

India's Position in BRICS: Analyzing Opportunities and Addressing Challenges in a Shifting Global Environment

RAJNESH YADAV **Bhagwant University, ajmer**

DR. P.R. DADHICH **Bhagwant University, ajmer**

Abstract

India's position within the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) grouping holds strategic significance, especially in the context of an evolving global landscape marked by economic uncertainties and shifting geopolitical dynamics. This paper explores India's evolving role in BRICS, identifying both opportunities and challenges it faces in navigating the bloc's diverse economic, political, and diplomatic agendas. By analyzing India's strategic engagement with BRICS' initiatives, such as the New Development Bank (NDB) and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), the study highlights India's efforts to leverage its growing influence in international affairs. Additionally, it addresses the challenges posed by intra-BRICS divergences, economic competition, and the evolving global power structure, with particular emphasis on relations with China and Russia. This research emphasizes the necessity for India to adapt its policies within BRICS to maintain its position as a key player, while capitalizing on the bloc's potential for strengthening South-South cooperation and advancing its own strategic interests in a multipolar world.

Keywords: India, BRICS, global environment, strategic interests, opportunities, challenges, geopolitical dynamics,

Introduction

The global economic and geopolitical landscape has undergone significant transformations over the past two decades, with emerging economies playing an increasingly pivotal role in shaping international discourse. One of the most notable developments in this regard has been the rise of BRICS—an intergovernmental organization comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. Originally conceptualized as an informal economic bloc of fast-growing economies, BRICS has evolved into a platform for multilateral cooperation, addressing global economic governance, development finance, and geopolitical realignments. Among its members, India occupies a unique position, balancing its economic aspirations, diplomatic engagements, and strategic challenges within the group.

India's participation in BRICS is driven by a combination of economic opportunities, geopolitical considerations, and the pursuit of a multipolar world order. As the world's fifth-largest economy and a rapidly growing market, India views BRICS as a crucial mechanism for enhancing trade, securing investments, and advocating for reforms in global financial institutions. Additionally, India's engagement in BRICS aligns with its broader foreign policy objectives, particularly in fostering South-South cooperation and countering Western-dominated global governance structures. However, despite these opportunities, India's role within BRICS is not without challenges. Economic asymmetries, political divergences, and strained bilateral relations—particularly with China—pose significant obstacles to India's ability to leverage BRICS effectively for its strategic interests.

This paper explores India's evolving role in BRICS, analyzing the economic, diplomatic, and geopolitical opportunities it seeks to harness while critically evaluating the challenges that hinder its objectives. Through an examination of trade and investment trends, diplomatic engagements, and policy dynamics, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of India's position in BRICS and its implications for the country's long-term strategic interests in a shifting global order.

BRICs in world

Over the years, BRICS has become an important group in the world, especially in terms of economy and population. The countries in BRICS are now the fastest growing and biggest emerging market economies. Together, they make up nearly three billion people, which is about half of the world's population. These countries' rising share in GDP, foreign direct investment (FDI), and the number of working people could have a big impact on the future of the global economy and politics. Many experts believe that the growth of BRICS countries is more important for the global economy than the current European crisis. They argue that the success of BRICS could balance out the losses from Europe's troubles.

In terms of different industries, people think that China will lead in manufacturing, while India will dominate in services. Russia and Brazil, on the other hand, will control the supply of raw materials. South Africa could become a key supplier of minerals both within BRICS and beyond. BRICS countries are recognized as some of the fastest-growing economies and play a big role in the world's recovery process. After the financial crisis of 2008-2010, these countries had an important impact on global economic policies. As trade and economic connections within BRICS grow stronger, their ability to negotiate and influence global markets will increase. This will also help protect their economies from the influence of the Western economy, which is mainly controlled by the US.

