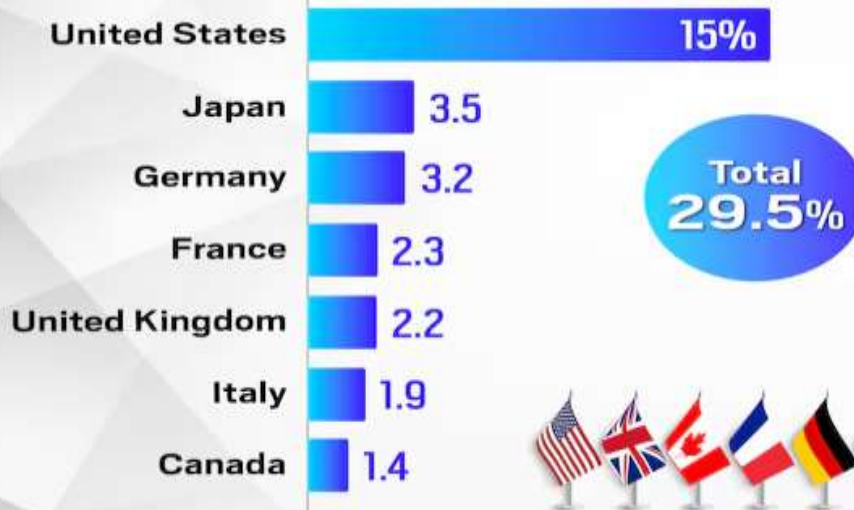
Trade balance of US with BRICS



G7 Nations Constitute 29.5% of Global Economy

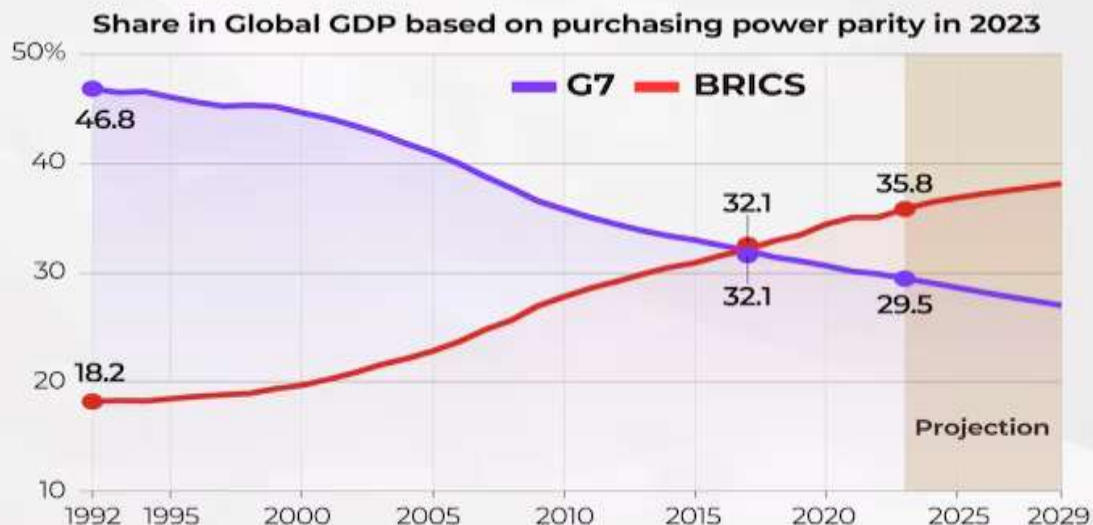
US accounts for nearly half of G7 cumulative GDP

