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NEWS LETTER

**CENTRE FOR BRICS STUDIES**



**BRAZIL • RUSSIA • INDIA • CHINA • SOUTH AFRICA**





# BRICS COUNTRIES

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## About Amity University Haryana

Amity University Gurugram is a premier research and innovation driven university in India providing its student with world class academic and learning environment. Spread over a sprawling campus of 110 acres and located in the millennium city of Gurgaon, Amity University Gurgaon has become a stellar destination for students from across the country and abroad. Currently Amity University Gurgaon takes pride of having more than 5000 students in campus thereby creating a vibrant academic environment for all round development. The University is at present offering more than 100 programs in the field of Management, Engineering, Bio-technology, Applied Sciences, Forensic Sciences, Environment, Medical and Allied Health Sciences, Nursing, Journalism & Mass Communications, Liberal Arts, Computer Science, Foreign Language, Law, Architecture, Medical, Commerce, Economics, Fashion, Fine Arts, Liberal Arts, Laser Technology and Optoelectronics and Hotel Management both at undergraduate and post graduate levels, besides offering Doctoral Degree in many of these disciplines. The Centre for BRICS Studies at Amity University Gurgaon is a multi-disciplinary practice-research-outreach initiative comprising representatives from Amity Business School, Amity School of Economics, and Amity School of Languages.

### Vision of Honourable Chancellor

The Centre for BRICS Studies was inaugurated on February 10, 2011 at Amity University Haryana by Dr. Aseem Chauhan, Honourable Chancellor. His dynamic leadership has constantly been a source of inspiration in strengthening and transforming the Centre for BRICS Studies into a premier Centre of Excellence in Amity University Haryana promoting high-end research, practice and outreach. The Chancellor's rightful vision of BRICS becoming an important geo-political and geo-economic grouping in the arena of multilateral diplomacy requiring extensive research and academic exploration for a large university has been truly a catalytic force in making the Centre for BRICS Studies successful. The launching of 6th Volume of the Centre's Newsletter on the occasion of Innovation Day September 28, 2019 reflects the vision and charismatic leadership of Hon'ble Chancellor Dr. Aseem Chauhan, which in turn has been responsible for the numerous achievements of the Centre for BRICS Studies.



**DR. ASEEM CHAUHAN**  
CHANCELLOR  
AMITY UNIVERSITY HARYANA

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## From the Chief Editor's Desk

In the ambit of evolving new world order BRICS community has created a special status because it consists of some of the very powerful fast-moving emerging economies that enormously impacted global economic growth and power balance. The strategic and growing partnership among BRICS – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – has virtually transformed landscape of global geopolitics. Contemporary multilateral diplomacy has now realized that BRICS politico-economic grouping has become an impeccable powerhouse accounting for around 46% of world population, 25% landmass and more than 25% of global GDP. The great significance of BRICS with regard to various metrics such as natural, human and intellectual capital, and technological capital is recognized in various world political and economic forums while addressing pressing global issues ranging from environment safeguard measures, energy security, cyber security, terrorism, poverty alleviation, health issues, employment, science and technology including information and communication technology and other strategic issues in developmental process has become centre of attention of international community including the traditionally dominating western powers. The 10th BRICS Summit held in July 2018 decided on BRICS taking leadership role in ushering an era of Fourth Industrial Revolution, which aims at inclusive growth and shared prosperity by technological experimentation and breakthroughs. The 11th BRICS Summit scheduled to be held in November 2019 in Brazil with its theme “Economic growth for innovative future” is expected to provide further impetus to issues related to issues related to scientific-technical and innovative cooperation, digital economy, the fight against organized crime and money laundering, consolidation of cooperation within the BRICS Business Council and accelerating the momentum BRICS New Development Bank.

I take pride to state that the Centre for BRICS Studies has evolved as a premier Centre of Excellence promoting research, practice and outreach related to emerging geopolitical, business, management and socio-cultural developments among BRICS community. It focuses on high-end research, creation and dissemination of knowledge and information on BRICS, analysis of politico-economic cooperation among BRICS, deliberation on public policy matters, and enhancement of people-to-people contact. In this context, the Centre for BRICS Studies and Russian State University of Humanities (RSUH) has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the purpose of development of mutual academic cooperation. While keeping track of the latest happenings in BRICS including various Summit meetings, the Centre for BRICS Studies has been at the forefront in organizing expert talks, discussion forums, international publications, guest lectures by senior diplomats and industry professionals, college competitions, etc. thereby providing a major platform for academia-industry integration. I am extremely glad that currently the Centre for BRICS Studies is offering Doctoral program on BRICS issues in collaboration with Amity Business School (ABS), apart from existing courses in MBA program in International Business stream at ABS, Amity University Haryana.

The September 2019 Newsletter of the Centre for BRICS Studies inaugurated on the occasion of Innovation Day continues to showcase the Centre's profound academic and intellectual engagement aimed at enhancing people to people cooperation within BRICS community at large.

I wish the Centre for BRICS Studies the very best in days to come.



**PROF. (DR.) PADMAKALI BANERJEE**  
PRO-VICE CHANCELLOR  
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HEAD - CENTRE FOR BRICS STUDIES  
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### Centre Head and Editor-in-Chief

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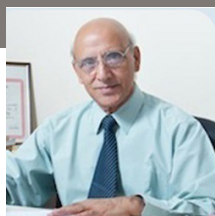
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## Need to improve Gender Equality in BRICS Nations

**Prof Ashok kumar Tikku**

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BRICS Nations as a group have shown great wisdom and unity in arriving at mutually acceptable solutions and understanding on Various issues be it Global Terrorism, Issues confronting World trade organization, climatic changes, Providing Funds for infrastructure projects, setting up BRICS Bank to provide cheap finance for infra projects, Education and numerous other issues. Another issue that merits attention is the Gender Inequality in BRICS Nations. Worldwide reports and surveys suggest that the Gender equality in both Education and Employment does contribute to economic growth. Global survey shows that BRICs nations have been under-performing on this front vis-a-vis other countries, hence the need for greater focus on this issue.

The Economic growth across the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) averaged 5.4% per year between 2008 and 2017, far eclipsing the average of less than 1% per year in the United States and Europe over the same period. IMF projections show that between 2016 and 2021 the BRICS nations will account for about half of world growth. Now it remains to be seen whether the new leadership in these countries (South Africa and India having just completed the elections), and (Brazil) just last year, will be able to sustain that record of economic growth? The answer to this question will depend on how well the proceeds of growth benefit all sections of the society, particularly the neglected ones like women and girls.

Evidence shows that gender equality, particularly in education and employment, contributes to economic growth. But a new measure of gender equality index across 129 countries – aligned to the ambitious commitments made in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – shows the BRICs countries as a group is under-performing against the global average on gender equality. Many countries with lower levels of economic development including Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan – performed better in gender equality than the five BRICS countries.

With just over 10 years left to reach the SDGs by 2030, and the BRICs nations needing new strategies to sustain their growth trajectories, these five economic powerhouses should heed the warning signs. While there are gender equality-related issues where the BRICS nations outperform the global average – including those related to health, poverty and clean energy – there are a number of issues on which the BRICS countries fall behind the rest of the world and even behind countries with much lower levels of economic development.

Gender inequality trouble spots for the BRICS countries is particularly evident in the lack of transparency in government budgets and the gaps in gender statistics: issues that include women's safety from violence, low levels of women's political participation, weak scores on key labor rights and high levels of economic inequality between the richest and poorest in society in general. Cumulatively, these statistics show a disproportionately negative impact on women and children.

None of the BRICs countries are yet making the changes in policies, laws and much needed budget decisions to ensure that women and girls benefit equally from, and have the chance to contribute to, a future of shared and sustained growth across the BRICS bloc. All the BRICS nations need to do more to convert their economic wealth into driving progress for women and girls.

Take women's political representation in senior government or ministerial positions. Leaving aside South Africa, which performs quite well on this measure, Brazil (just 4% of senior government positions are held by women), Russia (10%), China (10%), and India (19%) are in the bottom half of countries on this indicator. Women are not rising to the highest ranks of government power in four of the five BRICS countries. And yet much poorer countries like Rwanda, Nicaragua, Peru and Uganda top the world when it comes to having high proportions of women in senior government roles.

While it is clear that much more needs to be done across the BRICS on key gender equality issues, there are examples of progress that can be built upon and gains that must be guarded against rollbacks. In China, for



example, the National Program for Women's Development that ran from 2001 to 2010, as well as the National Program for Women's Development currently running from 2011 to 2020, have increased access to preventive screenings, standard reproductive health-care services, and health and nutritional education. However the Gender Inequality has increased after the introduction of Market oriented economic reforms and sale of state owned enterprises.

In Brazil in 2015, under the previous government, a law was passed that criminalizes femicide (the gender-motivated killing of women); it also strengthened penalties for offenders. In Russia, entrepreneur, lawyer and rights activist Alyona Popova is preparing a draft bill to criminalize domestic violence. She is also lobbying for the introduction of the first restraining orders in Russia. South Africa has some of the highest rates of women represented in parliament and in senior government positions in the world.

In India also there are signs that social norms are shifting, as well. A 2019 survey in India revealed that 75% of respondents (drawn from urban communities) supported women working outside their homes. Almost 90% agreed that Indian men and women should be paid equally for the same job. Indian women are making a mark in traditionally male-dominated areas and redefining their roles in the society. Most Urban Indian millennials netizens including men seem to approve of these changes. However, the Survey also hints that the support may be superficial. In reality, a significant portion of men are still reluctant to share women burden- child rearing etc making it difficult for women to work outside homes.

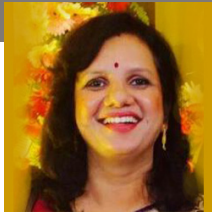
When the BRICS leaders meet this November in Brazil for their annual summit, it is certain that champions for gender equality and equal rights for women and girls will be trying to make their voices heard. BRICS Feminist Watch and the BRICS Women Business Alliance are just two examples of groups advocating for the bloc to do more to tackle the gender inequalities pervasive across all five nations.