Table 1 – outward FDI flows in million USD 2005-2010

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Brazil	28.202	7.067	20.457	-1-.084	11.519
Russia	23.151	45.916	55.594	43.665	51.697
India	14.285	17.234	19.397	15.929	14.626
China	21.160	22.469	52.150	56.530	68.000
S Africa	6.063	2.966	-3.134	1.151	450

Source-<http://unctadstat.unctad.org/tableviewer/tableview.aspx>

BRICS countries still have a small share of foreign direct investment (FDI) flowing out to developing countries when compared to OECD countries. However, this share has been growing, especially after the financial crisis. There are many benefits of FDI for developing nations, such as better infrastructure, improved energy supply, and stronger trade and market incentives. Despite these advantages, FDI also presents challenges for the countries that receive it. From the BRICS viewpoint, improving areas like trade, transport, manufacturing, and services is seen as key to the overall progress of developing countries. The BRICS countries aim to boost their own economic and political power, but they do not have a shared approach to FDI.

In the past decade, FDI flows from BRICS countries have grown. According to UNCTAD statistics, all BRICS nations showed a steady increase in outward FDI, even though there was a drop in 2009 due to the financial crisis, with Brazil facing a recession. South Africa's contribution to total BRICS FDI is quite small. Brazil and India each make up about 10%, while China and Russia together account for over 75% of total BRICS FDI in 2010.

Table 2-Overview of development policies of BRICs

	Brazil	Russia	India	China	South Africa
Regional integration	Mercosur	-	SAARC	SAARC(observer)	SADC,AU
Key sectors	Agriculture, education, health	Food security, health	Education, health, rural development	Agriculture, infrastructure, public facilities	Post-conflict reconstruction
Foreign aid inUSD (world bank 2011)	362m-1bn (2009/2010)	472m (2010)	700m (2009)	1.9 bn (2009)	100m

Goals/strategy	Non-interference regional integration	Multilateral channels	Technical cooperation	SSC, trilateral and regional cooperation	Regional security and stability
2010 GDP per capita in USD (UN)	10.716	10.351	1.406	4.354	7.255
2010 GDP growth rate (UN)	7.5%	4%	8.8%	10.4%	2.8%
Gini-index (world Bank)	54.5 (2008)	42.3 (2008)	36.8 (2008)	41.5 (2008)	67.4 (2006)
HDI/rank	0.718/84	0.755/66	0.547/134	0.687/101	0.619/123

Source: data based on sources as specified in table

In 2011, the BRICS countries together received about \$375 billion in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), making up roughly 20% of the global FDI flow. Among them, China received the most FDI, followed by Brazil, Russia, and India. South Africa, however, attracted much less FDI compared to the others. The BRICS nations' foreign exchange reserves reached \$4.32 trillion, which was about 40% of the world's total reserves. China held more than \$3 trillion of that amount. Except for India and Russia, the other BRICS countries had a positive balance on their capital accounts in 2011. Overall, the BRICS group has largely been successful in maintaining macroeconomic stability.

Table 3- economic profile (2011)

	Inflation rate p.a.(2005-11)	Investment (% of GDP)	Public debt (% of GDP)	FDI net inflow (US \$bn)	Forex reserves (US \$ bn)
Brazil	5.3	20.6	64.9	71.5	350.4
Russia	10.3	23.2	12	52.9	453.9
India	8.1	35	67	32.2	271.3
China	3.1	48.6	25.8	220.1	3208.8
South Africa	6.1	19.7	38.8	5.7	42.6

Source-<http://data.worldbank.org>

Table 4 GDP % growth rate

	Actual (2013)	Actual (2014)	Latest IMF forecast (2015)	Latest IMF forecast (2016)
Brazil	2.7	0.1	-1.0	1.0
China	7.8	7.4	6.8	6.3
India	6.9	7.2	7.5	7.5
Russia	1.3	0.6	-3.8	-1.1
South Africa	2.2	1.5	2.0	2.1

Source :IMF 2015

In 2011, the BRICS countries together got around \$375 billion in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), which was about 20% of the total FDI flow worldwide. China was the leader in attracting FDI, followed by Brazil, Russia, and India. South Africa received much less FDI compared to the other BRICS countries. The foreign exchange reserves of the BRICS nations reached a total of \$4.32 trillion, making up nearly 40% of the world's reserves. Out of this, China held more than \$3 trillion. All BRICS nations, except for India and Russia, had a positive balance in their capital accounts in 2011. In general, the BRICS group has been quite successful in maintaining overall economic stability.

