

India's Role in BRICS: With Reference to Prime Minister Modi (2014-2016)

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Abstract

BRICS is an association of the five developing industrializes countries like Brazil, Russia, India, China and South-Africa. These five members are also the members of the G-20 and these five countries are representing over 3 billion people which are the 42 percent of the world population. Their combined Nominal GDP is 16.039 US\$ trillion. BRICS depends on the basis of policy of non-inference, equality and mutual benefit. India's participation in BRICS is started from the former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. At present there are five members of the association. The member countries meet annually for the understanding of financial, economic and political matters of the concern countries. Initially BRICS was launched as an informal and diplomatic meeting amongst the foreign ministers of the BRICS and gradually it became as a powerful political and economic entity. The main areas of dialogue between the member countries include - Finance & Central Bank, Trade, Business Forum & Council, Financial Forum, Academic & Think Tanks Council, Health, Science & Technology, Security, Agriculture and Statistics.

Keywords: Negotiation, Forum, Cooperation, Dialogue, Diplomatic, Security, Engagement.

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Introduction: The BRICS was formulated for the first time by an economist and Chairman of Goldman Sachs Asset Management Jim O'Neil in his publication 'Building Better Global Economic (BRICs) in 2001.¹ The foreign ministers of the four countries like Brazil, Russia, India and China gathered together in New York City in September 2006. It is an association amongst these countries and in 2011 South-Africa joined in this association. After the joining of the South-Africa it became as BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South-Africa).²

India's Role in BRICS: The first summits focussed on means of improving global economic situation and reforming financial institution and the four members recognised for the better cooperation among them in future.³

i. India playing as a share in socio-cultural ties with BRICS member countries. As a platform for cooperation, coordination, consultation on recent issues of the member countries is an importance of India's engagement through which India is trying to build a peaceful and prosperous world.

ii. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India for the year 2013-2014 has mentioned that the India's trade with BRICS countries is about US\$ 95 billion and India's strengths is about in labour, services, generic pharmaceuticals and information technology.

iii. In the 4th summit of BRICS hosted by India held in New Delhi in March 2012 where India proposed for the establishment of New Development Bank. In this connection India hosted for the first time a Negotiation Meeting in August 2012. Several Finance Ministers meetings of the member countries were held in several times and in the 6th summit of the BRICS in Brazil in July 2014 an agreement was signed for the establishment of the Bank. It is decided that the Headquarter of the Bank will be in Shanghai and Regional office will be in South Africa. It is another contribution of India is that India is appointed as a first President of the Bank.

iv. India has also proposed the establishment of Urbanisation Forum to BRICS Cooperation Mechanisms to bring cooperation and tackling challenges of rapid urbanisation of the BRICS countries.

v. BRICS Academic Forum meetings is institutionalised by the initiative of India and such meeting hosted In New Delhi in May 2009 before the first BRICS Summit held in Yekaterinburg, Russia in June 2009.

vi. India proposed to strengthen intra-BRICS cooperation in the 6th summit held in Brazil in July 2014. The concern proposal included the online education, an affordable health care platform, a virtual BRICS University, and BRICS language schools cooperation in small and medium enterprises, tourism, youth exchanges and Young Scientists Forum and disaster management. India recognised to maintain cooperation

with BRICS countries regularly ⁴

vii. India has evolved a number of techniques and mechanism for consultation, coordination and consultation like meetings of Foreign Ministers, Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, Agriculture Ministers, Health Ministers, Science & Technology Ministers, Education Ministers and National Security Advisers. In this regards India also follows the other mechanisms for consultation and cooperation with BRICS countries like Academic Forum meetings, Think Tanks Council, Business Forum, Business Council, Contract Group on Trade and Investment Issues and urbanisation Forum.

viii. India had been playing the positive role in BRICS from its inception. India is trying to promote global growth, peace and stability.

ix. Economic cooperation is the focus area of India's policy in BRICS. India is using BRICS as platform for multilateral relations with Latin America, Africa and Asia countries. The most important role of India is to establish a New Development Bank.

