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ANALYSIS REPORT

18th BRICS SUMMIT 2026



01

Overview


INNOVATION
COOPERATION
SUSTAINABILITY
BUILDING FOR RESILIENCE, INNOVATION, COOPERATION AND SUSTAINABILITY
BRICS
INDIA 2026

The 18th BRICS Summit convened in **New Delhi on 12–13 September 2026**, marking twenty years of BRICS cooperation. Held under India's chairship, the summit brought leaders together amid changes in the international order and debates over developing countries' representation in global decision-making. **It was India's fourth chairship since BRICS began.**



Source: https://www.brics2026.gov.in/brics-india-2026/

India adopted **"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"** as the guiding theme of its BRICS chairship. It reflected a practical, inclusive and development-oriented approach, linking resilience and innovation with cooperation and sustainable development across the BRICS agenda. The theme also reflected the **vision of "Humanity First"**.



Source: https://frontline.thehindu.com/world-affairs/brics-2026-de-dollarisation-dollar-dominance/article71465717.ece

BRICS expansion has widened the grouping's geographic reach and strengthened its engagement with emerging markets and developing countries. This creates opportunities for broader partnerships and greater representation, while bringing a wider range of national interests into collective deliberations. **Partner countries and Outreach/BRICS Plus engagement further broaden its external links.**



Source: https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?NoteId=159946&ModuleId=3&reg=3&lang=1

The summit took place amid debates over **multilateral reform, economic governance and developing countries' influence in international institutions**, alongside rapid technological change. BRICS provides a platform for members to advance these concerns, although their positions and relationships with major powers are not identical.

Brics In A Changing Global Order

Evolution of BRICS	Shared International Context	Strategic Significance
Two decades of cooperation and expansion beyond the original membership	Global governance reform, economic uncertainty, and geopolitical pressures	Strengthening the voice of the Global South while navigating differences among members

The grouping's wider significance lies in its efforts to combine collective representation with durable practical cooperation. **Its influence depends on members identifying shared interests, sustaining dialogue and working across differences.** India's chairship provided an opportunity to reinforce this role and support a more representative international order.

02

Key Outcomes and the New Delhi Declaration at BRICS 2026



The central outcome of the 18th BRICS Summit was **adoption of the New Delhi Declaration on 12 September 2026**. It reaffirmed cooperation among members and established shared priorities guided by sovereign equality, mutual respect, inclusiveness and consensus. The declaration provided a basis for collective action.



Source: https://www.sarkaritel.com/brics-new-delhi-declaration-2026-key-outcomes/

The declaration organised cooperation around **three pillars: political and security; economic and financial; and cultural and people-to-people cooperation**. These pillars support a strategic partnership promoting peace, sustainable development, inclusive growth and a more representative international order. They provide the structure for cooperation across policy areas.

Leaders reaffirmed the need to reform global governance and strengthen multilateral institutions so they are more representative, effective, responsive and accountable. **The declaration recognised BRICS partner countries and encouraged their participation in cooperation.** These commitments establish shared priorities without implying that members hold identical positions on every international issue.



Source: https://www.shankariasparliament.com/current-affairs/mains-analysis/brics-2026-specials

Core Commitments Of The New Delhi Declaration Framework

Global Governance

Reform multilateral institutions and strengthen developing countries' representation

Collective Cooperation

Advance dialogue, consensus and coordinated action among members

Inclusive Participation

Strengthen engagement with partner countries and other developing nations

Effective Follow-through

Translate agreed priorities into practical cooperation through BRICS mechanisms

India's chairship involved **more than 400 meetings and engagements across 30 Indian cities**, bringing together ministers, parliamentarians, heads of agencies, officials, experts, businesses and people. These engagements took place during the chairship year and contributed to strengthening the BRICS strategic partnership.



Source: https://www.brics2026.gov.in/gallery/#gallery-14663-4

The declaration provides a shared political and policy framework, but its provisions differ in form and status. **Some establish common positions, while others welcome initiatives or call for further work through BRICS mechanisms.** Their significance will depend on continued coordination and implementation. This distinction separates the declaration's agreed direction from the actions required to deliver its commitments.

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03

Economic and Financial Cooperation



The New Delhi Declaration reaffirmed economic cooperation through the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership. Under India's 2026 chairship, **progress towards the 2030 strategy was advanced** to guide sectoral programmes, strategies and roadmaps. The framework provides continuity while leaving implementation to member countries and encouraging coordination across the expanded grouping.