Objectives

1. To analyze India's strategic opportunities within BRICS in the context of global economic and political shifts.
2. To assess the challenges India faces in BRICS and propose policy measures to enhance its role.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Jim O'Neill, in his 2001 report, foresaw the potential of Brazil, Russia, India, and China as powerful emerging economies. He emphasized that these nations would not only drive global economic growth but also reshape the structure of international trade and finance. According to O'Neill, the BRIC countries had rapidly expanding markets, growing populations, and large reserves of natural resources, all of which would position them as central players in the future of the global economy (O'Neill, 2001). His vision set the foundation for what would later become a formal political and economic alliance.

By 2006, BRIC began formalizing its cooperation. The countries held discussions and set the stage for regular summits. The first BRIC summit took place in 2009 in Yekaterinburg, Russia, marking a significant milestone in the group's development. During this summit, the countries discussed key global issues, such as reforming international financial institutions, enhancing trade cooperation, and promoting a multipolar world order (Vision IAS, 2024). The group's goal was to assert the interests of emerging economies in global governance structures that were traditionally dominated by Western nations. This formalization helped set the agenda for BRICS' future, focusing on mutual economic growth and policy coordination.

As BRICS developed, it began to play an increasingly significant role in global governance, especially in areas like economic policy and financial reform. The creation of institutions such as the New Development Bank (NDB) and the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) marked important steps in challenging the dominance of Western-controlled institutions like the IMF and the World Bank. These initiatives were designed to provide financial support for infrastructure projects and financial stability in emerging economies, offering alternatives to traditional Western financial institutions (India Foundation, 2025). The expansion of BRICS to include new members in 2010, with South Africa joining the group, further solidified its relevance in global affairs.

Since its formalization, BRICS has faced various challenges, including differences in political systems, economic structures, and global priorities among its members. The expansion of BRICS, especially with the inclusion of new countries such as South Africa, Egypt, and the UAE, has brought both opportunities and risks. While the group benefits from the increased representation of the Global South, it also faces difficulties in maintaining unity among a diverse set of members. Despite these challenges, BRICS has worked to enhance its influence by advocating for reforms in global economic governance and strengthening economic ties between its members (The Diplomat, 2025).

Gareth Price(2017), in the article, "India and China: A Complex Relationship", states that clearly there is an adversarial angle to the relationship between India and China, but that does not mean they are unwilling to work together on a number of issues for which they share similar national objectives. Competition projected onto the bilateral relationship – beyond the reality of border disputes – appears less substantive than it did a decade ago. For instance, there now appears to be greater consensus that rather than being a site for competition between India and China, Africa has the capacity to accept investment from both countries.

Sanusha Naidu (2023) Naidu explores the evolving objectives and internal challenges faced by BRICS, particularly as it expands and attracts new members. The paper highlights the geopolitical tensions within BRICS, with particular emphasis on India's balancing act between its interests and the diverse priorities of other member states, including China and Russia. The author also discusses how BRICS aims to challenge the dominance of Western powers in global institutions like the IMF and the World Bank, a critical factor for India's strategic goals within the group.