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x. On food, security, energy and combating terrorism India has taken great responsibility as co-operator with BRICS countries.

xi. The member countries of BRICS have playing role to promote the South-South cooperation and North-South dialogue. All member countries are ready to help to fulfil UN Millennium Development Goals. ⁶

Role of Prime Minister Modi in BRICS: The 5th annual BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) summit was held in Durban, South Africa on 26 March, 2013. The head of the five states were attended. The 6th BRICS summit was held in Brazil on 17-16 July in 2014. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was attended on the 6th summit of BRICS. It was the first major international summit of Modi as Prime Minister. The members signed a document to create the US\$100 billion New Development Bank. In a press release the members wrote that “ We remain disappointed and seriously concerned with the current non-implementation of the 2010 International Monetary Fund (IMF) reforms, which negatively impacts on IMF's legitimacy, credibility and effectiveness”.⁷ It is decided that the head quarter will be in Shanghai, the first president of the NDB will be from India, the regional office of the bank will be Johannesburg, Russia will be the inaugural chairman of the board; Brazil will be the first chairman of the board of directors. The president of board will be selected for a period of 5 years from the members. Russian President Vladimir Putin stated that the BRICS sought to reduce dependency on the U.S. dollar and strengthen the rule of international law ⁸ The seventh BRICS summit was held from 8-9 July 2015 in the Russian city of Ufa in Bashkortostan. The theme of

the 7th summit was “BRICS Partnership-a Powerful Factor of Global Development”. The five heads of the member countries were present. All the leaders agreed to set up coordinated efforts “in responding to emerging challenges, ensuring peace and security, promoting development in a sustainable way, addressing poverty eradication, inequality and unemployment for the benefit of our peoples and the international community. We confirmed our intention to further enhance the collective role of our countries in international affairs”. The summit is also stressed on cooperation in the political, economic and social fields and strengthens the member countries.⁹ The 8th annual BRICS summit was held with active participation of five members from 15 to 16 October 2016 at Taj Exotica hotel in Benaulim, Goa, India. India assumed chairmanship of 8th BRICS summit. The External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said the theme of the 8th summit is “Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions”. Lotus is the logo of the summit comprises five colours of the five countries and the term ‘namaste’ was inserted in the centre point. The objectives of the summit which was said by Sushma Swaraj are institutional building, implementation, integration, innovation and continuity with consolidation. She also said that another objective of the 8th BRICS summit is enhancing “greater people-to-people participation”.

BRICS Summit in Goa, India, 2016: India is now playing as a chief actor amongst the five countries of the BRICS. India has seen the bright economic picture within the BRICS. India is now more fasted growing economic development country and GDP is 7.6 percent in 2016-2017. India acted as a Chairmanship in 8th BRICS Summit which is contained with Building, Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions. India, in this summit has adopted a five-pronged approach which is known as ‘IIIC’ or ‘I4C’.

The first ‘I’ stands for Institution building: To improve and institutionalise BRICS cooperation

The second ‘I’ stands for Implementation: All decisions taken by previous summits to be implement.

The third ‘I’ stands for Integrating: Integration to be made amongst all current cooperation mechanisms.

The fourth ‘I’ stands for Innovation: Innovation the new cooperation mechanisms.

The ‘C’ stands for Continuity: All existing mechanisms for cooperation must be preserved.¹⁰

The report received from IANS that Sri Amar Sinha (Indian Foreign Ministry Official) said that the BRICS members would debate about “global growth prospects, the role of BRICS in leading this global growth and our contributions to it”. The official also

said that the regional security and climate change would be discussed in the Summit by BRICS countries. The issues of the bilateral discussion between Modi-President Vladimir Putin were defence, security, and civil nuclear cooperation. The Goa Declaration also called upon “all nations to work together to expedite the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) in the UN General Assembly without any further delay.” The Goa Declaration also mentioned the need for a “comprehensive approach in combating terrorism”, that includes countering “radicalisation, recruitment, movement of terrorists including foreign terrorist fighters, blocking sources of financing terrorism, including through organised crime by means of money-laundering, drug trafficking, criminal activities, dismantling terrorist bases, and countering misuse of the Internet including social media by terror entities through misuse of the latest Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).”¹¹

Agreements Modi and Putin: India (Narendra Modi) and (Russia Putin) have signed several pacts and engaged in dialogues with BRICS members. The 4 important issues were made in BRICS summit 2016.