The question is whether BRICS leaders will heed the opportunity to better ensure that the talents and potential of half of their population are not cast aside. As they look for development strategies that will take them to the top of the world's economic growth league table, Gender equality is a strategy in which the BRICS nations are currently under-invested and under focused and merits collective efforts. Large number of studies have found that gender equality and economic growth are positively related and that higher per capita income is associated with lower gender inequality but the reverse is also true. In reality the impact of Globalization on Gender inequality has not been researched properly and BRICS nations could be the torch bearers and take a lead in approaching this issue in detail.

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## Status of Mental Health in BRICS Countries

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About one-third of the global burden of mental illnesses is found in China and India, greater than all developed countries put together (Charlson et al., 2016). The study also revealed that depressive and anxiety disorders are the most common mental illnesses, for which very few people ever seek treatment. According to a survey, Brazil leads the world in prevalence of anxiety disorders and ranks fifth in depression rates (WHO, 2017).

Themes of Health and mental health have been emphasised in many of the BRICS summits. In Sanya Declaration (April, 2011) BRICS countries expressed “a firm commitment to strengthen dialogue and cooperation in the fields of social security [...] and public health, including the fight against HIV/AIDS”. The 7th BRICS Summit was held in Ufa, Russia, in 2015. The Ufa Declaration affirms “the right of all individuals, without distinction, to the highest possible standard of physical and mental health and quality of life necessary for the maintenance of their health and well-being and the health and well-being of their family”. It calls on the international community to strengthen cooperation among countries to achieve health goals, which include implementing “universal and equitable access to health services” and “ensuring the provision of good quality and affordable services, taking into account the different national circumstances, policies, priorities and capacities” and through partnerships with the public and private sectors, civil society and the academia, improve health for all.

One of the major issues in BRICS countries is the availability of qualified human resources to address health issues adequately. Great disparities among the BRICS are observed in this respect. Brazil and Russia have greater densities of doctors and nurses per 10,000 inhabitants. Russia has significant values which are far lower in Brazil, where the situation is complicated by poor distribution of these professionals in relation to areas of high and low economic development. In order to deal with this situation Brazil recently launched the “Mais Médicos” program that aims to supply remote and poor territories with these professionals. The other countries have far smaller contingents, though in the case of China this limitation is compensated by the services of less qualified personnel, known as “barefoot doctors”. It is surprising, however, that in China where the health situation is relatively good: the per capita health expenditure is one of the lowest among the BRICS.

In India the situation of mental health services is worrisome. The WHO (2017) reported 43 government-funded hospitals which cater to an estimated 70 million plus people with mental disorders. For every million population, there are three psychiatrists, and even fewer psychologists. The National Mental Health Survey (2016) in India revealed an overall treatment gap of 83% for any mental health problem. The causes attributed to the treatment gap are poor awareness and perceived need, stigma, sociocultural beliefs, and values; with additional factors, including insufficient, inequitably distributed, and inefficiently used resources.

In order to reduce the treatment gap and provide more consistent and accessible mental health services, the World Health Organization (2008) encouraged countries to integrate mental health services into their primary care systems. In the city of Sobral, Brazil, primary care practitioners conducted physical and mental health assessments for all patients as part of integrated primary care for mental health. Joint consultations were undertaken among mental health specialists, primary care practitioners, and patients. This model ensures good-quality mental health care, and it serves as a training and supervision tool whereby primary care practitioners gain skills that enable greater competence and autonomy in managing mental disorders (WHO, 2008). A similar model was practiced as part of the District Mental Health Programme in Thiruvananthapuram district, Kerala, India. Over time, the primary care centers assumed responsibility for independently operating mental health clinics with minimal support from the mental health team (WHO, 2008).

Recently community platforms and services are being utilised as an alternative to primary care to enhance the



reach of mental health services. The psychological treatments are delivered by nonspecialist providers (NSPs) through 'task shifting'. Task shifting or 'task sharing', is defined as 'delegating tasks to existing or new cadres with either less training or narrowly tailored training for the required service' (Fulton, 2011). An NSP is defined as anyone who provides, or intends to provide, mental health care but has not had specialized professional clinical training in a field closely related to mental health (van Ginneken et al. 2013). NSPs may include, but are not limited to, community health volunteers, peers from the same community, social workers, midwives, auxiliary health staff, teachers, primary care doctors, nurses etc.

In a community-based rehabilitation program for persons with schizophrenia in India, lay health workers were better able to communicate with the local community because they used local cultural idioms leading to more effective psychosocial support (Chatterjee et al.; 2003). The World Health Organization's (WHO) Mental Health Action Plan for 2013–2020 calls for the provision of comprehensive, integrated mental health and social care including promotion and prevention programs in communities integrating the perspectives and engagement of service users and families (WHO, 2013).

Community programs increase the likelihood of family involvement and can play a crucial role in promoting mental health awareness, reducing stigma and discrimination, supporting recovery and social inclusion, and preventing mental disorders.

Community components are imperative for addressing global mental health needs and to rectify the stark gap between the burden of mental disorders and access to appropriate evidence-based interventions in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMIC). It follows that international action plans and guidelines emphasize community mental health care.

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## E-COMMERCE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT WITHIN BRICS NATIONS - POLICY INITIATIVES BY INDIA

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E-commerce remains a largely unregulated segment across the BRICS economies and therefore a well-defined legal framework to govern the e-commerce market is required to be put in place. An e-commerce marketplace provides all-round benefits, in comparison to its physical counterpart, like development in the area of logistics, delivery partners, providing employment, access to producers /sellers in far-flung areas of the country. However, there are various issues which need to be addressed.

Issues related to the mode of payment-In the online medium through credit cards, Smart Cards, Payment Gateways etc. Service providers take a percentage of the transaction cost vis a vis a traditional retail store as a risk premium because the signature of the purchaser cannot be captured to eliminate possibility of credit card misuse in the online environment.

Issues related to Personalization vs. Privacy, there exists a conflict between the need for privacy on the part of the consumer, and the need to be able to personalize the offering on the part of commerce the e-tailer. Companies increasingly rely on data to run their businesses and data regulations is particularly relevant for e-companies to avoid misuse of personal data.

Another important issue is related to security of the transaction and the integrity of the business with which the customer transacts since in a Global business environment e-commerce extends beyond the national boundaries and connects a global audience. To facilitate the growth of e-commerce within BRICS, a legal framework needs to evolve that makes sense for a global marketplace.

Strengthening the legal framework, capacity and infrastructure for countering cyberattacks is perhaps the most challenging aspect to overcome, in order to help the growth in this sector. Lack of relevant international legal frameworks, and inadequate capacity and infrastructure at home to respond effectively to cyberattacks are the main concerns for BRICS countries. Coordination and cooperation among the BRICS are critical in this context to create a safe and stable environment and react efficiently in combating cybercrime.

As indicated by UNCTAD's cyber law tracker, among the four major areas of e-commerce related consumer protection legislations are: e-transaction, consumer protection, privacy and data protection and cybersecurity. This is an area where BRICS countries could invest more efforts to complete their legal framework. A minimum level of consumer protection could increase the confidence of consumers in e-commerce and increased adoption of e-commerce.

With the advent of online e-commerce in India, consumers have benefitted from increased competition in the market by way of getting access to greater variety of products at competitive prices. However, for a long time laws regulating e-commerce in India used to lack clarity and the segment used to be governed by the IT Act 2000, as the e-Commerce sector is driven by technology and data.

Continuously evolving technologies and volumes of data generated in a consumer-oriented country like India requires a regulatory framework for empowering domestic entrepreneurs, leveraging access to data, connecting MSMEs, vendors, traders etc. to the digital ecosystem as well as empowering consumers to retain control of the data generated and owned by them. The Indian legal system has been regulating e-commerce under the same set of laws that regulate offline commerce. Nevertheless, policy makers in India have finally sought to address various facets of e-commerce such as the issues of FDI norms, data privacy and consumer protection laws in a focused manner.

There is no doubt that electronic commerce and data are emerging as critical determinants of India's growth and economic development. It is imperative that India develops robust administrative, regulatory and legal mechanisms. A draft National e-Commerce policy of India has been prepared and placed in public domain by Government of India, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, on 26th June 2019. The policy takes into account



interests of all stakeholders - investors, manufacturers, MSMEs, traders, retailers, startups and consumers. The policy addresses six broad areas of the e-commerce ecosystem viz. data, infrastructure development, e-commerce marketplaces, regulatory issues, stimulating domestic digital economy and export promotion through e-commerce.

The FDI Policy in e-commerce facilitates foreign investment in e-commerce marketplaces. The policy aims to clearly demarcate what constitutes a marketplace model and what comprises an inventory-based model of sales and distribution. A situation of capital dumping is strongly discouraged. The policy aims to invite and encourage foreign investment in the 'marketplace' model alone wherein foreign investor cannot exercise ownership or control over the inventory sold on its platform. In this manner, small offline retailers of multi-branded products do not see foreign investment as a threat. The FDI policy, also takes into account interests of domestic manufacturers/ traders/ sellers/ MSMEs/start-ups and seeks to create a level playing field in retail.

According to the draft e-com policy 2019 of India there are regulatory measures shall be applicable to all e-commerce websites/applications. All product shipments from other countries to India must be channelized through the customs route. Any non-compliant e-commerce app / website will not be given access to operate in India. All e-commerce sites/apps available for download in India must have a registered business entity in India as the importer on record. This is important for ensuring compliance and preventing deceptive and fraudulent practices, protection of privacy, safety and security.

All e-Commerce sites/apps available to Indian consumers (displaying prices in INR) must have MRPs on all packaged products, physical products and invoices. To avoid misuse of the 'gifting' route, all such parcels shall be banned with the exception of life-saving drugs.