Share in Global GDP based on purchasing power parity in 2023



Rising Dominance of BRICS Nations

Cumulative GDP of G7 nations fell from 46.8% in 1992 to 29.5% in 2023

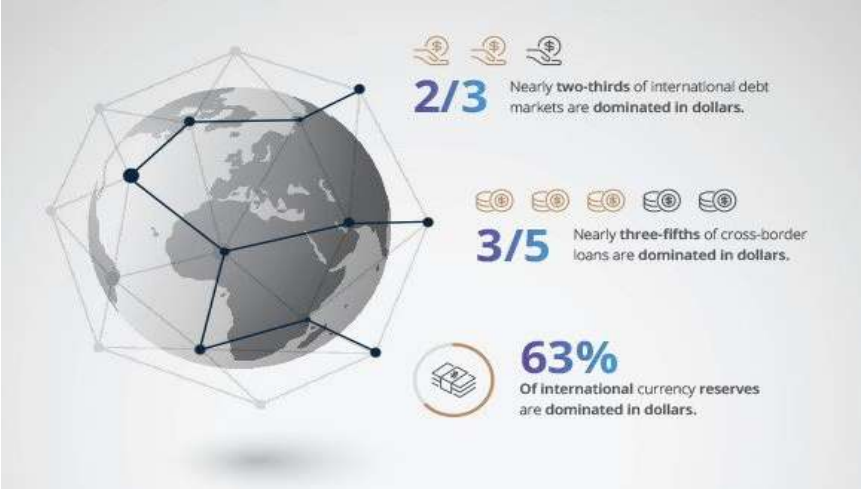
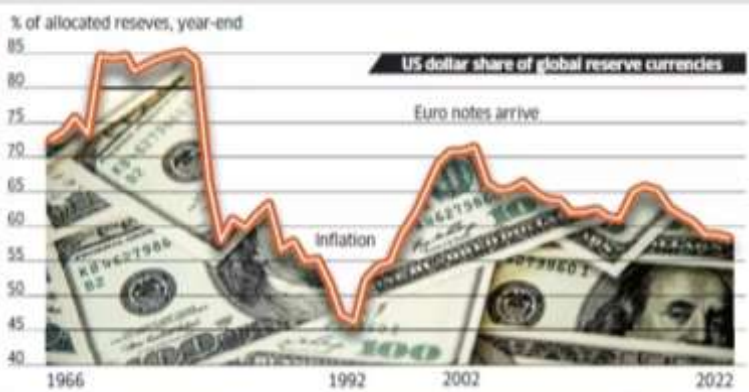


10. Why is Donald Trump threatening BRICS members against de-dollarisation?



- **Donald Trump** has demanded that **Brics members** **promise not to create a new currency** or support another currency to **replace the United States dollar** as the world's reserve currency.
- **Mr. Trump warned BRICS** that they will have to face **100 per cent tariffs** if they do not do so.
- U.S. President Donald Trump said on **July 8, 2025** that the U.S. would “pretty soon” charge a **10% tariff** on imports from **BRICS countries**.
- **Donald Trump's opposition to BRICS nations' efforts** toward **de-dollarization** stems from his concerns about **protecting U.S. economic dominance** and the **central role of the dollar** in global finance.

Reasons	Analysis
Protection of the U.S. Dollar's Dominance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The U.S. dollar's status as the world's reserve currency provides significant economic and geopolitical advantages.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global demand for the dollar helps sustain lower interest rates for U.S. borrowing. • If BRICS nations successfully reduce reliance on the dollar, it could undermine these benefits and challenge the dollar's supremacy. 
<p>Threat to U.S. Geopolitical Power</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dollar's dominance gives the U.S. immense leverage over the global financial system, enabling it to impose sanctions (e.g., on Russia and Iran) that rely on restricting access to dollar-based transactions. • A successful BRICS de-dollarization strategy could weaken this leverage, reducing the U.S.'s ability to exert influence on global issues. 

<p>Economic Implications for the U.S.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reduced role for the dollar in global trade could lead to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Declining demand for dollars, potentially weakening its value. ▪ Reduced foreign investment in U.S. Treasury securities, making it more expensive for the U.S. to finance its debt. ▪ Increased costs for imports and higher inflation domestically.
<p>Political Context</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trump's rhetoric often appeals to his "America First" agenda, focusing on protecting U.S. interests against perceived threats from foreign powers. • He likely views BRICS' de-dollarization efforts as part of a broader challenge to U.S. dominance. • By taking a strong stance, he reinforces his image as a leader who prioritizes U.S. economic and geopolitical power, which resonates with his political base. 

Huge trade deficit with BRICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• US Department of Commerce data showed that the country exported goods worth \$271 billion to BRICS nations while its imports were to the tune of \$578 billion.• This left the US with a trade deficit of over \$300 billion in 2023.• Also, the trade deficit of the US with BRICS nations has been more than \$300 billion every year, at least since 2019.
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11. What is Global South?

- The concept of the **Global South** encompasses regions in **Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Oceania**, representing **developing nations with shared historical contexts of colonization and economic marginalization**.
- The term "**Global South**" was first coined by **American political activist Carl Oglesby in 1969**.
- He used it to describe **countries facing political and economic dominance from the "Global North"**.
- While the **Brandt Line, proposed by Willy Brandt**, offers a visual representation of the **economic divide between the rich North and the poor South**, it is not directly related to the origin of the term "**Global South**".



