



9th BRICS Science & Technology Ministers Meeting

Why in News

Recently, India's **Minister for Science & Technology** chaired the **9th BRICS Science & Technology Ministers meeting**.

- Earlier, the Prime Minister chaired the [annual summit of the BRICS](#) which was held virtually.
- 2021 is an important landmark year in BRICS Cooperation as the grouping completed 15 years.

Key Points

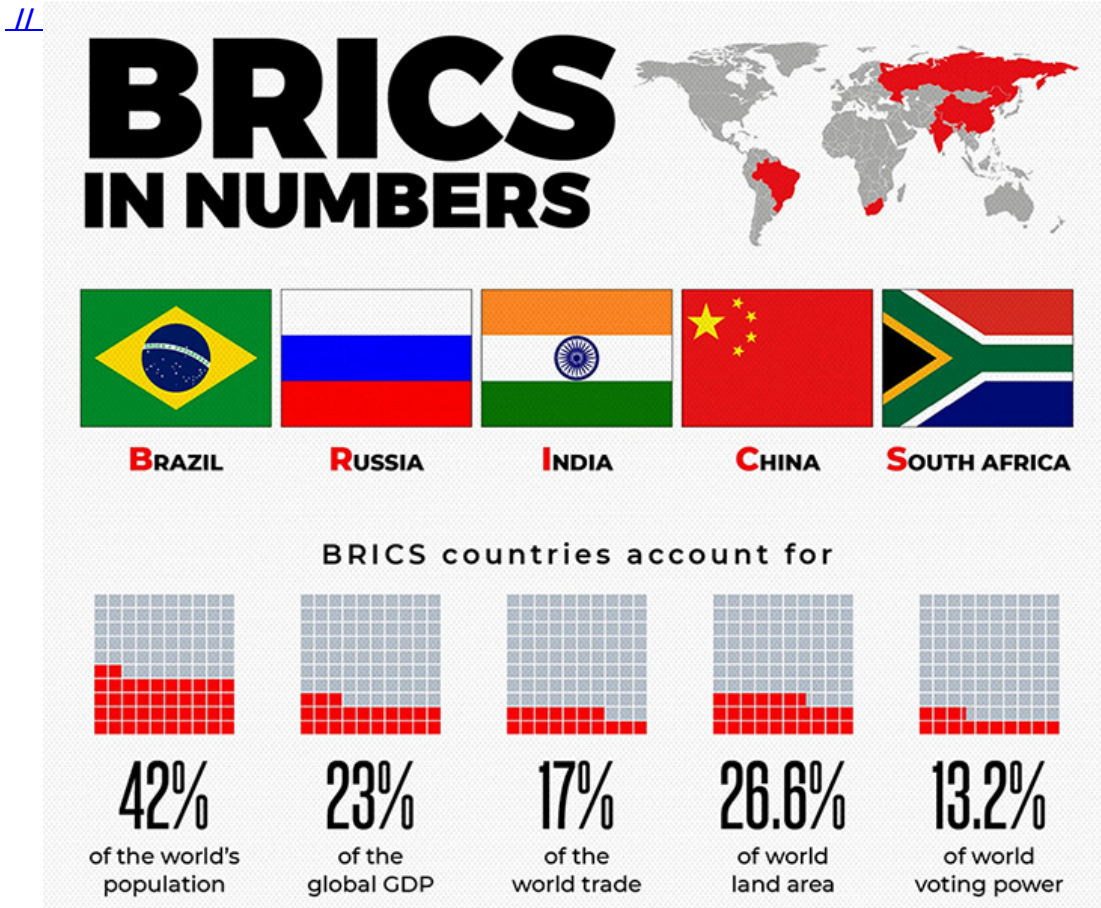
▪ Highlights of Address:

- **Global Innovation Index:** The member countries should work towards a rightful place for **BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa)** in the [Global Innovation Index](#).
 - It can be achieved through further strengthening the cooperation in the field of **Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)**.
 - **BRICS Ranking in Global Innovation Index, 2021:** India (46), China (12), Russia (45), Brazil (57) and South Africa (61).
- **Cooperation:** BRICS countries must come together and innovate cost effective, affordable, accessible, sustainable and scalable scientific solutions, as they face many similar and unique challenges.
- **BRICS Innovation Cooperation Action Plan (2021-24)**
 - **About:**
 - BRICS member countries have agreed to a **Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)-led BRICS Innovation Cooperation Action Plan (2021-24)** proposed by India during the 12th meeting of the grouping's science & technology steering committee.
 - It will **facilitate sharing of experiences** of each other's innovation ecosystem and **networking** of innovators and entrepreneurs.
 - **Thematic areas included:**
 - Transient Astronomical Events and Deep Survey Science, [Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\)](#), [Big Data Analytics](#), Innovation and Entrepreneurship on Photonic, Nanophotonics, and Metamaterials for Addressing Biomedicine, Agriculture, Food Industry, Energy Harvesting Issues etc.
 - In accordance with the plan BRICS Ministers and their representatives endorsed the **BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Calendar of Activities 2020-2021**.

BRICS

- BRICS is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**.

- In 2001, the British Economist **Jim O'Neill** coined the term BRIC to describe the four emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, and China.
- The grouping was formalised during the first meeting of **BRIC Foreign Ministers in 2006**.
- South Africa was invited to join BRIC in December 2010, after which the group adopted the acronym BRICS.
- It comprises 42% of the world's population, has 23% of the global **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** and around 17% of the world trade.
- The **chairmanship of the forum is rotated annually** among the members, in accordance with the acronym B-R-I-C-S.
- The **BRICS Leaders' Summit** is convened annually.
- During the **Sixth BRICS Summit in Fortaleza (2014)** the leaders signed the Agreement establishing the **New Development Bank (NDB)**. They also signed the **BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement**.



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