Consumer/Business Payments from Indian banks and payment gateways to unauthorized and unregistered (GST non-compliant) sites/apps shall be barred. Also e-commerce entities will have to make a full disclosure to the consumer regarding the purpose and use of data collection, upfront, in a simplified manner on their websites/ application interfaces.

The policy also addresses Anti-Counterfeiting Measures, according to which the Seller details should be made available on marketplace website for all products including full name of the seller / name of the legal entity, full address and contact details like email and phone number. Sellers must provide an undertaking to the platform about genuineness of products they are selling and the same must be made accessible to consumers. Trade mark (TM) owners shall be given the option to register themselves with e-commerce platforms. Whenever a trade-marked product is uploaded for sale on the platform, the platform shall notify the respective TM owner. The e-commerce platforms shall not list/ offer for sale, any of the owners' products without prior concurrence and TM owner's authorization. The e-commerce platform shall also seek a guarantee from the sellers that the product has not been impaired in any manner and that all warranties and guarantees of the brand owner are applicable and shall be honoured. Accordingly, products of any sellers who are unable to provide such a guarantee shall not be listed on the platform.

Delivery of goods to the customers and customer satisfaction will be responsibility of the seller. Counterfeiting is a major concern and if a customer makes a complaint, marketplaces would have liability to return the amount paid by the customer. In addition, the marketplaces shall cease to host the counterfeited product on their platform and strip down every information related to the product. Moreover, if a seller is found to be selling counterfeit products, the marketplace should blacklist that seller from selling on its platform for a specified period.

In order to tackle online distribution of pirated content which is a matter of serious concern, the policy covers Anti-piracy measures according to which the Intermediaries shall put in place measures to prevent online dissemination of pirated content by identifying 'trusted entities'. Upon being notified by the owner that a website or e-commerce platform is making available or selling and distributing a copyrighted content without the prior permission/ authorization of the owner, such website or platform should immediately remove or disable access to the alleged content. A body of industry stakeholders will be created that shall identify 'rogue websites' that host predominantly pirated content. After verification, these rogue websites shall be included in the "Infringing Websites list". ISP's shall remove or disable access to these rogue websites identified in the IWL and also stop their online payments through Payment gateways. Moreover, Search Engines shall take necessary steps to remove websites identified in the IWL, in their search results. Advertisers or advertising agencies shall not host any advertisements on the websites identified in the IWL.

The Draft policy also addresses issues related to Authentic Ratings and Reviews. There should be transparency

and non-discrimination in publishing of ratings and reviews. All ratings and reviews for verified purchases must be published as registered by the consumer. Marketplaces are required to devise mechanisms to prevent fraudulent reviews and ratings by the sellers and their affiliates.

The policy to ensure Consumer Oriented Customer Service. Publication and display of phone numbers and email addresses for consumer grievances is mandatory for all ecommerce sites and applications. A system of acknowledgment of consumer complaints to be put in place as well as a clear cut timelines for their disposal. These timelines are to be displayed prominently on the website/ application. A first resolution to all consumer complaints must be provided within 1 week.

The proposed e-com policy takes into account Prevention of Sale of Prohibited Items. Sellers must provide an undertaking to the e-com platform that they are not engaged in transacting in such products on the platform. In case it is found that products being sold are prohibited, or a complaint to that effect is received, the platform shall immediately remove the listing or other reference to the product. The time limit for this shall not exceed 24 hours. Such sellers shall also be black listed from the platform and the relevant authorities notified. The liability of the platform in case used for sale of prohibited goods shall be determined as per provisions of law. The overall objective of the National e-commerce Policy of India is to prepare and enable stakeholders to fully benefit from the opportunities that would arise from progressive digitalization of the digital economy. The Policy aims to create a framework for achieving holistic growth of the e-commerce sector along with existing policies of Make in India and Digital India. India's e-commerce sector, currently estimated to be worth around \$25 billion, is expected to grow to \$200 billion over the next 10 years. This necessitates better policy response and coordination among various departments of the government. It is contemplated that the much awaited e-commerce policy of India, when put in place, should boost consumer confidence within the BRICS countries and help the Indian players establish themselves within the BRICS countries and pose a challenge to dominant Chinese players.

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## India-Russian Relations: Scaling New Heights and Shaping BRICS Geopolitics

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India-Russian relations constitute a long-lasting and ever-growing 70-year old strategic partnership whose hallmarks are dynamic changes, mutual trust and intensification of mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation. This is a bilateral partnership that dates back to its roots in 1940s (with erstwhile Soviet Union and now primarily Russian Federation) and withstood the test of time and which enjoys increasingly phenomenal growth in people to people contact in BRICS community. Over the years both the countries have institutionalized dialogue mechanisms not only at the highest political levels but also at diplomatic and societal levels.

The recent visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Vladivostok in Russia at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin in September 2019 is a landmark in scaling new heights in India-Russia relations. thereby This is the first ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Russia's Far East Region that shares land borders with China, Mongolia, North Korea and a maritime boundary with Japan. Two features that stand out in this visit relates to a new approach to India-Russia relations through the Indo-Pacific and reinforcing the strategic dimensions of geopolitical contours of BRICS and simultaneously reiterating time-tested trust and mutual friendship between India and Russia. In Vladivostok, PM Modi said: "We are starting a new era of cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region," and announced a credit line of \$1 billion for the development of Russia's far eastern region. This itself is a landmark decision in Indo-Russian history of economic cooperation tantamount to an "inversion of global perceptions that is nothing short of staggering". Through this initiative India has shifted its focus towards energy and mineral rich regions of Russia's Far East to diversify economic cooperation.

The two countries also agreed to set-up a sea link between Vladivostok, the capital of Russian Far East, and Chennai. The 20th India Russia Summit taking place during PM's visit concluded with 25 agreements covering the entire gamut of space, energy, trade, education, culture, connectivity corridors etc. Agreement to cooperate in the field of emerging technologies and upgrading defense cooperation by promoting joint development and manufacturing of military equipment, components and spare parts, in partnership with Indian industry, would not only help in reducing India's import dependency but also develop its export potential.

Traditionally defence cooperation is one of the strongest pillars of the India-Russia relationship. India, with Russia's cooperation, has achieved capacity building in strategic issues related acquisitions and development of weapons. The relationship is evolving from the traditional buyer-seller one to that of joint production and development, with emphasis on technology sharing. Russia is committed to becoming a partner in the 'Make in India' program. New Delhi's decision to go ahead with the purchase of S-400 missile defence system, worth over \$5 billion underscores the importance India continues to attach to its defence engagement with Russia.

India's bilateral economic ties with Russia have been hovering around \$10 billion of trade. Energy is one area which has the potential to provide ballast to their ties. After having invested around \$10 billion in acquiring stakes in hydrocarbon assets in Russia, Indian energy companies are keen to invest in Russia's upstream sector. In recent years Indian oil companies bought stakes in Russian companies and oilfields worth US\$ 5.5 billion, and Rosneft has acquired an Indian company, ESSAR, in a deal worth US\$ 13 billion. This is not only Russia's largest investment in India, but also India's single largest FDI. India and Russia have set up a US\$ 1 billion Fund to promote mutual investment in infrastructure and technology projects. Additionally, a consortium of Indian oil companies is reportedly making a play for a significant stake in the eastern cluster oil fields in Russia. In terms of volume, the present figures do not reflect the strength of the relationship or the potential of our economies, which is immense. The largest exports from India to Russia are chemical products, engineering goods and agricultural products. India ranks fourth in the world in terms of production of generic pharmaceutical products. It is heartening to notice that the two countries are also maintaining economic affinity with regard to tax reforms, just as India has implemented the Goods and Services Tax (GST) to have uniformity in its indirect tax system Russian Federation has also harmonized the taxes on sales of most goods and services. This has given further boost to exporters and importers of two countries to enhance trade and commerce and reduce trade imbalance.

The recent visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Vladivostok, Russia in September 2019 has given fresh impetus to bilateral trade relations. During their discussions, Prime Minister Modi and Russian President Putin decided to enhance the magnitude of Indo-Russian bilateral trade to USD 30 billion by 2025. The two leaders agreed to more actively engage the impressive resource and human resources potential of India and Russia, enhance industrial cooperation, create new technological and investment partnership, especially in advanced high-tech areas and find new avenues and forms of cooperation. The two countries are formidable members in BRICS community and have great potential to shaping BRICS geopolitics. The two countries are also continuing to promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation with other member countries in BRICS. India by virtue as the largest democracy and Russia by virtue of largest country in global paradigm have significant stakes in ushering a new trajectory of BRICS future prospects on a higher plane of politico-economic cooperation.

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## From Reform of the Established Institutions to Countering Terrorism: BRICS A New Platform of Cooperation

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After more than a decade, BRICS member states face new challenges of global economic turmoils and terror agencies. The issue now is can BRICS become a catalyst for reforming the established institutions that are short of addressing the current realities? Is it possible for the member states to jointly lay down new parameters for the diversity of issues faced by each country? Whether international cooperative mechanism under BRICS forge new alliances to counter global terror or not? The BRICS seems to offer a strong conglomeration of few rising powers to challenge the current international institutions and offer new alternatives to build a shared destiny.

The recent BRICS Foreign Ministers Standalone meeting was held in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil from July 25 to 26. The main purpose of the meeting was to prepare for the 11th BRICS Summit of the leaders that will be held in Brasilia in November this year as well as to deliberate on the issues of common concern. Generally, the Foreign Ministers of BRICS countries meet twice annually: One, during the Standalone meeting hosted by the BRICS chair; and the other in a meeting held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

BRICS meeting is a platform which India regards as a “valuable forum for consultation, coordination, and cooperation on contemporary global issues of mutual interest and that has helped promote mutual understanding.” This has been clearly articulated by the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi. However, it has also become a platform to deliberate on issues of reforming the defunct established institutions and find parallels/alternatives that can address the evolving needs of the global community. In particular, the issues confronted in global trade along with serious threats posed by the growing global terror activities find a space in BRICS forum.