Andrew F. Cooper and Asif B. Farooq(2016),in the paper, "The Role of China and India in the G20 and BRICS: Commonalities or Competitive Behaviour?", examines China and India's relationship within the ambit of the G20 process and the autonomous BRICS institutional architecture. The evolving relationship of each of these two emerging powers within these different institutional settings demonstrates a degree of agentic commonality and distinction. China's and India's approaches to both the G20 and the BRICS summit processes highlight a combination of status-

seeking and hedging behaviour. While China's cautious approach is complemented by assertive leadership in matters of national interest, India's leadership has a very specific orientation towards developmental issues. Whereas China's approach focuses on the United States and the rest of the West, India's approach is increasingly positioned as a response to China

Sibghat Ullah Farooqui(2016),in the paper, "Bilateral trade and economic growth of China and India: A comparative study", the author attempts to examine the Bilateral Trade and Economic Growth between China and India, it also gives attention to draw outcome of trade, economic cooperation in future. This paper investigates the major trends and changes in the Import- Export, Terms of Trade (TOT), Total Trade, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and Trade Openness. By applying various statistical techniques, the results reveal that China has leading trading partner with India and across the world.

Dr. Ruchi Shukla, Himanya Sud & Yukti Goel(2017),in the paper titled "The Compendium of the Extant Sino-Indian Relations with Emphasis on Trade", sheds light upon the imbalanced relationship between China and India via the routes of politics, culture, disputes or merely the fact that they are two Asian leaders still in search of their sweet spot in the global market. They proposed a descriptive analysis of the comparison between the two, taking trade as one of our major parameters. These countries are comparable not because they share a similar affinity, but in terms of their aversion to the current structure of the world. China is one of India's largest trading partners, leading for India to have a trade deficit of \$52.69 billion dollars (owed to China). As per the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), during the fiscal year 2015-16, Indian exports were a little over \$9 billion and imports were worth \$61.7 billion to China alone.

Diki Sherpa(2017),in the article "Sino-Indian Border Trade: The Promise of Jelep La", states the potential of trade to boost urbanization in border areas that could change the economic geography of the border regions on both sides. Economic cooperation through Kalimpong-Jelep La will address the predicament of underdevelopment in India's periphery. At the same time, trade over land means movement of people across borders and so, increasing government responsibility for monitoring trade and other flows.

Research Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative research approach, primarily utilizing secondary sources for data collection and analysis. These sources include academic papers, government reports, policy briefs, and economic data. The research focuses on a comparative analysis to examine India's contributions and challenges within the BRICS grouping. Specifically, the analysis covers economic, geopolitical, and strategic dimensions that influence India's role in the group.

The data for this study is drawn from reputable international organizations, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The secondary data collected from these sources includes historical foreign direct investment (FDI) trends, economic profiles, development policies, and GDP growth forecasts of BRICS nations. This methodological framework allows for an in-depth understanding of India's positioning and its evolving contributions to the BRICS bloc.

BRICS: Shared Issues and Strategic Solutions

The BRICS nations are facing several challenges due to global economic problems. Slower economic growth, rising food and energy prices, and environmental concerns have impacted them all. Political issues, such as instability in West Asia and the rise of terrorism, have also created difficulties. While each BRICS country has its own unique situation, they share some common issues.

One major challenge is their different population structures, which affect job opportunities and labor markets. Another problem is the shortage of essential resources like energy, water, and food, which slows down development. These countries also need to focus on long-term economic growth by supporting global trade discussions, such as the Doha Round. Strengthening business ties within BRICS could open up new opportunities. However, to develop better infrastructure, they need easier access to financial resources. Additionally, global governance systems should be updated to reflect modern realities. Sustainable development and environmental concerns are also crucial. Income inequality is growing, and rapid urbanization brings new difficulties. On top of these, geopolitical tensions, trade disruptions, and security threats like terrorism and piracy further complicate matters.

With the Eurozone struggling and fears of another worldwide recession, people are paying close attention to how BRICS nations will handle these problems. A key question is whether they will push for major reforms in global governance. In past summits, BRICS leaders have pledged to collaborate on social protection, public health, food security, and agriculture. However, actual progress has been slow. India must take the lead in strengthening these efforts. By improving trade, investment, and financial cooperation within BRICS, India can create more opportunities and find common ground with its partners. The ultimate goal for BRICS should be to reform global financial and political institutions without completely replacing them.