12. Enlist challenges faced by the Global South?

- In November, 2024, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed deep concern over the **formidable challenges confronting numerous countries in the Global South**, ranging from **overwhelming debts** and escalating poverty to the **escalating impacts of the climate crisis** presenting novel challenges to the existing geopolitical landscape.

Challenges	Description
Energy Supply Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global South faces a pressing need for a reliable and affordable energy supply, as underscored by the disruptions caused by the Ukraine war. • The increase in energy prices, driven by European countries seeking alternatives to Russian sources, has disproportionately impacted the Global South, particularly as oil prices exceeded \$100 per barrel in 2022. • A second critical issue for the Global South in the realm of energy security is navigating a sustainable energy transition.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balancing the imperative of a sustainable energy transition with the goal of socio-economic development is a delicate challenge that d demands attention. 												
Climate Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Global South grapples with the profound impacts of the climate crisis, manifesting in disrupted livelihoods, ruined crops, and devastating natural disasters. <div data-bbox="609 682 1242 1186"> <p>People in Latin America and in Africa and the Middle East Are Most Worried about Climate Change</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Region</th> <th>Percentage Worried</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>North America</td> <td>54%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Europe</td> <td>59%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asia-Pacific</td> <td>56%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Africa / Middle East</td> <td>66%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Latin America</td> <td>78%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historical colonial oppression further complicates matters, delaying industrialization and climate adaptation in many Global South countries, leaving them ill-prepared for the escalating challenges posed by climate change. 	Region	Percentage Worried	North America	54%	Europe	59%	Asia-Pacific	56%	Africa / Middle East	66%	Latin America	78%
Region	Percentage Worried												
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Economic Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The global South faces a dual crisis, marked by dwindling foreign exchange (forex) reserves and economic challenges. More than 75 developing countries have witnessed a decline in import cover ratios by 25% or more since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. 												

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries like Bolivia, Sri Lanka, and Lebanon have experienced significant drops in reserves, exacerbating economic woes. • A critical factor contributing to this crisis is the commodity-finance nexus, where China's demand and global financial conditions shape economic fortunes in the South. • The majority of developing countries face a decline in foreign exchange reserves, signalling potential difficulties in covering imports and managing fiscal deficits. • Bolivia, for instance, has witnessed an alarming 88% drop in reserves since March 2020.
Food Insecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food insecurity in the Global South has intensified due to the compounding effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. • These crises have disrupted supply chains, leading to increased food prices, inflation, and economic recession in many developing countries. • Import constraints and production deficits further exacerbate the situation, pushing food and nutrition security to precarious levels. • The challenges are multifaceted, involving issues such as low production efficiency, inadequate technology access, and changing climate patterns.

13. What is the historical context of India's Global South leadership?

- **India has earned leadership within the Global South** as a result of its **anti-colonial historical participation** in the movement and its important role in the **Non-Aligned Movement**.

- The shared experience of colonialism forged a **sense of solidarity** among countries in **Asia, Africa, and Latin America**. Indian leaders like **Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru** were **vocal advocates for decolonization** and the rights of oppressed peoples worldwide.
- During the Cold War, **NAM** was established as a symbol of **commitment to sovereignty, non-interference and equitable international relations**.
- Under **Jawaharlal Nehru**, **India** played a leading role in **theorising, arguing and practising the principles of non-alignment**, in championing the voice of the Global South to overcome the hegemony of the Global North.
- Indian **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has openly embraced the term, emphasising their commitment to **amplifying the voices and priorities of the Global South** during India's G20 chairmanship.