In June 2019, the leaders of BRICS had an informal summit on the sidelines of G20 summit in Osaka, Japan. The meeting clearly emphasized on countering terrorism, working to stand against trade protectionism, advocating multilateralism, and establishing a free and inclusive rule-based multilateral trading system catering to developing and low-income developing countries.

### Russia and China in BRICS: Beyond SCO Definition of Terrorism

The Shanghai Cooperation organization which is spearheaded by Russia and China as a platform to discuss various issues of regional and global concern lacks the ability to redefine parameters of global terror, except focusing on extremism and splitting that plagues both Russia and China. From India's point of view, there are state-sponsored terror outfits that need to be rooted out and cooperative mechanisms established to share information. While China under President Xi Jinping is advocating shared future for humanity, the notions of human security and regional stability have not taken into account the trans-border terrorism where the state is an active actor and terrorist-financing is a major concern.

The SCO forum with both India and China as members is, hence, unable to strongly represent India's stand against terrorism, especially when India points to Pakistan as terror breeding state. It is where Gen. (Dr.) Vijay Kumar Singh (retd.), who is the Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways, while representing India in Brazil stated that the objective of the BRICS should be to develop common approaches to counter terrorism. He called upon the member states to support India's call for a Global Conference on terrorism, emphasizing that this would show the commitment of states to have a firm international

legal basis to fight against terrorism and would result in drafting a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. While calling for coordinated effort to strengthen mechanisms for sharing of information, best practices and capacity building, VK Singh also highlighted the need to jointly work against economic offenders and fugitives that pose serious threat to the economic stability of the world.

#### Reform of Established Institutions

BRICS is increasingly seen as a platform of rising nations to demand a change in the established institutions that fail to recognize the current realities and are unable to cater to the needs of the developing countries. The world is changing fast and there are new global geo-economic and geo-political undercurrents that are shaping the future architecture. In this uncertain changing world, there is an imperative need for BRICS member states to make concerted effort to look at issues of sustained development and counter all forces of unilateralism. India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has time and again reiterated to establish a rule based multilateral world order, which will ensure global stability and growth.

Interestingly, for the first time, China and Russia along with other member states have backed India's stand on 'reformed multilateralism' in international institutions including IMF and WTO. During BRICS summit in Johannesburg in 2018, PM Modi's vision document highlighted five key recommendations: to promote 'reformed multilateralism in international institutions, accord greater priority to infrastructure and renewable energy related projects by New Development Bank, ensure availability of energy resources at low cost, stronger commitment to fighting terrorism, and to ensure ease of movement of skilled personnels. The Joint Statement issued at the recent BRICS meeting called for reforming the multilateral system including the UN, the IMF, the WTO and other international organizations. BRICS can thus be regarded as a forum marching to reform the defunct systems and as a changing agent for multilateral order.

### What BRICS forum is expecting from Modi 2.0



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It has been more than quarter that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the right-wing Bharatiya Janta Party have won a powerful mandate in India's 2019 general elections. As India formed a new government and Modi has already began a second five-year term, there would be few expectations from the corner of BRICS forum from the 2.0 regime brief case of Narendra Modi, however there might be few unresolved bilateral treaties which might be eased off in the BRICS summit forum in 2019.

One of the fundamental foreign policy challenges that will remain high on the agenda in briefcase is the nature of the bilateral relationship with China. As Modi's second term begins in a turbulent global context, with no sign that either the United States or China will unilaterally capitulate in the bilateral competition that exists between them. On the other front the border dispute between the two countries remains as intractable as ever and concerns in Delhi about China's big strategic and economic bet on Pakistan are growing. In the recent past it has been seen that India expanded its naval and diplomatic engagement with like-minded diplomatic partners in the Indo-Pacific region – all while leaving the premise of balancing a rising China an implicit one. On the other vital front terming economic offenders is a "serious threat" to the world's economic stability, India has urged the BRICS nations to continue to work together against such lawbreakers and fugitives. To encounter with this Modi 2.0 regime has suggested a nine-point agenda, which includes strong and active international cooperation, cooperation in legal processes, extradition, exchange of information, and stopping entry and safe haven to fugitive economic offenders. The Indian government has called BRICS forum to extend support of Global terrorism with efforts to increase important role to play in shaping the global



economic and political architecture. Besides the unavoidable challenges of terrorism, conflicts, trans-national crimes and maritime threats, there are also issues of sustainable development, including the lack of energy security, insufficiently skilled human capital and unilateralism which is on agenda to be taken up by the Indian government on the BRICS forum.

On the margins of G-20 summit in June 2019 India put forward the emphasis of reformed multilateralism in international financial and business institutions and organizations for the necessary reforms. In the same forum it was appended that Physical and social infrastructure and renewable energy programs of the member countries should get more priority by the New Development Bank, easy movement of skilled labour among the countries that would in turn benefit the countries where a large part of the population has crossed the working age. While India urges in a heavy trunk voice about all the 360 degree voice it is expected that all above stated issues shall be addressed and be taken up in BRICS Summit in Brasília in 2019.



## Wooden Dolls: A Cultural Connection Between India, Russia, Japan And China

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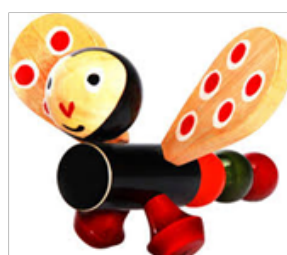
Doll making tradition is a part of almost every civilization; we found it from Indus valley, Egyptian, Sumerian and many other civilizations. Doll making is folk culture. India, Russia, Japan and China have their strong tradition of toy making which is still going on and carrying forward with the old tradition. This living tradition is quite appreciated, where many similar traditions disappearing by the technology and industrial revolution. In India, Indus valley civilization is one of the earliest civilizations. We found lots of toys from this civilization like mother goddess, dancing girl, votive figurine etcetera. These are just not the toys moreover these represent the art, culture, religion and society of a civilization. India is a country which has lots of diversity in tradition, culture and religion that reflected well in its doll making tradition too. Channapatna doll making tradition is one of the living traditions of doll making which is continuing since last three centuries. The great ruler Tipu Sultan encouraged and patronized the doll making tradition. He invited some artisans from Persia to train the local craftsmen for development of the wooden toy-making tradition. Since the tradition is continuing but its structure, form and stylization have changed over time by diverse influences. This tradition goes to a different direction with the contribution of Bavas Mayan, who had trained in Japanese wooden doll making technology and helped the local artisan to improve and explore their skills.



Channapatna Nesting Toy



Channapatna Kinetic Toy



Channapatna Toy (Bird)



Channapatna Toy (Human Figure)

Basic raw materials of Channapatna toys are wood, Lacquer and natural colours. Traditionally they use Ivory-wood but rubber, sycamore, cedar, pine and teak are used as well. Artisans use turning machine to give the primary shape to the toys. These toys are the construction of basic geometric shapes with the combination of cylindrical and spherical forms. Uses of natural colours mixing with lacquer give these toys bright and vibrant looks. Subject wise their toys are quite versatile. Wide range of animals, birds and the human figure are there, besides static toys they have been producing a wide range of moving and kinetic toys. This is a traditional community-based craft. The whole village is working on this and following same style, method and techniques to

maintain the tradition. Though this Indian doll making tradition is a purely folk tradition its function of geometry, brilliant colour and aesthetic value elevated it to an object of art. In this tradition, they are also making Nesting Dolls influenced by Japanese and Russian Doll making tradition.



Chinese Nesting Box



Japanese Nesting Doll



Japanese Kokeshi Doll

The concept of nesting boxes originated in China in the Song dynasty around 1000AD. These boxes were used both as functional and decorative purpose. They applied the concept of nesting in doll making during the 17th century. Gradually this tradition came to Japan, and they started making nesting dolls. Japanese Used to make seven pieces in a set of dolls which represent seven lucky goddesses from Japanese mythology. Besides its aesthetic value, these dolls had a ritualistic purpose. Another kind of wooden doll Kokeshi was also very famous in Japan. This doll was originated in the North part of Japan during the Edo period (1600-1868). The literal meaning of Kokeshi is wooden small dolls. These dolls were toys for children. These are simple forms of cylinder and sphere; spherical shape for the head and cylindrical shape for the body. They use minimum lines and colours. To define faces they use few thin painted lines and patches. Traditionally they paint floral motif of red and black on the body and covered with a thin layer of wax.



Matryoshka Dolls' Nesting Dolls of Russia



Russian artisan began nesting doll making widely a little more than 100 years ago. Russian people influenced from Japanese dolls and they widely explored on wooden dolls. They named their dolls as 'Matryoshka Dolls' is a form of the nesting doll, which came from a Russian word 'Matryana' means "little mother". The concept of nesting thematically well fitted with these dolls, as these dolls represent motherhood. These dolls are made in decreasing size that nest inside one another. These dolls have a single unit of a form like a capsule or an egg. These are very colourful, bright and having bold patches of floral motif. The earlier form of Matryoshka doll portrays Women. Nowadays these dolls portray many different characters. They include animals, political leaders, fairy tale characters etcetera. These dolls are the very popular form of nesting dolls which is highly acclaimed across the world. These dolls have an interesting character that holds the curiosity and excitement of what's the next inside each doll.

Indian and Russian artisan both were influenced by Japanese wooden doll making tradition. Japanese adopted the techniques from the folk tradition of China. Indian, Russian, Japanese and Chinese nesting dolls have some similar feature which followed geometrical shapes. These are not freehand carving. Artisan uses turning machine to give its shape. These are uniformly carved and colour applied evenly on it. Though the basic forms of these toys are very similar but in terms of the colour plate, uses of local motif, design and individual cultural touches make them distinct from each other. It is such an example of a travelling culture from one place to another.

Present time children toys market is full of plastic, synthetic and toxic materials, which are not good for children health. This is a big issue in contemporary time. These wooden toys are natural and environment-friendly.