Right now, many parts of the world are struggling economically. Brazil is facing corruption scandals, Russia is dealing with sanctions, China's growth is slowing, and unemployment is a major issue in the European Union. Amid these challenges, India stands out as a strong economy. Investors see India as a promising market. While stock prices in China and India are rising, other BRICS nations are seeing steep declines. India and China are increasing their exports and industrial production, while the rest of BRICS is suffering due to falling commodity prices. This puts India in a unique position to take advantage of new opportunities and strengthen its role in BRICS.

India and Brazil

India and Brazil both believe that development should include everyone. To solve their challenges, they have come up with creative solutions. One great example is Brazil's Zero Hunger program, which has successfully reduced poverty and improved food production. India can learn from this and apply similar ideas to reduce inequality and increase agricultural output. Brazil's programs are well-structured and transparent, making them some of the best in the world. By studying how Brazil efficiently delivers services at different government levels, India can improve its own policies. Additionally, India's private sector can play a major role in expanding these initiatives.

There are many areas where India and Brazil can work together, such as healthcare, poverty reduction, and social development through market-based policies. Rather than competing, the two countries should collaborate to create better strategies for growth. Their approaches to development complement each other, and by combining their efforts, they can open up many opportunities for mutual progress.

India and Russia

India and Russia have a long-standing strategic partnership. Both nations share common goals, such as promoting a multipolar world and ensuring stability in Afghanistan. Their relationship has seen key developments, including Russia's completion of two nuclear reactors at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu, despite local protests. Additionally, both countries have taken steps to boost trade, such as easing visa rules for businesspeople. However, government-to-government discussions, which were once effective, have recently caused misunderstandings and delays.

Meanwhile, China's trade with Russia is significantly larger than India's. In 2009-10, China's trade with Russia reached \$44.2 billion, growing by 25%, whereas India's economic engagement with Russia remains relatively weak. A major challenge is the lack of strong mechanisms for private businesses in India and Russia to collaborate, leading to small-scale trade instead of large economic partnerships.

With the global economy slowing down, this is the right time for both countries to revive their cooperation. India and Russia can work together on innovation and technology, helping each other fill market gaps and meet economic needs. Russia is focusing on modernizing its economy, and this could strengthen its ties with India. If India actively promotes advanced technological collaborations, both nations can benefit from joint projects in areas like scientific research and innovation.

India and China

The economic situations of India and China are very different. China is slowing its growth on purpose, while India is struggling with stalled progress. For decades, China rapidly expanded its economy, producing goods for the world. Now, it is shifting its focus to high-value industries. However, this transformation has been slow. Meanwhile, India's challenges include outdated laws, weak infrastructure, and corruption, which make economic reforms difficult.

China is a powerful player in international development cooperation. As its economy changes, China needs fewer workers than before. With an aging workforce, it must increase social welfare and spending. In contrast, India has a

young population, with an average worker age of 23 years, and a massive workforce under 30. This could be a great advantage, but only if India creates enough jobs to employ its youth effectively.

China is also a major lender, using cheap loans to expand its influence. It has \$3.2 trillion in foreign reserves, allowing it to invest globally. While China offers attractive loans, these often come with agreements that benefit Chinese suppliers. India must be cautious with Chinese loans, ensuring they do not create financial risks for Indian companies. A good example is Reliance Communications, which received large loans from Chinese banks. Such financial deals can give China greater control over Indian industries, something India must carefully manage.

China also invests heavily in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Its funding often comes with debt relief agreements and large infrastructure projects. Unlike Western aid, which is seen as donor-based, China presents its partnerships as equal and mutually beneficial, strengthening its influence worldwide.