14. Why is India considered as the Voice of the global south?

Aspects	Analysis
Leadership in Global South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India, as a leader of the Global South, actively participates in international forums, providing a voice for the Global South Movement. • The 'Voice of the Global South Summit' (VOGSS) hosted by India, reaffirmed India's commitment to solidarity among nations and its leadership in the Global South. • 'Together, for Everyone's Growth, with Everyone's Trust' and 'Global South: Together for One Future,' emphasised collaborative growth and a shared future.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key outcomes included the inauguration of the Global South Center of Excellence ‘DAKSHIN,’ aiming to foster collaboration among developing nations, and thematic discussions covering Sustainable Development Goals, energy transition, climate finance, digital transformation, women-led development, counterterrorism, and global institution reforms. • India advocated for the ‘5 Cs’ for the Global South: consultation, cooperation, communication, creativity, and capacity building, underscoring the importance of these principles for collective progress.
Climate Change and Energy Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive role in climate summits, resisting Global North pressure, advocating for equity, climate justice, and democratising energy governance. • Through platforms such as the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) and the International Solar Alliance (ISA), India collaborates with other developing nations to share knowledge, technology, and best practices. • The ISA aims to promote solar energy as a sustainable solution to energy needs, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and mitigating environmental pollution (ISA 2018). • This collaborative approach is essential for tackling climate change and promoting sustainable development across the Global South.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Biofuel Alliance India-led Initiative to develop an alliance of Governments, International organisations and Industry to facilitate adoption of biofuels. • Bringing together the biggest consumers and producers of biofuels to drive biofuel development and deployment, the initiative aims to position biofuels as a key to energy transition and contribute to jobs and economic growth.
Global Energy Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India has emerged as a leader in the global south in energy transition, showcased by its low per capita emissions, responsible environmental practices, and exceeding COP21 commitments. • Achieving 40% non-fossil power generation capacity by 2021, nine years ahead of schedule, and committing to 50% by 2030 at COP26, India demonstrates ambitious targets. • The country surpassed its COP21 emissions intensity reduction goal of 33% by 2019 and now aims for a more ambitious 45% reduction by 2030, signalling a proactive approach. • India's global leadership was evident in chairing the G20 energy ministers meeting, where it secured substantial agreements on challenges like energy access and affordability. • Advocating for harmonised standards in hydrogen and ammonia, India's forward-looking stance was underlined by the 'G20 high-level voluntary principles on hydrogen'. • Mission LiFE, India's global initiative for energy security, prompts individuals worldwide to adopt sustainable lifestyles.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India is providing assistance of Rs.100 crore per year to the International Solar Alliance for 2022–23, 2023–24 and 2024–25 to help energy transition, especially in developing and emerging economies.
United Nations Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistently advocates for reforming the UN, expanding the Security Council’s permanent membership. Policy paper “Norms” outlines India’s approach to multilateralism, emphasising respect, dialogue, cooperation, peace, and prosperity. India underscores the importance of collaboration with diverse partners, showcasing initiatives such as the G20 Presidency, development partnerships, and regional alliances like the Quad and BRICS. India highlights its commitment to global welfare, evidenced by initiatives like the Vaccine Maitri program, development partnerships, and socio-economic initiatives. The country calls for genuine solidarity to tackle challenges like poverty, climate action, and equitable access to resources. India, as part of its efforts within the G4 nations, has been working towards fostering equitable representation at multilateral high-tables by advocating for the inclusion of African nations. During India’s presidency of the G20, significant progress was made as Africa secured a permanent seat at the international decision-making table.

Democracy and Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India's strategy for integrating the Global South centres on principles of fair rules, accountability, and democratic processes. • In contrast to China, India maintains closer ties with the Global North. • Key engagements, such as joining the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), are responses to China's increasing influence. • India stands as a global exemplar of inclusiveness, democracy, and diversity. • As the world's largest democracy, it champions free and fair elections and upholds secular values, fostering harmonious coexistence. • Rooted in Non-Alignment philosophy, India's commitment to non-violence extends to its foreign policy, promoting diplomacy and peaceful resolution of conflicts. • Guided by principles like Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, India advocates for democracy and human rights globally, being the largest contributor in Peacekeeping Missions, serving as a non-aggressive voice for the Global South, and inspiring a vision of a unified and interconnected world.
Current Global Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports non-intervention in domestic affairs, advocates for dialogue in resolving crises like the Ukrainian conflict. • India expressed deep concern over the Israel-Hamas conflict, urging all parties to exercise restraint, prioritise civilian safety, and work towards de-escalation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TRIPS waiver, proposed by India and South Africa, advocates for a temporary relaxation of intellectual property rights on COVID-19 vaccines to enable mass production and address global health needs. • India's "Vaccine Maitri" initiative, launched in 2021, aligns with international cooperation principles, including the establishment of the "Global South Centre of Excellence" and other initiatives unveiled in the 2023 summit.
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15. Enlist challenges for India to become the 'Voice of the Global South'?