Source: https://www.theceo.in/global-lens/brics-india-chairship-2026

Leaders reaffirmed support for an open, inclusive, transparent and rules-based multilateral trading system centred on the World Trade Organization. They called for **WTO reform and stressed fair treatment for developing economies**, including special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries. These commitments frame BRICS economic cooperation.

Financial cooperation focused on practical cross-border payment arrangements. The **BRICS Payment Task Force continued efforts to enhance compatibility between payment and messaging systems**, while leaders explored the use of local currencies for settling trade and investment

transactions. They did not establish a single BRICS currency; progress remains dependent on member participation, national priorities and compatible regulatory arrangements.



Source: https://www.business-standard.com/world-news/india-s-payment-pitch-finds-no-mention-in-brics-declaration-126091300507_1.html

Expected Benefits of Economic Cooperation

01 Trade Facilitation

- Lower transaction barriers
- Strengthen market connectivity

02 Financial Connectivity

- Improve cross-border payment efficiency
- Expand local-currency settlement options

03 Investment Mobilisation

- Support infrastructure development
- Encourage cross-border capital flows

04 Knowledge Exchange

- Share development experience
- Disseminate policy innovations

The Jaipur Consensus added a targeted trade-finance initiative: studying an invoice-discounting mechanism to help export-oriented micro, small and medium enterprises unlock working capital. Leaders also welcomed continued **technical work on the New Investment Platform** through a phased, consensus-based and member-driven approach. Both initiatives remain matters for further development, rather than fully operational facilities.



Source: https://www.theceo.in/global-lens/brics-india-chairship-2026

Development finance remains central to the New Development Bank (NDB)'s role in supporting infrastructure and sustainable development across emerging markets and developing economies. Leaders encouraged stronger resource mobilisation, diversified funding and greater local-currency financing, and welcomed the **BRICS–NDB Knowledge Portal to share development experience and lessons from projects**. Delivery will depend on institutional capacity and sustained follow-through.

04

Geopolitical Significance and Global Governance



The 18th BRICS Summit highlighted the **grouping's geopolitical relevance amid deepening tensions, polarisation and distrust in international affairs**. Its significance lies not in presenting a unified bloc, but in providing a forum where members can discuss shared concerns and seek greater influence over international decision-making.



Source: https://russiaspivottoasia.com/the-2026-brics-summit-the-new-delhi-declaration-50-plus-outcomes-results-deep-dive-analysis/

The New Delhi Declaration reaffirmed multilateralism, international law and the United Nations' central role. It called for global institutions to reflect contemporary realities and for greater representation of emerging markets and developing countries in international decision-making. These positions link institutional reform with changing global economic and political influence.

The summit's global-governance discussions highlighted the **Global South's ambition to shape international rules rather than simply respond to decisions made elsewhere**. BRICS provides a platform for advancing this aspiration through consultation and diplomatic coordination. However, members retain distinct national interests and relationships with other powers.



Source: https://www.theceo.in/global-lens/brics-india-chairship-2026

BRICS' Geopolitical Role

Diplomatic Coordination

- Discuss shared international concerns
- Seek common ground through consultation

Institutional Representation

- Advocate more representative global bodies
- Increase developing countries' voice in decisions

Peace and Security

- Promote dialogue and preventive diplomacy
- Support peaceful settlement of disputes

Diverse National Positions

- Recognise differing strategic interests
- Maintain cooperation without assuming uniformity

On international peace and security, the declaration emphasised **dialogue, consultation, preventive diplomacy, mediation, crisis de-escalation and peaceful settlement of disputes** in accordance with the UN Charter. These principles provide a basis for engagement, but do not mean members share identical assessments of particular conflicts or agree on every response.



Source: https://www.theceo.in/global-lens/brics-india-chairship-2026

BRICS' geopolitical influence will depend on whether members sustain coordination in international forums while managing differences. **Its contribution can be assessed through the positions it advances, the coalitions it builds and whether global institutions respond to calls for broader representation.** These are measures of influence, not evidence of a single strategic outlook.

05

India's Leadership and Strategic Interests at BRICS Summit 2026



India's strategic contribution to the 18th BRICS Summit can be assessed through initiatives advanced under its chairship. These addressed **specialised areas of cooperation and connected Indian proposals with wider BRICS discussions**. Their significance lies in the opportunities they create for institutional cooperation, rather than in assuming that every proposal is already operational.



Source: https://www.theceo.in/global-lens/brics-india-chairship-2026

India proposed hosting a BRICS Risk Lab at GIFT City's International Financial Services Centre in Gujarat. The declaration welcomed further discussions among interested members, including cooperation involving regulators and reinsurers to strengthen reinsurance capacity. The Lab remains under consideration, not an established institution, with voluntary participation.



