India's Strategic Autonomy and the Multilateralism of BRICS

Recent discussions highlight the role of BRICS in helping India maintain strategic autonomy amidst global power rivalries.

BRICS is an influential grouping of major emerging economies aimed at promoting economic cooperation and a multipolar world order.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- **BRICS** provides India with a platform to maintain **strategic autonomy** and balance competing great-power interests.
- Unlike the **G-7**, which accepts **American primacy**, BRICS operates without a single dominant power.
- Optimists view **BRICS** as a key driver in transitioning the global order from unipolarity to **multipolarity**.
- Sceptics point out that internal divisions, particularly between **India and China**, could limit the grouping's collective effectiveness.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

The acronym **BRIC** was first coined by British economist **Jim O'Neill** in **2001**.

The first formal summit of the BRIC grouping was held in **Yekaterinburg, Russia**, on **June 16, 2009**.

South Africa officially joined the group in **December 2010**, leading to the renaming of the acronym to BRICS.

The **New Development Bank** (NDB) was established during the 6th BRICS Summit in **Fortaleza, Brazil**, in **2014**.

The **Contingent Reserve Arrangement** (CRA) was established in **2015** by BRICS member nations.

In **January 2024**, BRICS officially expanded its membership to include **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE**.

India hosted the BRICS Summit three times, in the years **2012, 2016, and 2021**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

BRICS was formed in 2009; expanded in 2010 (South Africa) and 2024 (Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE).

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for Unit 2 (Current Events) under international summits and India's foreign policy.

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