Challenges	About
India's Lack of Sustained Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India has initiated diplomatic efforts in regions like the Pacific Islands and Africa but needs sustained engagement. • The absence of India-Africa summits since 2015 and a significant hiatus after engagements with Pacific Island nations demonstrate the need for consistent involvement. • To be a credible voice for the Global South, India must avoid prolonged periods of silence.
China's Wolf Warrior Diplomacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China's assertive behavior in the global south has been marked by a pattern of economic coercion and diplomatic pressure, indicative of its bullying tactics.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many nations engaging with China find themselves subject to discriminatory sanctions and embargoes if they interact with Taiwan, support democratic causes, or oppose China's actions, such as its stance on the Xinjiang Uyghur region. • Chinese actions include leveraging its economic might to silence dissent and influence international policies.
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16. How is India's role in BRICS strengthening Global South Cooperation?

Role	Description
Strengthening Multilateralism and Reforming Global Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent summit of BRICS adopted the Pact of the Future at the Summit of the Future, including its two annexes, the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration of Future Generations. • The summit reiterate BRICS commitment to ensuring greater and more meaningful participation and representation of Emerging Markets and Developing Countries (EMDCs), as well as Least Developed Countries (LDCs), especially from Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, in global decision-making processes and structures and making them better attuned to contemporary realities. • The summit stresses on the legitimate aspirations of African countries, as reflected in the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2025 World Bank Shareholding Review, co-chaired by Brazil, is a critical tool to strengthen multilateralism and enhance the legitimacy of the World Bank Group, as a better, bigger, and more effective development finance institution. • In line with the Lima principles, BRICS will continue to advocate for the increased voice and representation of developing countries, underpinned by a shareholding realignment that corrects their historic underrepresentation.
Promoting Peace, Security and International Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The declaration highlights the importance of mediation and preventive diplomacy as essential tools to avoid crises and prevent their escalation, in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the UN Charter. • The declaration focusses on its commitment to the full implementation and advancement of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, especially in light of the 25th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000). • It expresses serious concern over deliberate attacks on civilian infrastructure and peaceful nuclear facilities under full safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in violation of international law and relevant resolutions of the IAEA.
Deepening International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It stressed on the adoption of the BRICS Trade and Sustainable Development Framework.

Economic, Trade and Financial Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BRICS Task Force on PPPs and Infrastructure regarding the mitigation of exchange rate risk and the preparation of projects for climate resilient infrastructure, aiming to improve project readiness and increase private investment. • The New Development Bank is set to embark on its second golden decade of high quality development. • Constructive discussions held in the first semester of 2025 on the concept of the New Investment Platform (NIP) and acknowledge the progress achieved under the Brazilian Chairship.
Combating Climate Change and Promoting Sustainable, Fair and Inclusive Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The declaration reaffirmed its steadfast commitment, in pursuit of the objective of UNFCCC, to tackle climate change by strengthening the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement, including its provisions related to mitigation, adaptation and the provision of means of implementation to developing countries, reflecting equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances. • Understanding the urgency of climate change, BRICS Climate Leadership Agenda will act as a statement of our resolve to exercise collective leadership through mutual empowerment, by advancing solutions that support BRICS development needs and priorities, while

	<p>accelerating action and enhancing cooperation towards full implementation of the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement.</p>
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17. How PM Modi's vision made India the most-trusted ally and guiding light of the Global South?

- **PM Modi's visit to Ghana, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in three decades, marked a historic milestone.**
- His meetings with **President John Dramani Mahama** elevated bilateral ties to a **Comprehensive Partnership**, with a bold commitment to double trade within five years.

Aspects	About
Strategic Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through strategic agreements on rare earth minerals and defence, a powerful BRICS statement condemning terrorism, and a series of high-level engagements, Hon'ble PM Modi has not only deepened bilateral ties but also elevated India's stature as a beacon of hope and leadership for the Global South.
Deepened cultural and economic connections.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Trinidad and Tobago, where 40–45% of the population traces its roots to India, Hon'ble PM Modi's visit - the first in 25 years - celebrated 180 years of diaspora ties. • Engaging with President Christine Carla Kangaloo and Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, both of Indian descent, Hon'ble PM Modi deepened cultural and economic connections.

