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India to Host the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi in September

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India to Host the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi in September

27 August 2026 · 5 min read ·

✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

India announced on **August 27, 2026** that the **18th BRICS Summit** will be held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi** on **September 12 and 13, 2026**. The announcement has been made; **the summit itself is scheduled and has not yet taken place.**

INDIA'S CHAIRSHIP

ATTRIBUTE	DETAIL
Chairship assumed	Began in 2026, on January 1, 2026
Which chairship for India	The fourth
Theme	"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"
Framing	A people-centric "Humanity First" approach
Venue	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
Dates	September 12 and 13, 2026

2026 marks twenty years since BRICS was established, which gives the summit an anniversary character.

India has previously chaired and hosted in **2012 (New Delhi)**, **2016 (Goa)** and **2021 (held virtually)**.

THE GROUPING'S ORIGINS

The sequence is frequently confused, so it is worth stating precisely:

YEAR	DEVELOPMENT
2001	The term “BRIC” coined by an economist, as an investment thesis rather than a grouping
2006	First BRIC foreign ministers’ meeting, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly
2009	First standalone summit at Yekaterinburg, Russia
2010	South Africa invited to join, making it BRICS; it attended its first summit at Sanya, China, in 2011
Recent years	Membership expanded further

The distinction between the **2001 coinage** and the **2006 political formation** is the trap: BRICS as a grouping dates from the foreign ministers’ meeting, not from the investment acronym.

THE INSTITUTIONS

INSTITUTION	DETAIL
New Development Bank (NDB)	Headquartered in Shanghai ; President Dilma Rousseff
Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)	A currency-swap safety net with a corpus of USD 100 billion

The **NDB** was agreed at the Fortaleza summit and is the grouping’s principal institutional achievement, lending for infrastructure and **sustainable development** with a growing share in **local currencies**, which matters because local-currency lending removes exchange-rate risk from borrowing countries.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Expansion has bought weight at the cost of coherence. A larger BRICS speaks for more of the world’s population and output, and agrees on less. Members now include states with active mutual disputes and sharply divergent relationships with the United States. The grouping’s characteristic output, a consensus declaration, becomes harder to make meaningful as membership widens, and the risk is a forum that convenes impressively and decides little.

India’s chairship sits inside a genuine balancing problem. India is simultaneously a BRICS member and a member of the **Quad**, and participates in **I2U2**. It has resisted framing BRICS as an anti-Western bloc and has been notably cautious on **de-dollarisation** proposals, since India’s own trade and reserves are dollar-denominated and its financial system is integrated with Western markets. India’s position is best described as **multi-alignment**: membership of overlapping and partly competing groupings is treated as **leverage** rather than contradiction.

The Global South claim is contested within the grouping. Both India and China present themselves as the voice of the Global South, and the two claims are not compatible. India's comparative advantage is that it is a developing democracy with no territorial project abroad; China's is capital. A chairship year is precisely when this competition becomes visible in agenda-setting.

The NDB is where the grouping's credibility is actually tested. Declarations are cheap; a [multilateral](#) development bank that disburses at scale in local currencies is not. Its performance against the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, and its ability to lend without replicating the conditionality it was founded to avoid, is the concrete measure of whether BRICS is an institution or a summit.

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 2 (International Relations): Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India or affecting India's interests; important international institutions.

Prelims focus: The 2006 foreign ministers' meeting versus the 2001 coinage; the first summit at Yekaterinburg in 2009; South Africa's accession in 2010; NDB headquarters at Shanghai; the CRA's USD 100 billion corpus; India's previous hostings in 2012, 2016 and 2021.

Mains angle: Argue that **BRICS is best understood as a hedging instrument rather than an alliance**. Its value to India lies in preserving [strategic autonomy](#) by ensuring India is not dependent on any single grouping, which explains why India resists both the anti-Western framing and any move that would make BRICS a currency bloc.

Way forward: Use the chairship to push **institutional deliverables over declaratory output**, particularly NDB local-currency lending and project pipelines; keep the agenda anchored in development finance, food and [energy security](#) and technology access, where members genuinely converge; and resist expansion of the grouping's political remit into areas where members are openly opposed, since that is where consensus documents become empty.

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGE PEDIA**THE SUMMIT:**

18th BRICS Summit: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, September 12 and 13, 2026

Announced August 27, 2026; the summit itself is scheduled, not yet held

India's fourth BRICS chairship began in 2026, assumed on January 1, 2026

Theme: "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability", with a "Humanity First" framing

2026 marks twenty years since BRICS was established

ORIGINS:

"BRIC" coined in 2001 as an investment thesis

First BRIC foreign ministers' meeting: 2006, on UN General Assembly sidelines

First standalone summit: Yekaterinburg, Russia, 2009

South Africa joined in 2010

INSTITUTIONS:

New Development Bank: headquartered in Shanghai; President Dilma Rousseff

Contingent Reserve Arrangement: corpus of USD 100 billion

INDIA'S HOSTINGS:

2012 New Delhi; 2016 Goa; 2021 virtual; 2026 New Delhi

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

India is simultaneously a member of BRICS and the Quad, and participates in I2U2

India has been cautious on de-dollarisation proposals within BRICS

Sources: IANS, Ministry of External Affairs

Source: India to Host the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi in September — Ujjayari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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