1. BRICS members support anti-terror including Pakistan’s ally, China: The BRICS members through their delivering speech raised voice against terror. India was able to seek support from Pakistan’s ally China. The BRICS pressure on China may cause of China’s anti-terrorist attitude of Pakistan. The Chinese President Xi Jinping said in the 8th summit that India and China must work together against terrorism and must strengthen dialogue and partnership. Prime Minister Modi also asserted that if we fail to destroy the terrorism then we must loss our civilisation. Security and counter terrorism cooperation is necessary to the citizen of the world citizens.¹²

2. India-Russia Signed Agreement: In the 8th summit both India and Russia signed an agreement including joint venture to manufacture helicopters, procurement of S-400 air defence system, construction of 1135 series of frigates in India and gas pipeline to India and Russia.¹³

3. India-Russia agrees on speed of trains between Nagpur and Secunderabad: Both India and Russia would be working together to increase the speed of trains between Nagpur and Secunderabad upto the speed 200 kilometer per hour.

4. Speed work on setting up of BRICS institutions. The BRICs institutions like BRICS Agriculture Research Centre, BRICS Railway Research Network and BRICS Sports Council must support for the development of member countries and regions.

Importance of BRICS in Indian Context:

- i. India desires to become a super power in the world. Playing as member of BRICS is first attempt in this regards.
- ii. India demands as permanent membership in the UN Security Council. The membership as G4 (Brazil, Germany, India and Japan) and membership in BRICS of India will help to become as permanent member.
- iii. There are several issues between India and China like borders disputes, issues of Tibet, South China Sea, Dalai Lama and others but both countries are supporting the strategic economic relations in context of BRICS.
- iv. The member countries have multilateral relations in their local currencies which can weak the US Dollar.
- v. The member countries promote South-South cooperation and North-South dialogue.
- vi. The member countries are trying to achieve the fulfilment of UN Millennium Development Goals.
- vii. The member countries are trying to reforms the world financial organization s like IMF and World Bank.
- viii. The BRICS Bank will help to the socio-economic infrastructural development for all countries.
- ix. In international policies, international relations, hegemony expression and the voices of India will see by the world countries.
- x. BRICS will be a great platform for India in aspect of that in making policy, programme and plan India's voice will heard by all countries of the world.
- xi. BRICS will empower India as a most regional super powerful country.
- xii. Economic cooperation is the front focus area of India's BRICS policy.
- xiii. India will address the global challenges by cooperative effort with full and equal participation and will place her as powerful country
- xiv. India exchanged ideas and experiences on food security, agriculture, disease, foreign aid, energy and global warming.
- xv. As BRICS member, India sharing the common challenges of developing countries as well as global challenges. ¹⁴

BRICS helps India in Resolving Disputes: The relations between India and China are not going in a smooth ways since 1962. The very oldest issues like borders disputes, issues of Tibet, South China Sea, Dalai Lama and others are till now the cause of bitterly relationship. India is trying to create the healthy relations with China using the BRICS. India from her heart trying to resolves all old disputes with China and wants to resolves the complicated relation which is created since 1962. India

had been threatening due to the sharing of land border with China, Pakistan and Bangladesh. India is threatened by China's expanding presence through bases in Myanmar, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. There is a leading competition in the India Ocean area which makes importance of India.

Concluding Observation: India and Russia signed agreement of weapons for sale of Krivak class frigates, S-400 anti missile system and agreement to make in India Kamov 226t. The declaration of Goa by the member countries stood for anti-terrorism. China did not agree Pakistan as terrorist country. The member countries are emerging economic developing and industrialising founded well cooperation. It is also right is that in their political influence in international politics are very weak. India can use BRICS as swing power between China and USA. The intention of India is to unify the member countries to raise voice against Pakistan, but China and Russia have no interest to indicate Pakistan as a terrorist supported nation. Prime Minister Modi raised strong voice against Pakistan involvement in URI and other attacks on several parts of India as well as in the world. It is noted that Russia sent forces to Pakistan after URI attack for joint army drills with Pakistan army. China did not agree Pakistan as terrorist nation. But Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying of the Chinese foreign minister stated that "we oppose linking terrorism with any specific ethnicity or religion. India and Pakistan are "all victims of terrorism". She also said that Islamabad has made "great sacrifice to combat terrorism and this needs to be recognized by the international community".

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