Source: https://www.ndtv.com/opinion/brics-2026-non-alignment-to-all-alignment-indias-rise-as-global-power-12041900

The Indian chairship initiated the **BRICS Task Force on Growth and Development**. The declaration endorsed the platform's role in exploring growth strategies tailored to the specific circumstances of each member country. Its work addressed development-finance reform and the macroeconomic implications of digital transformation and artificial intelligence, supporting policy exchange without prescribing one model and informing multilateral engagement.

Strategic Dimensions of India's Initiatives

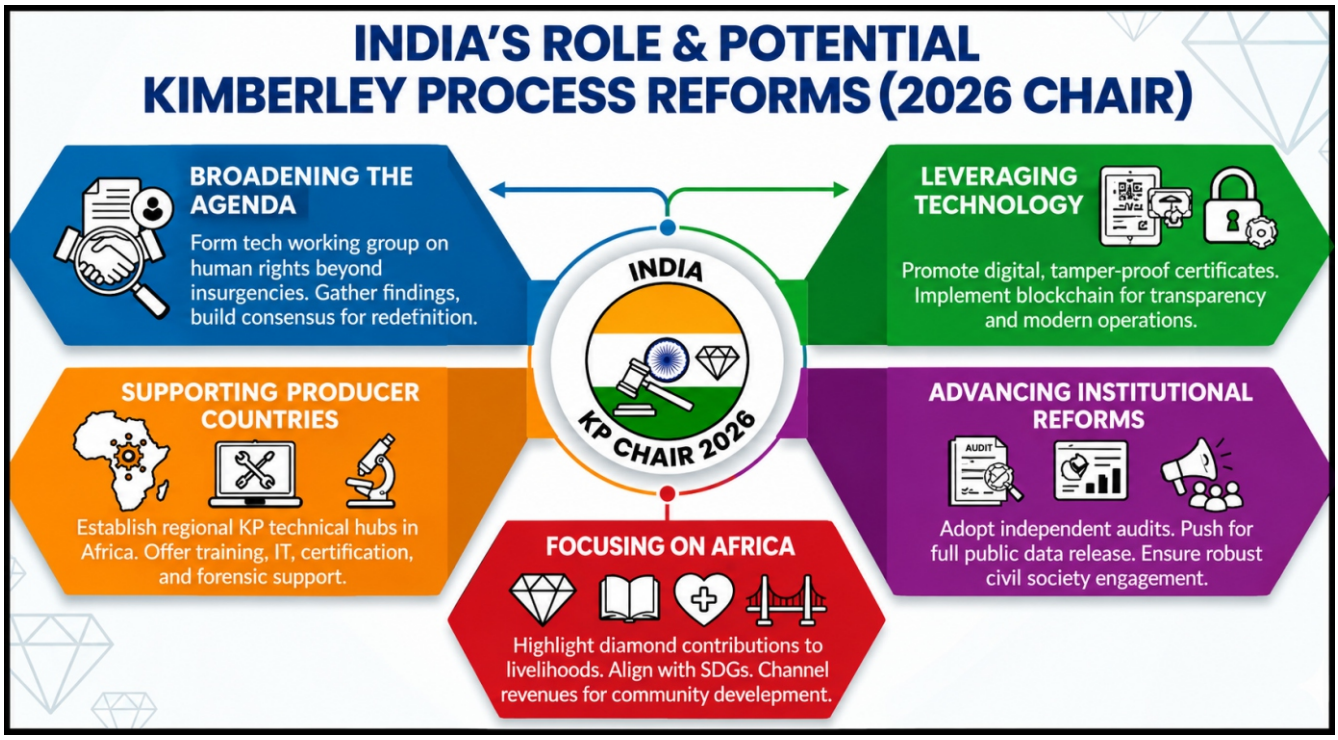
Institutional Innovation
- Explore specialised cooperation frameworks

International Certification
- Support rough-diamond certification
- Engage diamond-producing countries

Policy Learning
- Compare growth approaches suited to national contexts
- Examine emerging macroeconomic questions

Strategic Value
- Develop specialist networks
- Create opportunities for sustained cooperation

India's 2026 chairship of the Kimberley Process added an international certification dimension. The declaration welcomed India's role and noted an informal BRICS cooperation platform involving African diamond-mining nations. The Kimberley Process oversees the certification of rough diamonds, while the declaration reiterated the commitment to preventing conflict diamonds from entering international trade.