These toys could be a better substitute for plastic and other toxic toys. Well plan and organise marketing can create a wide market for these toys both within the country and internationally. BRICS countries can create this culture because the countries like India, Russia and China have their own tradition of doll making. With greater integration of BRICS community in recent times is immense opportunity to boost doll manufacturing trade within BRICS and enhance people-to-people cultural relations.



## Skill Development for facing future challenges in BRICS countries

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Skill Development has been a significant point of collaboration amongst BRICS conglomerate. As is the case in India, skill development has been a major objective in BRICS owing to the similarities in challenges faced by them. One can envisage high potential in collaboration in the area of Skill Development as it is one of the priorities in international arena. Skilling does not only cater to the demands of today's economy but also ensures a brighter and stronger future.

Ever increasing population in countries like India and China coupled with rapid modernization has resulted in increased unemployment. Blue collared jobs are fast becoming white collard due to the advent of disruptive technologies like 'Robotics' and 'Artificial Intelligence'. The Internet of Things, cyber-security and drone technology - all of those things affect the future of work. Whether it's the logistics sector or manufacturing, the work scenario is changing dynamically and rapidly.

In contrast to that, demand for skilled worker has gone up manifolds. The current generation needs up-skilling for the future jobs. In view of the above it becomes imperative that a collaborative model is initiated to provide for the growing demands for skilled worker and also to empower economy among the BRICS countries.

In recently held BRICS seminars and conferences a sizable amount of time was spent discussing the possible collaboration in Skill Development. It was universally accepted that the impetus on skilling will provide the desired boost to areas like Technology development, R&D and will create conducive conditions for cooperation in Trade and Economy.

Countries like Russia and South Africa with greater experience in 'Skill Development' can support other countries by sharing their best practices. A good way to share these practices can be through online modules and games that can help skill enhancement and knowledge sharing. A skill fund can also be created to enable skill collaboration.

As a proactive measure, skill of the future can be identified. The skills, identified so, would become priorities for education and training which will result in a more robust skill alignment for the future of our economies. The aggressive plan will also upgrade human capabilities to align with growing technological advancement. Some work has already been accomplished in terms of 'Methodology of Skills technology foresight' designed between Russia and International Labor Organization towards creating a skill map on 'Emerging Jobs'. Similar projects can be undertaken by other BRICS countries for future jobs profiling and skill requirements. Skills Technology Foresight of BRICS would identify manufacturing, hi-tech and emerging industries where collaboration in skill development would create high productivity gains or will allow for new business creation.

Success of the project will depend on encouraging the youth towards skilling and paving a way for them to enter the arena of futuristic technologies and entrepreneurship. Most of the BRICS countries have the advantage of a youth rich population, which is a boon as this section of population has greater ability for risk taking and has many more years of active work with them. BRICS countries should organize competitions to inspire youth for world class excellence and introduce them to a variety of skilled careers. More R&D along with current information, facts, figures, and news about new opportunities in skill development is needed to create awareness among the youth. Education and Training should lead as a tool for educators and Industry to develop new and



innovative ways of teaching and training the future workforce to gain the skills that are in demand.

A network of skilled workers and professionals should be created to share success stories for youth to get inspiration from. The network can also act like a data pool of resources and tools for the people who have the inclination for skilling. This will also help the future generation of professionals to discover the relevance and importance of skills.

On the same line, a skill power hub and information resource library has been proposed which can be a 'go to' point for policy makers, professionals, educators, and industry regarding skill Development and future of skilling. It will promote future thinking and foresight for systematic educational innovations and greater collaboration among major key holders in skilling.

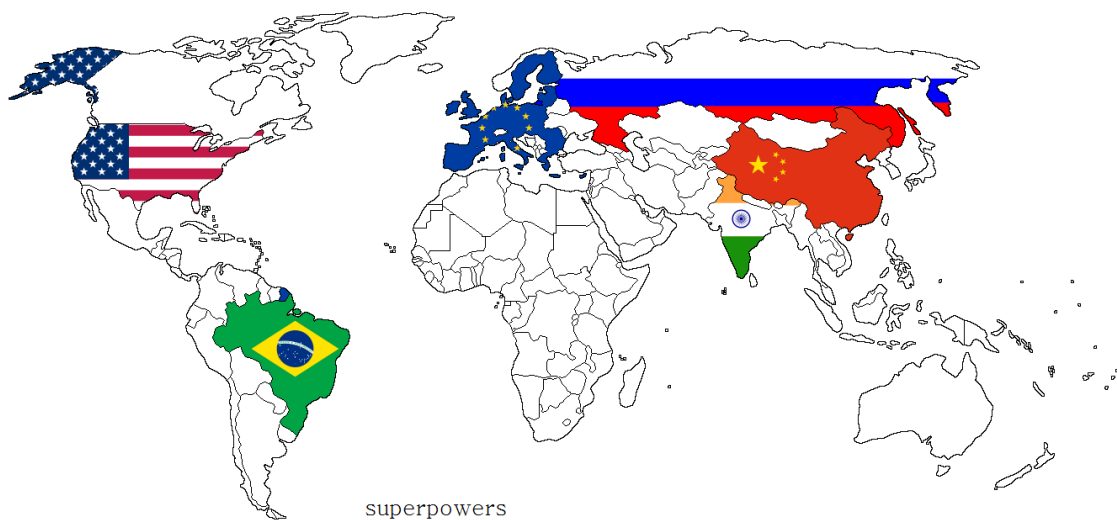
Another idea proposed is that of 'Mentoring and strategic curation of institutions, start ups and social enterprises in the area of skill development along with Curation of emergence of new industries and jobs.

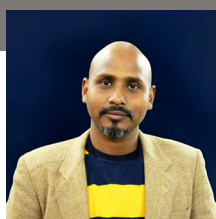
Working groups formed under the aegis of BRICS Business Council have 'Skill Development' as one of their core areas. The objective is to understand the market opportunities and build synergies to promote industrial development and job creation. The success of the project will depend on how much we are able to leverage the strength of each of the collaborator. A realistic plan which is collaborative in nature and has the wherewithal to gain from each other's strength is what we need for BRICS 'Skill Development'.

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## Scientist become an Artist

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Bioart is a contemporary art form that adapts scientific methods and biotechnology to explore living systems as artistic subjects. Interdisciplinary bioart initiatives blur boundaries between art and modern biology with an emphasis on philosophical, societal, and environmental issues.

Bioart plays an important role in critically challenging emerging life science applications, stimulating of scientific thinking, and contributing to new research questions and new technologies.

New concepts emerge for bioart in physical, digital, and computational forms. Many scientists of the BRICS countries involve developing and creating a new phase of Art. Like Brazilian-American artist Eduardo Kac, Indian artist Bornali Bhattacharjee and Beijing-based artist Ren Ri.

**1. Eduardo Kac:** Brazilian-American contemporary artist and professor whose artworks that span a wide range of practices, including performance art, poetry, interactive art, telematic art and transgenic art. He is particularly well known for his works that integrate biotechnology and aesthetics. “GFP Bunny” is a transgenic artwork that comprises the creation of a green fluorescent rabbit (“Alba”), the public dialogue generated by the project, and the social integration of the rabbit. While every past civilization has conceived and celebrated numerous imaginary creatures, never before Alba has an artist imagined a living mammal and then proceeded to make it a reality. Employing molecular biology, Kac combined jellyfish and rabbit DNA to produce a bunny that glows green under blue light. Kac’s art is based on the literal creation of new biological life. Kac explains that transgenic art must be created “with great care and with a commitment to respect, nurture, and love the life thus created.” The global resonance of “GFP Bunny” has led Kac to develop a series of works in a variety of media, including drawing, photography, print, painting, sculpture, animation, and digital media.

**2. Bornali Bhattacharjee** (Ph.D., Ramanujan Fellow, National Institute of Biomedical Genomics, Kalyani, India): . If we were to turn our attention to the microbial world, the color yellow or golden resonates with none other than *Staphylococcus aureus*. I have used a multidrug resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* isolate collected from the nasopharynx of a preterm neonate to paint my own version of ‘Vase with Sunflowers’ in Mannitol salt agar. I definitely want to contribute to the prevention of antimicrobial resistance through research, but, I also hope to increase awareness about antimicrobial resistance among the general population in my country through microbial art. I would like to start by conversing with school-going children using visuals and agar art to convey the ill effects of antibiotic overuse. Once convinced, these children would go back home and convince their families to listen, comprehend and stop the rampant use of over-the-counter antibiotics.”

**3. Ren Ri:** The Beijing (China) -based artist and beekeeper Ren Ri is a focused man. His new three-part series -- titled “Yuansu” in reference to the Chinese word for “element” -- turns bees into his collaborators. Yuansu II features sculptures made by bees, of beeswax. Ren is concerned with the ways of nature. He’s also interested in cutting out human intervention. One of the purposes of Yuansu II is to “eliminate the subjectivity of the artist” via “the mediation of bees,” Ren explains in the interview. The sculptures can be seen at the T Museum for Contemporary Art in the Chinese city of Hangzhou until early August.

### Conclusion:

The use of the protocols and tools of developmental biology in bio-art represents a radical shift away from conventional art media. Bioart is a creative practice that adapts scientific methods and draws inspiration from the philosophical, societal, and environmental implications of recombinant genetics, molecular biology, and biotechnology. Art is not only about ‘responses,’ however. Bioart can also initiate new science and engineering concepts, foster openness to collaboration and increasing scientific literacy, and help to form the basis of artists’ future relationships with the BRICS countries. Art and Culture plays an important role in the development of any nation. It represents a set of shared attitudes, values, goals and practices. Culture and creativity manifest

themselves in almost all economic, social and other activities. BRICS implements a number of schemes and programmes aimed at providing financial support to individuals, groups and cultural organizations engaged in performing, visual art and literary arts etc.



