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BRICS Energy Ministers Meet at Gurugram Under India Chairship

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WHY IN NEWS

India hosted the 11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting at Gurugram, Haryana, under its 2026 Chairship of the grouping. The meeting focused on energy security (<https://ujjyari.com/terms/energy-security/>), clean-energy transition, and a launched cooperation mechanism on smart grids and energy storage.

ABOUT BRICS

BRICS is a grouping of major emerging economies that began as **BRIC** (Brazil, Russia, India, China) in 2009 and became **BRICS** when **South Africa** joined in 2010. The grouping has since expanded, admitting new members in 2024 and 2025, broadening its representation of the Global South.

India holds the **Chairship of BRICS for 2026**, hosting a series of ministerial and working-group meetings across sectors including energy, finance, and science and technology.

THE ENERGY MINISTERS' MEETING

The energy track is one of the most significant pillars of BRICS cooperation, given that the member economies together account for a large share of global energy production and consumption.

Key Outcomes

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OUTCOME	DETAIL
Smart grids cooperation	Launch of a BRICS Digital Centre of Excellence concept for Smart Grids and Energy Storage
Guiding principles	Adoption of guiding principles on smart grids among member states
Energy access	Focus on the theme of universal and affordable energy access (“Energy for All”)
Just transition	Emphasis on a just, orderly, and equitable (https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/equitable/) energy transition

The discussions reflected the shared priorities of ensuring energy security amid global price volatility (<https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/volatility/>), expanding renewable energy, modernising grids, and securing supply chains for critical minerals essential to clean technologies.

INDIA'S ENERGY PRIORITIES

India's participation aligns with its domestic and global energy commitments.

- **Renewable energy targets:** India aims for **500 GW of non-fossil-fuel electricity capacity by 2030** and net-zero emissions (<https://ujjiyari.com/terms/net-zero-emissions/>) by 2070.
- **International Solar Alliance** (<https://ujjiyari.com/terms/international-solar-alliance/>): India co-founded the ISA, headquartered at Gurugram, to promote solar deployment.
- **Grid modernisation:** Smart grids and storage are central to integrating variable renewable energy.

By hosting the energy track at Gurugram, home to the International Solar Alliance, India reinforced its position as a leader in the clean-energy transition among developing economies.

ANALYSIS AND WAY FORWARD

For the Global South, energy security and the energy transition are deeply intertwined with development. BRICS provides a platform to pool technology, finance, and best practices outside the established Western-led institutions, advancing a more multipolar energy order.

The way forward involves translating ministerial declarations into concrete projects: shared research on energy storage, joint investment in grid infrastructure, cooperation on critical-mineral supply chains, and a common voice in global climate negotiations. The credibility of BRICS energy cooperation will rest on delivery, ensuring that affordability, sustainability, and security advance together rather than in tension.

UPSC RELEVANCE

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GS Paper 2: Important international institutions and groupings; bilateral (<https://ujijari.com/vocab/bilateral/>) and multilateral groupings involving India.

GS Paper 3: Infrastructure (energy); conservation and clean-energy transition; growth and development.

Prelims pointers: BRICS origin (BRIC 2009, South Africa joined 2010); India's BRICS Chairship 2026; energy-track theme "Energy for All"; International Solar Alliance headquartered at Gurugram; India's 500 GW non-fossil target by 2030.

Mains question: "Plurilateral groupings such as BRICS offer the Global South an alternative platform for energy and development cooperation. Discuss India's role in shaping BRICS energy cooperation." (15 marks, 250 words)

FACTS CORNER

FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

BRICS: Began as BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China) in 2009; South Africa joined in 2010; expanded with new members in 2024 and 2025.

India's Chairship: India holds the BRICS Chairship for 2026.

Energy meeting venue: Gurugram, Haryana (11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting).

Key launch: BRICS Digital Centre of Excellence for Smart Grids and Energy Storage.

Theme: "Energy for All", universal and affordable energy access.

International Solar Alliance (ISA): Co-founded by India; headquartered at Gurugram.

India's clean-energy targets: 500 GW non-fossil-fuel capacity by 2030; net zero by 2070.

Sources: Ministry of External Affairs (<https://www.mea.gov.in>), Press Information Bureau (<https://pib.gov.in>), Business Standard (<https://www.business-standard.com>)

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