South Africa: The Newest BRICS Member

South Africa officially joined BRICS in 2010. Compared to other BRICS nations, it has a smaller economy and population, but its role is still important. China supported South Africa's entry, as it has huge investments in the country, especially in banking, mining, transportation, and renewable energy. China is also South Africa's largest trade partner, and its financial investments have helped South Africa stay stable during economic downturns.

Africa, the second-largest continent, has 54 diverse nations with different histories and economic paths. South Africa, however, does not fully represent all African nations. Despite its differences, it shares many concerns with other sub-Saharan African countries, such as democracy, security, economic inequality, and unemployment.

While South Africa is the smallest BRICS economy, its membership gives the African continent a voice in global discussions. It plays a crucial role in addressing Africa's development challenges, making it a valuable addition to the BRICS group.

Challenges

One of the biggest challenges for BRICS is figuring out exactly what changes they want to bring to the world. There is a lack of clarity on this. Among the BRICS nations, China, India, and Russia are among the top five countries responsible for high carbon emissions. While these countries have followed the same polluting path as developed nations, they still have a great opportunity to adopt greener ways of growth. If they take the right steps, they can set an example for the rest of the world by promoting an eco-friendly development model.

Apart from BRICS, there is another group called IBSA, which includes India, Brazil, and South Africa. Since both organizations have some common goals, BRICS faces the challenge of managing overlapping responsibilities. It is important for BRICS to ensure that these different alliances do not create confusion or reduce their effectiveness.

All BRICS countries also struggle with domestic issues like income inequality, corruption, poor healthcare, lack of quality education, and human rights concerns. These problems must be tackled within each country while also working together as a group to achieve their bigger goals. Additionally, new economies such as Indonesia, Mexico, Turkey, Nigeria, and Poland are growing rapidly and are looking for bigger roles in global politics and economics. This adds another challenge for BRICS, as they must find ways to maintain their influence while also collaborating with these rising economies.

Infrastructure development is another major issue for BRICS nations. Strong infrastructure is essential for economic progress, especially in today's globalized world. Without proper roads, transportation, energy systems, telecommunication networks, and access to clean water, BRICS countries may struggle to compete in the global economy and participate in international trade.

Culture and tourism are also areas where BRICS countries have not yet built strong connections. Each country has different languages, traditions, food, and lifestyles, making it difficult to find common ground. This lack of cultural similarity makes it harder for them to collaborate in these fields.

Another major challenge is trade and investment. BRICS nations need to overcome trade disagreements between themselves. If they manage to settle their differences, they will be in a stronger position to negotiate better deals in

international trade and economic discussions. Finding ways to improve cooperation in trade will help BRICS strengthen its role in the global economy.

Suggestions

To strengthen BRICS' influence in global matters like leading the WTO, IMF, and World Bank, it is important for the group to choose and back common candidates for these roles. If BRICS fails to do this, it could lead to the belief that the group lacks unity, which would weaken its position internationally. Keeping promises and following through on commitments will help solidify BRICS' place in global organizations.

India, in particular, has a chance to improve its role by pushing for better cooperation within BRICS. It is essential for BRICS nations to work together on different international topics, with a focus on the broader interests of all member countries. This will help India use its position within BRICS to influence decisions that affect the global economy and politics.

To face challenges, India should advocate for clearer, shared goals in BRICS and strengthen the group's unity. By finding common ground on key issues, India can help BRICS become a stronger voice in the international arena. This approach will also help address the challenges India faces in BRICS by improving coordination and enhancing its influence.

