



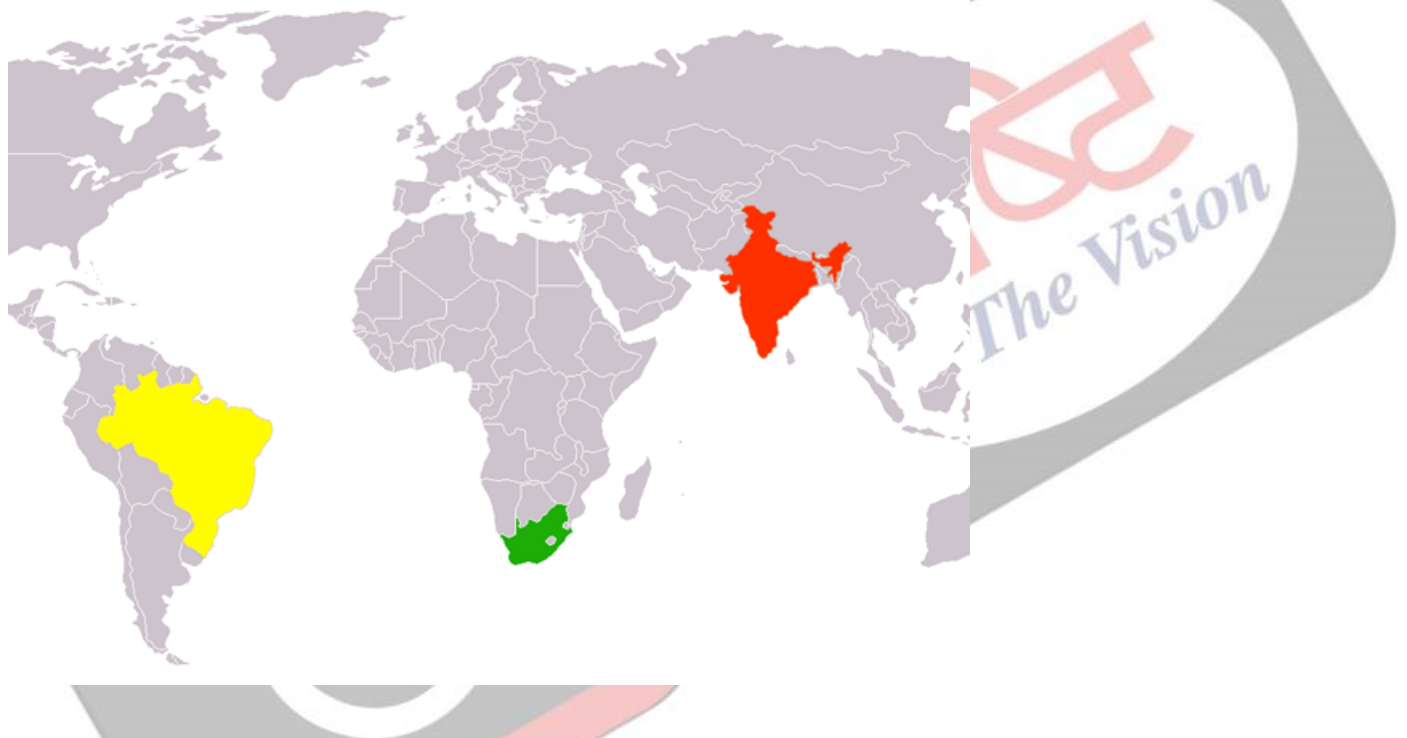
IBSA Forum

Why in News

Recently, India organized the **IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa)** Tourism Ministers' virtual meeting.

