



Brics Countries and Role of India

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Abstract:

BRICS countries are on the driving seat of the future of the global economy. This research article goes through the basic goals of BRICS countries and India's leading partnership in it.

Keywords: *Brics, India, developing countries*

1. Introduction

Goldman Sachs, the investment banker first coined the term BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) in 2001. The term was used to forecast the future global economic trends over the next half century, which means the 21st century. The BRIC countries, as a group, met first time in September 2006 in New York. It was an event of UN General Assembly. South Africa also joined the BRIC countries after an invitation to join the group with a consensus among all the BRIC countries. South Africa joined the group at the 3rd BRIC summit in Sanya, China in April. To face the contemporary global regional and economic challenges with the support of each other was a common will of the BRICS nations. Global stability and well-being of all are the chief concerns of the BRICS countries.

2. BRICS: An Overview

If we take into account the total population of the five BRICS countries, it is nearly half of the world's total population- that's 40%.

25% of the world's total land area is covered by BRICS countries.

Combined GDP (PPP) of the BRICS countries is US \$ 24 trillion (2012 figures).

In 2012 the value of total intra-BRICS TRADE was US \$ 310 billion.

And by 2015, the BRICS nations have decided to increase intra-BRICS trade to US \$ 500 billion.

A number of agreements and MOUs have been signed by BRICS Development Banks to promote such intra-BRICS trade.

3. India in BRICS

With the BRICS partner countries, India has a very close economic and cultural relationship. India has always given a great importance and promoted the platform of BRICS for cooperation, coordination and solution of the contemporary regional and global issues. India has always been proactive in its role in the BRICS group countries. To build a more peaceful, harmonious and prosperous world, India has always promoted the role of BRICS countries.

If we compare India with the other BRICS countries, India's expertise lies in software industry, cheap labour, service sector, pharmaceutical industry, particularly generic drugs. As per the data of Ministry of Commerce & Industry of India for the financial year 2012-13, India's trade with BRICS partner countries is about US \$ 95 billion.

India's trade with BRICS partners is about US\$ 95 billion [2013-14 data from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry of India]. India's strengths lie in labour, services, generic pharmaceuticals, and information technology. Just as India, different BRICS member nation has its own strengths and weaknesses. And India aims a significant partnership with other BRICS countries.

India contributed to BRICS by putting a proposal of the New Development Bank. The proposal of the New Development Bank was taken forwarded on the BRICS agenda at the 4th BRICS Summit. The 4th Summit was held in New Delhi in March 2012, hosted by India. Subsequently, India also hosted the first Meeting for taking these initiatives forward in August 2012. A several rounds of meetings and negotiations has been arranged. The BRIC partner countries' Finance Ministers have also gone through negotiations. And the proposal is at the last stage of implementation. It has been decided to establish The Bank's headquarter in Shanghai. A regional office of the bank will also be established in South Africa. An Indian will be the first President of the Bank.

In addition to the proposal of the New Development Bank, India has taken many other initiatives, which include-

A BRICS Report presented at the Delhi Summit of March 2012, which primarily aims on synergies and complementarities between the BRICS partner countries.

An addition of the Urbanization Forum to BRICS cooperation system, that brings a more focus on intra-BRICS cooperation. The forum focuses on the solutions of the challenges faced by the BRICS partner countries.

India has performed a great role to strengthen intra-BRICS cooperation. Initiatives were taken in the fields of online education, healthcare, BRICS language schools, a virtual BRICS university, tourism sector, youth exchange programmes, a Young Scientists Forum, disaster management and cooperation in small and medium enterprises.

India has always taken part proactively to work closely with BRICS partners to take these initiatives forward. For overall strengthening and deepening of BRICS cooperation India will keep performing its duties as an active BRICS partner country.

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