1. Eduardo Kac Cellular Sculpture GFP Bunny    2. Bornali Bhattacharjee, Microbial Painting    3. Ren Ri, sculptures made by bees

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## BRICS in an Evolving World Order

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When Primakov, the then current Prime Minister of Russia first proposed the idea of BRIC, leading to the first summit being held on June 16, 2009 in Yekaterinburg Russia, his intention was to merge the two other existing informal channels. One RIC, the Russia, India and China forum for academic and policy exchange and debate, and the other the Indian initiative of IBSA, that included India, Brazil and South Africa. It was also an idea that appealed to these emerging economies, as they sought greater space within the international economic and political decision making structure. Each country considered this a bargaining chip in their relations with the rest of the world. BRIC, and now BRICS, as South Africa joined the grouping in --. The grouping held great promise, a platform for countries that were originally the developing world but in the 21st century its fastest growing economies.

Since then, a decade down the line, we really need to sit down and assess whether the optimism of BRICS has lived up to its promise and if so, to what extent. What are the short comings and challenges facing not just BRICS but also other multilateral organizations in today's challenging and changing economic and geopolitical environment.

Let's first look at the achievement under BRICS. This unique forum allowed four large emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China and a fourth resource rich economy of South Africa to join hands in the hope of creating synergy directly between their needs rather than mediated through international multinational organizations. It also created a vibrant platform for intellectual and academic exchanges and further increased cultural contact amongst the countries.

BRICS countries have also entertained common interests and stands on other important international issues such as climate change, the promotion of alternate energies and exchange in research and investment in each other's countries in these areas. China has emerged as a leader here, leading the effort towards diversification in the use of energy sources towards wind and solar energies. However, these countries have also called out the West for imposing unfair goals on the emerging economies with regard to the use of coal, pointing out how our growing energy needs will still need coal, while developing other alternatives. The countries have included climate change as a pressing issue in almost every end of the summit meeting.

The most significant contribution has of course been the setting up of the BRICS bank, with each country contributing 50 million US dollars to the fund and a special reserve fund, where China will contribute the most at 50 million, with the other partners. This fund, directed initially at infrastructure projects, has created an alternative fund for these countries so far dependent on the IMF and the World Bank. The push now is to set up a BRICS credit rating agency as well, helping to push an alternative to the US based agencies like Moody's that set the credit rating market internationally.

In terms of mutual investments in each other's countries, BRICS, has stressed the need to enhance cooperation in various sectors and further pointed out the need to focus on and facilitate better cooperation amongst small and medium enterprises. A study carried out by the World Trade Center in Mumbai has shown bilateral trade amongst BRICS countries grew to 525354.25 million dollars in 2015 (WTC: 2016: 36)\*. However, intra BRICS trade is still largely determined by bilateral arrangements and still lacks a robust institutional arrangement to facilitate greater intra BRICS cooperation. Further, BRICS cooperation is necessarily hampered and influenced by the geopolitics of the day and the headwinds caused by the evolving Sino-US trade war and an

overall down turn and slow down in the world economy will all have a negative impact on the economy of these countries. The past year has seen GDP drop in both India and China to the lowest in decades.

Apart from economic cooperation, the BRICS forum has also generated greater academic exchanges through the academic forum that is also held annually. Each country also has BRICS Institutes designed to bring scholars from each country to carry out mutually beneficial research and teaching.

The chief drawback of BRICS has been the lack of an institutionalized secretariat and any attempt to enforce common positions within international forums on energy or climate change. BRICS countries are also unable to have any common security arrangements, hampered as they are by differences at the bilateral level. This is especially true for India and China, which despite constant engagement, continue to suffer a trust deficit based on their long standing and still unresolved border dispute.

In the main, however, BRICS continues to provide an alternative forum for the annual meeting between prominent world leaders of major economies, spanning a large population and covering four major continents. As world headwinds shift, this platform and its leaders can emerge as a voice of reason in an increasingly uncertain world.

\* Engineering of the BRICS Engagemen, World Trade Center Mumbai Initiative





## The Geopolitics of Language in the Himalaya Region

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Since the development of taste of people the Himalaya ranges remains a center of attraction, which direct or indirectly shows us the linguistic diversity. On the other hand, this is a risk factor as well. The Himalayas, the world's tallest mountains, are a melting point for Earth's two most populated countries — India and China. These super states head off to head crosswise over several kilometers of contested Himalayan outskirts. They likewise communicate with, and through, the Himalayan support conditions of Nepal and Bhutan. Both India and China are presently developing progressively jingoistic at home and confident in abroad, making an inexorably huge geopolitical fault line. Be that as it may, a sole spotlight on these two super states misses significant parts of territorial geopolitics. A glance at the Himalayan language governmental issues uncovers both concealed on-screen characters and imperceptible unfortunate casualties in regional struggles.

Mountain of all Tongues:

The Himalaya region is the world's melting pot for linguistic diversity. Setting out from Beijing or Delhi, the dialect variation ascends with altitude, complying with worldwide examples that see semantic assorted variety expanding in rough, hilly landscape. This decent variety isn't perfectly designed: state, ethnicity, and language have not corresponded. Knowing where someone lives or what character they affirm does not reveal to us what languages they talk. If we consider Bhutan, as a sample of research, despite the fact that marginally smaller than Switzerland, and home to less than 1 million people, 21 indigenous dialects(languages) are spoken in Bhutan. The official language is Dzongkha, is revered in the national constitution and ordered in political gatherings. Be that as it may, it isn't Bhutan's most broadly spoken language. That respect goes to Tshangla, which is spoken by over 33% of all Bhutanese.(and vice versa) It is likewise spoken in India and China, indicating how Himalayan fringes frequently ignore languages. English assumes a critical role in Bhutan, with the linguist George van Driem portraying Bhutan as Asia's "most English talking nation." This is demonstrative of the nation's aspiration not exclusively to partake in the worldwide network of countries, yet in addition to dissembled itself from provincial legislative issues; English was chosen as a swap for Hindi, which considered as the mode of basic education and training until 1964. While Bhutan was keeping herself in distance from India and Hindi, it was separating its national language, Dzongkha, from Tibetan. In spite of the fact that Dzongkha is written in the Tibetan script, the spelling was changed during the 1970s. Composed Tibetan, as composed English, mirrors the chronicled condition of the language more than present articulation. The change carried the content nearer to spoken Dzongkha, and endeavors to bring composed and spoken dialects closer still continue with today.

Attempt to write Border:

This endeavor to make a distance from marked Tibetan is an exceptional case in a local where the language has profound authentic roots and proceeding with transnational impact. In Himalayan Pakistan, a development among the Muslim Balti individuals to compose their language in Tibetan content has been a piece of more extensive endeavors to cut out an unmistakable neighborhood character. The transnational development of Tibetan personality isn't happening in seclusion from different elements. In Nepal, speakers of Syuba (a Tibetan language that is to Classical Tibetan what Spanish is to Latin, however with a speaker populace of around 1,500 individuals) utilized an altered rendition of Nepali's Devanagari content. This permitted Syuba speakers to pick up education in their very own language by utilizing their current proficiency in the national language. Limbu and Lepcha, both transnational dialects spoken in Nepal and India, are all the more remotely identified with Tibetan, and as of now have their own long-standing orthographic customs impacted by the Tibetan content.

National Languages in Himalayan Super states:

Endeavors to reach crosswise over fringes and impact minoritized populaces are countered by the advancement of national dialects inside Himalayan super states. Late endeavors by the Modi government to advance Hindi in India, for instance, have prompted boundless cases of "Hindi colonialism." This, thus, has driven Indian



states to strengthen the advancement of local dialects, for example, Bengali in West Bengal. For this situation, Nepali-speakers in the West Bengal city of Darjeeling dissented moves to force Bengali medium training. In the meantime, Nepali language challenges have additionally estranged the nearby indigenous Lepcha populace. In China, in the interim, the state has been forcefully advancing the national standard language, Putonghua, with specific power since the language was officially named as the national tongue in 2000. The effect on semantic decent variety has been lamentable. Half of the nation's dialects are jeopardized. Progressively, phonetic complaints lead to dissents. Tibetans have rioted to challenge the expulsion of Tibetan from schools. A significant number of the 153 self-immolators have concentrated on their absence of language rights in their declarations. In the interim, the non-Tibetan dialects spoken by Tibetans are considerably progressively undermined, because of the state's refusal to recognize their reality.

#### Rising Tensions and Sinking Prospects:

Albeit Himalayan super states are minimizing minority dialects through the advancement of national tongues, states are not the sole etymological oppressors in Himalayas. Dialects like Tibetan and Nepali, through their neighborhood statistic strength, official acknowledgment, social eminence, and transnational help; additionally add to the minimization of the Himalaya's littler dialects.

For these gatherings, the area isn't just a checkerboard of tyrannical states, yet additionally a complex and continually moving texture of neighborhood and transnational on-screen characters. What's more, tragically for the speakers of the Himalayas' indigenous and minority dialects, the main shared element of every one of these on-screen characters are an unfriendly apathy to little dialects and an ability to pessimistically misuse them for key interests.

As strains keep on ascending over the Himalayas, the prospects for these dialects to be supported into the future seem, by all accounts, to be sinking.





## India China economic relation a turf or an ease: - An analysis

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The year 2017 was a grim one for India-China ties. The Doklam standoff, Beijing's repeated move to block India's request for the declaration of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist at the United Nations, and China's lack of support for India's Nuclear Supplier's Group (NSG) membership bid sullied relations. However, the year ended on a positive note with the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to New Delhi followed by the 20th round of border talks between National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese State Councillor Yang Jiechi, with both sides recognizing the importance of stronger India-China relations and maintaining peace at the border. This flurry of diplomatic activity continued into 2018, with not only a focus on mitigating security issues but also addressing economic impediments in the relationship. At the recently concluded 11th session of the India-China Joint Group on Economic Relations, Trade, Science and Technology, the two countries explored ways to enhance development of bilateral trade and investment cooperation, touching upon ways to reduce their trade imbalance and potentially starting negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Indian and Chinese representatives also participated in the fifth iteration of the bilateral Strategic Economic Dialogue to discuss ways to further their economic engagement and clear any obstacles in doing so. These developments are testament to the fact that despite security and geopolitical concerns, there is recognition in both countries that there is potential for and mutual benefit in making India-China economic cooperation more robust.