- **India is the current IBSA Chair.**

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Key Points

- **About:**
 - The IBSA is a **trilateral, developmental initiative** between **India, Brazil and South Africa to promote South-South cooperation and exchange.**
 - The idea of South-South Cooperation (SSC) is not new. Its genesis can be traced back to the decades of efforts by countries and groupings working together to ensure South-South solidarity such as **Bandung conference 1955, Non-Aligned Movement 1961, G77 grouping, UNCTAD, the Buenos Aires Plan of Action 1978, and the 2009 Nairobi declaration.**
- **Formation:**
 - The grouping was formalized and named the **IBSA Dialogue Forum** when the **Foreign Ministers of the three countries** met in Brasilia (Brazil) **on 6th June 2003** and issued the **Brasilia Declaration.**

▪ Headquarters:

- IBSA **does not** have a **headquarters or a permanent executive secretariat**.
- At the highest level, it counts on the **Summits of Heads of State and Government**.
 - So far Five IBSA Leadership Summits have been held. The 5th IBSA Summit was held in Pretoria (South Africa) in 2011. The 6th IBSA Summit is to be hosted by India.

▪ Joint Naval Exercise:

- **IBSAMAR (IBSA Maritime Exercise)** is an important part of IBSA trilateral defence cooperation.
- Six editions of IBSAMAR have been held so far, the latest one being off the coast of South Africa in October, 2018.

▪ IBSA Fund:

- **Established in 2004, IBSA Fund (India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation)** is a unique Fund through which development projects are executed with IBSA funding in fellow developing countries.
- The fund is **managed by the United Nations (UN) Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)**. Each IBSA member **country is required to contribute \$1 million per annum** to the fund.
- **Objectives:**
 - To **alleviate poverty and hunger** in nations of the South;
 - To **develop best practices in the fight against poverty and hunger** by facilitating the execution of replicable and scalable projects in interested countries of the global south;
 - To pioneer and lead by example the **South-South cooperation agenda**;
 - To **build new partnerships** for development.

▪ IBSA Fellowship Programme:

- It focuses on **multilateral institutional frameworks** to coordinate, support and **enable sustainable development globally**; joint research for cooperation and exchange of information in the fields of macro-economy, trade and development; and any other area as may be found of interest within the IBSA framework.

▪ Performance So Far:

- **Relevance in the wake of the emergence of BRICS:**
 - The grouping faces a **fundamental challenge** to maintain its relevance in the wake of the emergence of similar groupings such as **BRICS** (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).
 - IBSA has been **unable**, until now, to hold its sixth summit.
- **Execution of Human Development Projects:**
 - Over the years, the **fund has contributed \$39 million and partnered in 19 countries** from global South to implement 26 projects.
 - Projects have been funded in countries such as Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, Cape Verde, Burundi, Cambodia, Haiti, Palestine, Vietnam and others.
 - The fund has also been **recognised for its good work in the field** and has received UN South-South Partnership award 2006, UN MDG (Millenium Development Goals) award 2010, and the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Champions award in 2012.

▪ Opportunities:

- **In the Emergence of BRICS:**
 - Working collectively towards ensuring the **MERCOSUR -SACU-India Trilateral PTA (Preferential trade Agreement) first**, and eventually a Free Trade Area

(FTA), will go a long way in ensuring the grouping's relevance. (**MERCOSUR for Brazil & SACU for South Africa**).

- The **Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR for its Spanish initials)** is a regional integration process, initially established by Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay, and subsequently joined by Venezuela and Bolivia.
- The **Southern African Customs Union (SACU)** consists of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, and Swaziland. The **SACU Secretariat is located in Namibia**. SACU was established in 1910, making it the **world's oldest Customs Union**.
- The grouping must work together as a **joint lobby in other groupings** of which they are members of, such as **BRICS and G20**.
- **Reforming Multilateral Institutions:**
 - Reforming institutions such as the [United Nations Security Council \(UNSC\)](#), **IMF** etc. is a **necessary prerequisite** to forge consensus behind the principle of economic development among developing countries.
 - **India, Brazil and South Africa** have **serious aspirations to become permanent members of UNSC**.

Way Forward

- The forum **continues to be a motor for global institutional reforms** in the future, striving collectively to establish a rules-based and transparent international trading and finance system.
- By offering a **new partnership based model** for development cooperation, the forum has taken a giant step towards accelerating the development agenda of the global South.
- The **'people centric' approach** is what defines and sets South-South cooperation apart from other partnership models. This particular focus on people-centric social policies is what will help in accelerating the restructuring of international financial architecture and reforming institutions of global governance.

Source: PIB

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