Source: https://laex.in/articles-editorials/chance-to-reform-the-kimberley-process/

Together, these initiatives illustrate how a chairship can create opportunities for specialised engagement alongside multilateral cooperation. **Their strategic value will depend on whether participants sustain the work and whether discussions build useful expertise or practical cooperation beyond the summit year**, rather than through declarations alone.

06

Sustainability, Technology and Inclusive Development



The New Delhi Declaration **reaffirmed climate action under the Paris Agreement, including mitigation, adaptation and support for developing countries**. Leaders recognised that high debt burdens restrict climate and development investment, calling for greater fiscal space and sustainable financing that reflects equity and differing national circumstances



Source: https://www.brics2026.gov.in/gallery/#gallery-14663-7

Members welcomed cooperation on climate research, carbon markets and sustainable development, alongside measures to strengthen disaster preparedness. **They supported early-warning data integration, climate-resilient urban infrastructure and risk-informed planning to protect communities exposed to climate-related hazards.** These efforts connect climate policy with practical resilience.

Food security and energy transitions also featured prominently. **Leaders supported cooperation on resilient food systems, climate-adaptive agriculture and further discussion of a BRICS Grain Exchange.** They called for secure, diversified energy supplies and just, orderly and inclusive transitions, recognising that national energy needs and development pathways differ.



Source: https://www.theceo.in/global-lens/brics-india-chairship-2026

Pathways to Resilient and Inclusive Development

Climate and Disaster Resilience

- Strengthen mitigation, adaptation and early warning
- Promote climate-resilient infrastructure

Food and Energy Security

- Support resilient agriculture and food supplies
- Advance equitable energy transitions

Health and Scientific Cooperation

- Improve digital healthcare and research exchange
- Strengthen health-system preparedness

Inclusive Digital Development

- Expand digital skills and capacity-building
- Promote safer access for vulnerable groups

Technology and health cooperation included people-centred digital healthcare, improved access to services in remote areas, health-system preparedness and collaboration in research. **The declaration also welcomed BRICS science and research initiatives, while emphasising data security, national laws and intellectual-property protections.**



Source: https://www.pib.gov.in/ShowAlbum.aspx?albumid=229452&reg=3&lang=1

Inclusive development requires technologies and essential services to reach people who face barriers to access. Leaders supported digital skills, capacity-building and safer digital environments for children, older people and vulnerable groups. The broader objective is to **connect innovation with public health, food security, energy access and resilience** without assuming identical national conditions.

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07

Trade, Strategic Partnerships and Institutional Cooperation



The New Delhi Declaration promoted **stronger trade ties and more resilient global supply chains, encouraging emerging markets and developing economies** to participate more extensively in higher-value manufacturing. It encouraged technical cooperation and technology transfer in line with members' laws, policies and national priorities, while recognising differing capacities and national regulatory conditions.



Source: https://www.theceo.in/global-lens/brics-india-chairship-2026

Special Economic Zones were identified as useful platforms for trade, investment, industrial cooperation and innovation. Members also supported stronger connectivity and trade facilitation, including digital trade documentation, to make cross-border procedures more efficient, transparent and accessible to businesses operating under different regulatory requirements.

Customs cooperation formed another institutional priority. Leaders welcomed progress on a cooperation and mutual administrative assistance agreement, subject to national procedures, and encouraged training through **BRICS Customs Centres of Excellence**. They also supported voluntary

work on authorised economic operators and further joint enforcement against mutually identified cross-border smuggling risks, where appropriate.



Source: https://www.brics2026.gov.in/events/brics-customs-experts-meeting-and-heads-of-customs-administrations-meeting-held-17-19-august-2026/

01 Channels for Trade and Institutional Cooperation

Resilient Value Chains	• Expand developing economies' participation in higher-value production • Encourage technical cooperation and technology transfer
Trade Facilitation	• Improve digital trade documentation • Strengthen connectivity and Special Economic Zones
Customs Cooperation	• Build capacity through training and information exchange • Coordinate action against shared customs threats
Business Partnerships	• Connect enterprises through BRICS business platforms • Support women's entrepreneurship and market access

The BRICS Business Forum 2026 and Business Council provided channels for business-to-business engagement and recommendations on trade, investment and supply-chain resilience. The declaration also welcomed the **Women's Business Alliance's** work to improve women-led enterprises' access to finance, markets, skills and technology, strengthening business links and policy dialogue.



Source: https://www.brics2026.gov.in/events/brics-business-forum-2026-held-on-11-september-2026/#thisIsEventImages-1

Institutional cooperation extended to intellectual property and tax administration. BRICS intellectual-property offices revised their working guidelines, while tax authorities strengthened cooperation through joint working groups, training programmes and the exchange of expertise among member countries. These mechanisms can strengthen trust and predictability, although their effectiveness depends on national implementation and sustained participation.