### Imbalance and Protectionism Belie Trade Potential

According to data from the Indian government, India-China bilateral trade has grown from \$38.02 billion USD to \$71.45 billion USD over the past decade. There were jumps in 2011-2012 and 2014-15, mainly due to an increase in Chinese exports to India, but trade has been somewhat stagnant in recent years.

From New Delhi's perspective, a significant trade imbalance in favor of China, market access issues, and security considerations have kept bilateral trade limited. A trade deficit of \$51.11 billion USD with China is a cause for concern for New Delhi because it signifies an inability to compete with Chinese manufactured goods. Chinese exports to India include manufactured goods such as electrical machinery and power equipment while Indian exports comprise mainly of resource-based items such as iron ore and cotton. Indian manufacturing still has a long way to go before India can move up the value chain with respect to its exports to China.

Strengthening their economic relationship can confer significant gains upon both nations. China's vast size, its growing middle class, and its bid to move towards a domestic consumption-based economy mean it offers great potential as a future market for Indian goods and services as well as a source of greater investments.

Additionally, Beijing's protectionist policies hinder the ability of Indian companies to enter Chinese markets. New Delhi has been pushing China to open up its market to Indian IT, pharmaceuticals, and agri-products, as well as for increased Chinese investments to reduce their trade deficit. Even in sectors where India has a competitive advantage, such as pharmaceuticals where India accounts for 20 percent of global generic medication production, Indian firms find it difficult to enter Chinese markets. Indian pharmaceutical firms that already have a presence in China complain about a lack of market access and overly restrictive regulatory procedures, which New Delhi has continually addressed with Beijing, to little avail. However, any retaliatory move on India's part to restrict the import of Chinese goods will be detrimental, Indian manufacturing depends on cheap Chinese imports in the form of electronics and IT products.

### Bilateral Investment: A Silver Lining

While the two countries have had myriad issues related to economic investment in the past, they have begun to address these hurdles in recent years. In 2014, China announced an investment of \$20 billion USD in India over the next five years, such as in industrial park projects in Gujarat, Haryana, and Maharashtra. This invest-

ment was expected to scale up India's manufacturing capabilities and assist India in reducing its trade deficit with China. However, some of these projects have moved slowly due to land acquisition challenges. China's foreign direct investment (FDI) into India between April 2000 and June 2017 stood at \$1.67 billion USD, which is only 0.49 percent of the total FDI inflows into India over the same period. Still, India's continued emphasis on greater Chinese investment in manufacturing has yielded some results—60 percent of Chinese FDI into India from April 2000 to September 2015 went into automobile manufacturing and smartphone company Xiaomi will soon have up to five manufacturing plants in India.

The success story though has been significant private investment from China in Indian start-ups, especially those focused on technology and e-commerce. In 2017 alone, Chinese companies such as Alibaba, Fosun, Baidu, and Tencent put in \$5.2 billion USD into 30 Indian start-ups. Chinese conglomerate Alibaba and its affiliates alone have invested about \$1.7 billion USD in Indian start-ups such as Paytm and BigBasket.

#### Rationale for Stronger Economic Ties

Strengthening the India-China economic relationship can confer significant gains upon both nations. China's vast size, its growing middle class, and its bid to move towards a domestic consumption-based economy mean it offers great potential as a future market for Indian goods and services as well as a source of greater investments. In positive news, bilateral trade in 2017 reached an all-time high of \$84.44 billion USD, according to Chinese figures. In addition, Chinese companies have shown keen interest in investing in India, pledging about \$85 billion in projects at a trade event last year. Overall, a stronger India-China economic relationship can be beneficial for both countries, especially considering that India plans to strengthen its industrial sector and China plans to move up the value chain with respect to its manufacturing sector. In this respect, investment by China in Indian firms provides them with much-needed capital to scale up their capabilities while China gains greater technological skills, especially considering India's comparative advantage in sectors such as IT as well as other legal, consulting, and marketing services.

But challenges such as trade imbalance, market access issues, and a restrictive regulatory environment need to be addressed. More importantly, geopolitical circumstances will continue to pit India against China, which can impact economic opportunities for New Delhi—an example is China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). However, setting aside differences, New Delhi can very well enhance economic cooperation with Beijing, as suggested during Chinese Commerce Minister Zhong Shan's recent visit to New Delhi, to promote its own interests through more Indian exports to China, and larger presence of Indian businesses in China. India can also consider selective targeting with respect to China's BRI, allowing Indian companies to bid for projects that are open to international bidding.







## FDI in BRICS Countries

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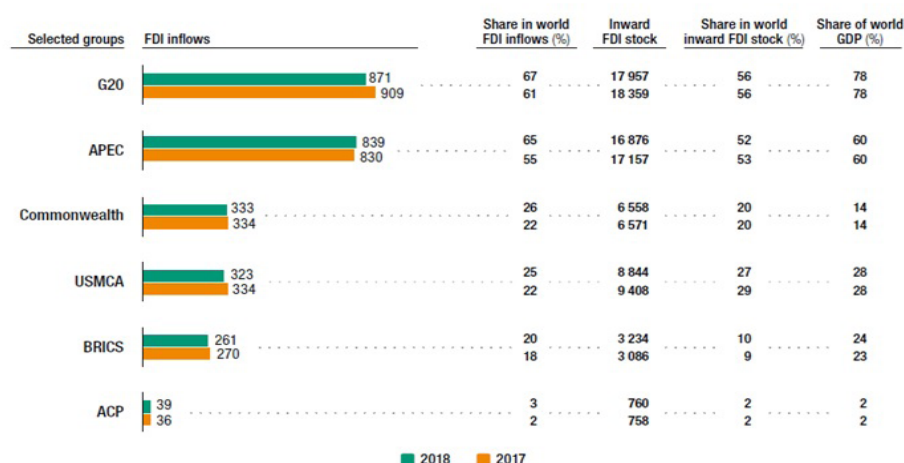
Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) represents a key component in international economic integration. FDI has the potential to form direct, strong and long-lasting relationships among various economies and an engine to the economic growth and development of any country, whether developed or developing. FDI in developing countries has the tendency to provide the assistance to the host economy in terms of access to financial resources and also benefits the MNCs and other corporations looking for investment, in terms of low cost manpower, entry in newer markets, etc. The developing countries all over the world are in pursuit to promote more FDI in their country. On one side they are liberalizing the economic environment and on the other, they have policies that regulate the entry of foreign firms, and include various conditions and restrictions for foreign investors on overall and on a sector-by-sector basis. Of course, the mix of conditions varies from country to country and BRICS is not an exception.

The world FDI inflows remain erratic during last one decade. It was US \$1480 billion in 2008, fluctuating during the period of 2009-14, reached to US \$2034 billion at its peak in 2015 and declined thereafter, in subsequent years, and reached at US \$1297 billion in 2018. However, share of developed and developing countries in total world FDI inflows has changed significantly during the above period. In 2008, share of developed countries was 42.93 per cent in 2018 as compared to 52.98 per cent in 2008, whereas share of developing countries has been increased to 54.53 per cent in 2018 from 39.06 in 2008. The share of BRICS nation in world FDI inflows remains 18-20 per cent during the last one decades except in year 2015 & 16 in which it was 13 & 14 per cent respectively.

**Table 1: FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT TO WORLD, DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING ECONOMIES : INWARD FLOWS, ANNUAL 2008-2018**  
(US dollars at current prices in millions)

Year	World Inflow	Developed Countries (% of World Inflow)	Developing Countries (% of World Inflow)	BRICS (% of World Inflow)
2008	1479747	52.98	39.06	19.3
2009	1172234	55.35	39.38	16.37
2010	1365107	49.74	45.59	18.69
2011	1561354	52.32	42.6	19.13
2012	1470334	50.45	45.13	17.82
2013	1431164	48.55	45.6	19.07
2014	1357240	45.91	49.91	19.29
2015	2033803	62.38	35.84	11.94
2016	1918679	62.42	34.21	14.09
2017	1497371	50.71	46.12	18
2018	1297153	42.93	54.43	20.14

Various economic groups across the world includes the G20, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), African Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), Commonwealth countries, United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and the BRICS, with a 5 members countries, account for a 20 per cent share of world FDI inflows and about 24 per cent of world GDP as compared to other larger groups as mentioned in Fig 1.

**Figure 1 : FDI inflows to selected groups, 2017 and 2018 (Billions of Dollars and per cent)**

Source: UNCTAD, FDI/MNE database ([www.unctad.org/fdistatistics](http://www.unctad.org/fdistatistics)).  
 Note: Data for G20 do not include the European Union.

It is not the absolute size of FDI inflows which measures the country's openness to FDI but it is the FDI inflows normalized by the size of the host economy, which are an important indicator of the attractiveness of an economy to draw FDI. FDI-GDP ratio is an index to measure the prevailing investment climate in the host economy and measure the FDI inflows in proportion of size of its economy. On the other hand, the ratio of FDI inflows to GFCF (Gross Fixed Capital Formation) measures the relative weight of FDI in the total aggregate investment both public and private in the country. It is evident from table -2 that FDI-GDP ratio during the period of 2008-2018 is above 1 per cent in case of all BRICS nation which shows better growth prospects and comparative advantage in production in these countries. During the period, this ratio has been decreased in all BRICS countries except Brazil, which is showing the upward trend of FDI from 2.66 per cent in 2008 to 3.27 per cent in 2018, indicating the more openness of economy towards FDI. On the other hand, this ratio has decreased in case of Russia from 4.52 per cent in 2008 to 0.82 per cent in 2018.