Policy Recommendation

- **Strengthen Bilateral Economic Ties within BRICS to Balance Trade Dynamics**
India's engagement within BRICS offers significant economic potential, but to fully capitalize on this, India must focus on fortifying bilateral trade relationships within the bloc. A major challenge India faces is its growing trade deficit with China, which has outpaced its trade with other BRICS members. To balance these dynamics, India could engage in targeted trade agreements and bilateral negotiations with BRICS nations, particularly China and Russia. India should push for increased exports in sectors like technology, pharmaceuticals, and services, while seeking favorable terms for its trade imbalances. Furthermore, India can work with Brazil and South Africa to diversify the trade portfolio, focusing on key areas like agriculture, renewable energy, and infrastructure development, where India has comparative advantages. Enhancing trade facilitation mechanisms within BRICS will not only reduce trade barriers but also ensure a more balanced and equitable economic growth among the member countries. In addition, India should explore joint ventures and partnerships within the BRICS framework to open up markets and create a more stable trade environment.
- **Leverage BRICS Forums to Address Geopolitical Concerns and Advocate for Reforms**
BRICS provides India with a platform to promote its geopolitical interests and advocate for broader global reforms. As a member of BRICS, India should leverage the bloc's collective influence to address issues such as border security, regional stability, and the fight against terrorism. India can use BRICS summits and working groups to promote discussions on the geopolitical challenges it faces, particularly with respect to its contentious relationship with neighboring countries like China and Pakistan. By positioning itself as a leader within BRICS in the area of regional security, India can advocate for a more inclusive and multipolar world order that challenges the dominance of traditional Western powers. Additionally, India should use its position within BRICS to push for necessary reforms in global governance institutions like the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), where developing nations' voices are often underrepresented. In this regard, India could work with other BRICS members to push for comprehensive reforms that better reflect the current geopolitical realities, ensuring more equitable representation of emerging economies in decision-making bodies.
- **Enhance Participation in BRICS-Led Financial and Technological Initiatives**
To bolster its standing within BRICS and maximize its benefits, India should increase its involvement in the bloc's financial and technological initiatives. The New Development Bank (NDB) and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) are central components of BRICS' financial architecture, and India should

actively participate in these platforms to enhance its access to funding for infrastructure and development projects. By taking a more proactive role in these institutions, India can secure funding for critical domestic projects, such as the development of smart cities, renewable energy infrastructure, and digital transformation initiatives. Moreover, India should actively contribute to BRICS' technological initiatives, particularly in the fields of artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure, and cyber security. This can be done by collaborating with other BRICS countries to establish joint research centers, sharing knowledge, and creating platforms for innovation exchange. India's tech-savvy private sector, especially in the IT and software sectors can play a crucial role in these initiatives, positioning India as a global leader in emerging technologies within the BRICS framework. Furthermore, India's participation in these technological collaborations can lead to the development of new industries and job opportunities, thus contributing to sustainable economic growth.

Conclusion

BRICS faces several challenges that require careful attention and strategic action. One of the primary issues is the lack of clarity regarding the group's shared goals and objectives, especially in the face of economic and geopolitical differences. The environmental concerns tied to the high carbon emissions from major BRICS members, including China, India, and Russia, offer both a challenge and an opportunity to adopt more sustainable growth models. Additionally, the overlap between BRICS and other alliances like IBSA complicates their responsibilities and effectiveness, necessitating clearer coordination.

Furthermore, internal issues such as income inequality, corruption, and poor healthcare persist within the BRICS nations, which must be addressed both at the national level and within the context of the group's collective goals. The rise of new global economies presents an additional challenge, as BRICS must adapt to an increasingly multipolar world. To maintain its relevance and influence, BRICS needs to enhance its internal infrastructure, improve cultural and tourism connections, and resolve trade disagreements among its members.

To address these challenges, India can play a key role by advocating for clearer goals within BRICS and pushing for enhanced cooperation in areas such as trade, security, and technological innovation. Strengthening bilateral trade ties, especially with China and Russia, and leveraging BRICS forums to promote regional stability and global governance reforms will be crucial steps. Additionally, India's active participation in BRICS-led financial and technological initiatives can unlock opportunities for economic growth and development. A more collaborative and coordinated approach is essential for BRICS to overcome its internal challenges and to remain a significant player on the global stage.

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