08

Key Challenges and Critical Assessment



BRICS comprises member countries with varied economic frameworks, policy priorities and administrative arrangements. This diversity can widen the range of issues represented, but it also makes agreement on detailed measures more demanding. **Broad principles may attract consensus more readily than specific commitments that require comparable action from every member consistently**.



Source: https://www.theceo.in/global-lens/brics-india-chairship-2026

Implementation presents a separate challenge. **Some summit outcomes depend on voluntary participation, technical work or national approval procedures, so their progress can vary across members.** Distinguishing adopted decisions from proposals and ongoing discussions is essential when assessing results; otherwise, announcements may be mistaken for fully completed programmes or operational institutions.

Members differ in fiscal resources, technological capabilities and institutional capacity. These differences can affect participation and the distribution of benefits. Joint initiatives must account for national circumstances, since members may not have equal resources or the same ability to implement measures, provide expertise or meet shared reporting requirements in practice.



Source: https://ibgnews.com/2026/09/16/brics-india-2026-summit-highlights-indias-push-for-cooperation-trade-and-emerging-technologies/

Principal Constraints on BRICS Effectiveness

Consensus Constraints

- Reconcile differing national priorities
- Agree on specific, workable measures

Implementation Constraints

- Advance proposals towards operational status
- Assess progress against agreed commitments

Capacity Disparities

- Address unequal financial and technological resources
- Account for differences in institutional capacity

External Economic Pressures

- Manage the effects of trade restrictions
- Respond to supply-chain disruptions

External economic pressures add another constraint. **Trade restrictions, market volatility and disruptions to supply chains can affect members differently** because their export profiles, import dependence and exposure to external markets vary. These pressures may complicate national economic priorities, even when members agree on the value of open and predictable trade.



Source: https://www.theceo.in/global-lens/brics-india-chairship-2026

The summit's effectiveness should be assessed through evidence of progress, not the volume of declarations. **Indicators include whether proposed mechanisms become active, whether participation broadens, and whether agreed cooperation produces observable benefits.** Such assessment can distinguish diplomatic consensus from practical achievement and provide a basis for judging BRICS' institutional credibility.

09

Way Forward



The next phase of BRICS cooperation should focus on turning the New Delhi Summit's broad commitments into sustained, measurable progress. **Members can strengthen continuity by identifying priority outcomes, assigning responsible institutions and reviewing progress at regular intervals.** This would help distinguish proposals under discussion from initiatives delivering practical results.



Source: https://www.theceo.in/global-lens/brics-india-chairship-2026



Source: https://www.theceo.in/global-lens/brics-india-chairship-2026

Implementation should remain flexible enough to accommodate different national circumstances while preserving shared objectives. Members can use voluntary participation, phased timelines and technical consultations where immediate agreement is difficult. Clear descriptions of each initiative's status would improve transparency and clarify what has been agreed and what remains under development.

BRICS should strengthen practical cooperation by matching agreed priorities with appropriate expertise, financing and institutional capacity. **Capacity-building and knowledge exchange**

can help members with fewer resources participate more effectively. Collaboration with appropriate regional and international organisations could facilitate implementation while remaining consistent with members' priorities and institutional mandates.

Priorities for Effective BRICS Implementation

Implementation and Accountability	Flexible Cooperation	Capacity and Resources	Public Value
• Set measurable milestones • Review progress regularly	• Allow phased participation • Respect national circumstances	• Expand technical knowledge-sharing • Mobilise suitable financing	• Assess practical outcomes • Communicate progress transparently

The grouping's credibility will ultimately depend on results rather than declarations alone. **Progress should be assessed through evidence of implementation, broader participation and tangible benefits for people and economies.** Periodic evaluation can identify delays, reveal gaps and guide adjustments without requiring every member to follow an identical path.



Source: https://www.spsnavalforces.com/features/?id=353&h=BRICS-Summit-2026-Indias-Opportunity-to-Empower-the-Global-South

A focussed, transparent and adaptable approach would help preserve consensus while making cooperation more effective. Members should carry forward practical priorities across successive chairships, ensuring that changes in leadership do not interrupt ongoing work. This continuity can strengthen institutional credibility and keep shared long-term objectives visible.

10

EXPERT INSIGHT



Within BRICS as well, we have emphasised the need to strike a balance between human development and the environment.

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister
Government of India



RESOURCES

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