The ten years average ratio of FDI-GFCF pointed on an interesting observation, which indicates the significant share of FDI in the total investment of Brazil, followed by Russia, South Africa, India and China, although China has largest amount of FDI inflows among all BRICS nation. The average FDI-GFCF ratio of last 10 years remains highest in Brazil (15 per cent) and lowest in China (3.473 per cent)

**FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT TO BRICS : INWARD FLOWS, ANNUAL 2008-2018**

Year	FDI-GDP					FDI-GFCF				
	Brazil	Russian Federation	India	China	South Africa	Brazil	Russian Federation	India	China	South Africa
	FDI as a % of GDP	FDI as a % of GDP	FDI as a % of GDP	FDI as a % of GDP	FDI as a % of GDP	FDI as a % of GFCF	FDI as a % of GFCF	FDI as a % of GFCF	FDI as a % of GFCF	FDI as a % of GFCF
2008	2.66	4.52	3.72	2.36	3.21	13.71	18.86	10.31	5.88	13.66
2009	1.56	2.25	2.71	1.86	2.54	8.15	9.51	7.56	4.14	11.78
2010	3.52	2.06	1.64	1.88	0.97	17.13	8.85	4.64	4.18	5.03
2011	3.72	1.8	1.93	1.64	1.02	18.07	8.36	5.2	3.65	5.33
2012	3.33	1.37	1.3	1.41	1.15	16.07	6.34	3.59	3.12	5.98
2013	2.39	2.32	1.47	1.29	2.26	11.43	10.67	4.49	2.83	11.11
2014	2.6	1.41	1.69	1.23	1.65	13.08	6.65	5.33	2.72	8.07
2015	2.75	0.87	2.05	1.23	0.54	15.4	4.27	6.86	2.8	2.66
2016	2.94	2.89	1.96	1.19	0.76	18.25	13.55	6.6	2.79	3.87
2017	3.29	1.65	1.55	1.1	0.58	21.03	7.58	5.17	2.62	3.07
2018	3.27	0.82	1.54	1.02	1.45	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

To conclude, BRICS countries are attracting a major chunk of FDI. Although, USA reserved its position as the principal and largest destination of FDI, BRICS economies excluding South Africa emerged in the list of top 20 global FDI destinations.

## About the 'Centre for BRICS Studies' at Amity University Haryana

The Centre for BRICS Studies was inaugurated on February 10, 2011 at Amity University Gurgaon by Dr. Aseem Chauhan, Honourable Chancellor of Amity University Gurgaon. Since then the Centre, under the stewardship of Dr. Padmakali Banerjee, Honourable Pro Vice-Chancellor, Amity University Gurgaon has evolved into a Centre of Excellence in its practice-research-outreach endeavor. Over the years the Centre for BRICS Studies has organized various talk shows, discussion forum, guest lectures and college competition. Students have also submitted research articles on issues related to BRICS economies, which have been sent to journal for review and publication. A BRICS centre has been established in AUH library, which carries news articles related BRICS countries everyday and also research articles, reports, journal and magazines. In order to promote the Centre of BRICS Studies in Amity University Haryana and understand the importance of trade between BRICS nations among students, few initiatives are taken and activities organized for enhancement of understanding and intensification of the cultural contacts between the peoples of BRICS countries through organizing various events, short programmes and courses, including promotion of the languages of BRICS countries. The goals of the Centre are outlined below:

- To promote high-end research, creating and disseminating knowledge and information on BRICS along three levels:
  - a. Analysis of political and economic processes within BRICS (domestic level);
  - b. Comparative analyses of BRICS (inter-BRICS level);
  - c. Analysis of BRICS activity in the wider realm of international relations (international level).
- To analyze the cooperative agenda of BRICS as an emerging politico-economic bloc and contribute to the debate on public policy through following initiatives:
  - a. Promotion of public debate on BRICS-related issues;
  - b. Publicizing the agenda of the BRICS' to raise public opinion on their achievements;
  - c. Tracking the evolution and dynamics of BRICS cooperation over the years;
  - d. Disseminating information about the initiatives of the Centre for BRICS Studies to larger audience across academia and industry

## 2. Events at glance @ Centre for BRICS 2018-19



Group photo of MOU with the Russian State University and Amity University Haryana Prof. (Dr.) P.B. Sharma Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor and Prof. (Dr.) Padmakali Banerjee, Hon'ble Pro Vice Chancellor, Prof. Alexander Stalyarov, Director of International Centre for South Asian Studies



Group photo at Centre for BRICS Studies Seminar on "Growing Strategic Significance of BRICS in International Community: India-South Africa -Brazil Relations"



Ambassador H.H.S. Viiswanathan addressing audience at Centre for BRICS Studies Seminar on "Growing Strategic Significance of BRICS in International Community: India-South Africa -Brazil Relations"



Ambassador Mr. J.K. Tripathi addressing audience at Centre for BRICS Studies Seminar on "Growing Strategic Significance of BRICS in International Community: India-South Africa -Brazil Relations"



Prof. (Dr.) Padmakali Banerjee addressing audience at Centre for BRICS Studies on "Growing Strategic Significance of BRICS in International Community: India-South Africa -Brazil Relations"



BRICS Seminar on "BRICS & Changing world: Opportunities & Challenges" held in Amity University Gurgaon



Dr. Debasis Bhattacharya - Invited Public Lecture on GST at Jaamia Millia Islamia University, (A Central University)



Group photo of MOU with the Russian State University and Amity University Haryana Prof. (Dr.) P.B. Sharma Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor and Prof. (Dr.) Padmakali Banerjee, Hon'ble Pro Vice Chancellor, Prof. Alexander Stalyarov, Director of International Centre for South Asian Studies





*Team Centre for BRICS Studies  
@ Amity University Haryana*

*Leadership*

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Chancellor  
Amity University Haryana

**Prof. (Dr.) P.B. Sharma**  
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**Maj Gen B. S. Suhag**  
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**Prof. (Dr.) Padmakali Banerjee**  
Pro Vice Chancellor  
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PhD. Research Scholar, ABS Gurugram

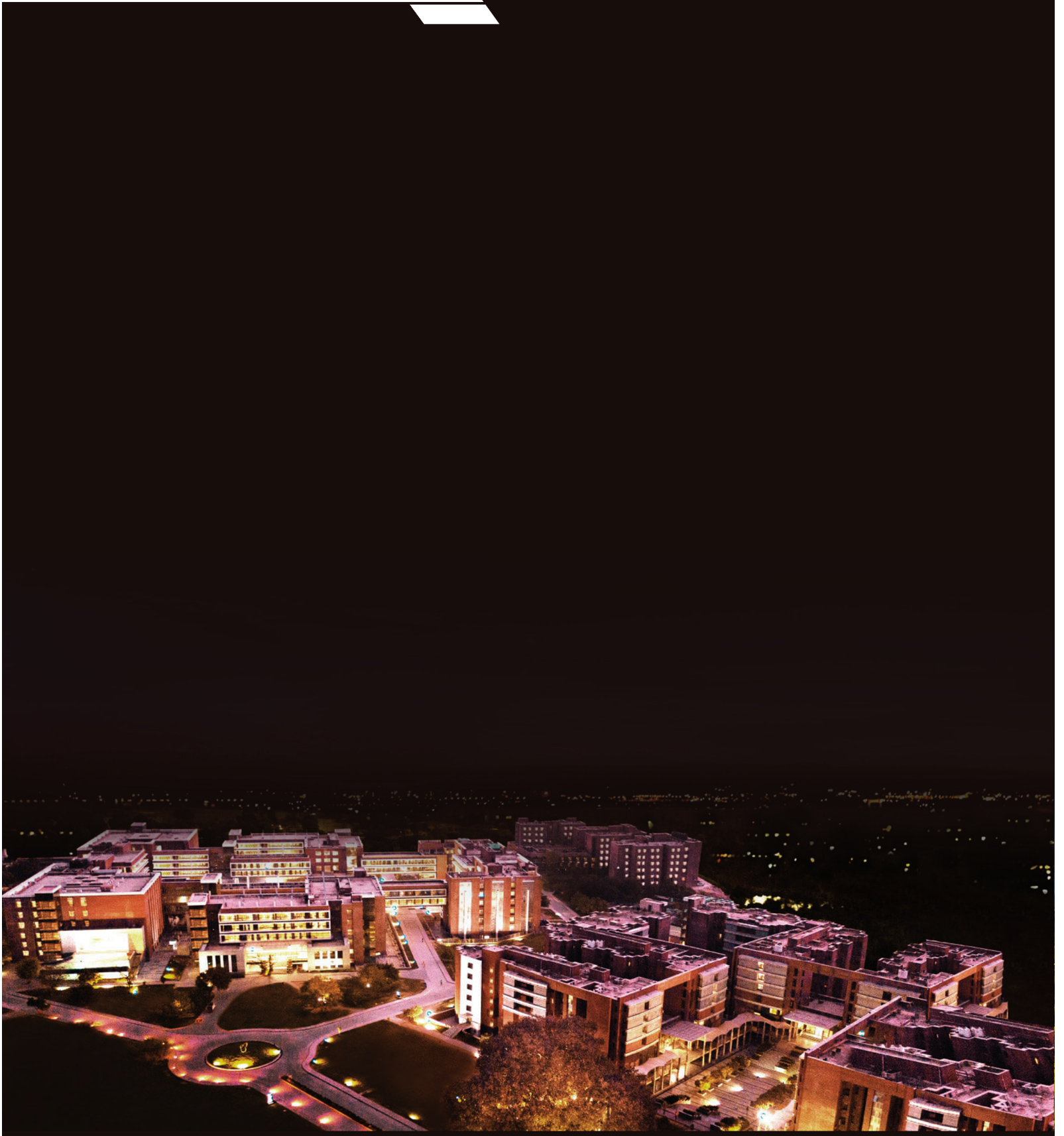
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