India's Environmental Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the BRICS session on 'Environment, COP30, and Global Health', India stressed that climate change is not just about energy, but about life–nature balance—a value deeply rooted in its culture. • Guided by the principle of People, Planet, and Progress, India highlighted key initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) ▪ Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam ▪ International Solar Alliance ▪ Green Hydrogen Mission ▪ Global Biofuels Alliance ▪ Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure ▪ International Big Cats Alliance
Argentina: Tapping the Lithium Triangle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon'ble PM Modi's visit to Argentina, the first in 57 years, was a game-changer for India's engagement with Latin America. • Meeting President Javier Milei, PM Modi forged a strategic partnership centered on agriculture, energy, and critical minerals. • Argentina, part of the "Lithium Triangle" with over half the world's lithium reserves, became a pivotal partner through a deal between India's Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) and Coal India, securing four lithium exploration concessions in Catamarca province with state-run CAMYEN.

Brazil: BRICS solidarity and strategic alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Brazil, Hon'ble PM Modi's dual engagement - attending the 17th BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro and a bilateral state visit to Brasilia - deepened India's partnership with a key Global South ally. • Discussions with President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva covered trade (\$12.2 billion), defense, renewable energy, space, and agriculture. • The BRICS Summit delivered a powerful statement condemning the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, which claimed 26 civilian lives. • Hon'ble PM Modi's resolute call for a united global stance against terrorism, without political convenience, targeted nations like China that have obstructed UN sanctions on terrorists.
PM Modi's stature as a global statesman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon'ble PM Modi's tour has elevated him as a towering figure in global diplomacy, with his vision for a reformed world order resonating across the Global South. • His addresses to the parliaments of Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago underscored democracy as a universal value and India's commitment to empowering developing nations.

18. What is the relevance of the topic for UPSC CSE?

- **For Prelims:** 16th BRICS Summit, Global South, BRICS group expanded, UN, WTO, World Bank, IMF, Contingency Reserve Arrangement (CRA), New Development Bank (NDB), Line of Actual Control (LAC), voice for the Global South,, Russia- Ukraine conflict, Global Financial Safety Net.

- **For Mains:** Significance of International Groupings and Agreements for India's Strategic Interests.

Some previous years prelims questions.

Q1. Consider the following statements with regard to BRICS.

1. 16th BRICS Summit was held under the Chairmanship of Russia in Kazan.
2. Indonesia has become a full member of BRICS.
3. The theme of the 16th BRICS Summit was Strengthening Multiculturalism for Just Global Development and Security.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 1 only

Ans: (a)

Q2. Consider the following statements: (2016)

1. New Development Bank has been set up by APEC.
2. The headquarters of the New Development Bank is in Shanghai.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)

Q3. The 'Fortaleza Declaration', recently in the news, is related to the affairs of (2015)

- (a) ASEAN
- (b) BRICS
- (c) OECD
- (d) WTO

Ans: (b)

Some previous years mains questions.

Q1. India has recently signed to become a founding member of the New Development Bank (NDB) and also the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). How will the role of the two Banks be different? Discuss the strategic significance of these two Banks for India. (2014-12.5 Marks)

Some questions from this year and previous years interview transcripts.

Board Sanjay Verma sir:

- Recently there was a spokesperson of a famous country who stated that India is playing ice hockey with BRICS, what does it mean?

Board Suman Sharma mam:

- Do you think BRICS is a rival of G7?
- Should India come out of BRICS if there is a problem?

Board Dinesh Dasa sir:

- Tell me something about BRICS expansion.
- What will be its benefits?

Board Lt Gen.Raj Shukla sir:

- What's your take on BRICS and its idea on bringing BRICS Currency?

Board Lt Gen.Raj Shukla sir:

- Have you heard about BRICS?
- What are its significance and advantages
- Have you heard about BRICS EXPANSION?
- Can you name the countries recently added?
- Among all these, which one had recently decided to quit?

Board Satyavati mam:

- Have you heard of De-dollarisation? What is it?
- Why are countries doing it?
- Have you heard of BRICS alternate currency?
- What is BRICS and what do you think of this idea of floating alternate currency.

Board Satyavati mam:

- Have you heard of BRICS?
- In light of tensions between India-China and Russia-Ukraine war, how do you see the future of BRICS?

Some questions for QUIZ.

Q1. Consider the following Countries:

1. China
2. India
3. Russia
4. Indonesia
5. Iran

How many of the above countries are part of the BRICS group?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All five

Ans: (d)

Some questions for POLL.

Q1. Do you think the BRICS can act as a bridge between G7 and G20?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

Q2. Can Trump economic policies impact BRICS economy ?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

