

(BRICS-2023)

Analysis of 2023 Brics Summit : Geopolitical Shift & Expansion (1st time muslim bloc added)

Brics - Anti-west

2023 summit - 15th Summit of Annual Brics an IR conference attended by head of states of five member countries.

Brazil Russia India China South Africa

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa invited leaders of 67 countries to Summit.

A) Expansion of BRICS: (expand geopolitical influence)

South African President announced that Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and UAE have been invited to join the bloc. Full membership will take effect from 01 Jan 2024 (next summit Russia)

- Summit held on 22th - 24 August 2023
- Johannesburg (South Africa)
- First In-person Brics Summit since 2019

Participation of Putin from Moscow

- In March 2023, ICC issues arrest warrant against Russian President Putin for War Crimes during Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- South Africa is required as an ICC signatory to honour the warrant.

Key points

- focus on Brics expansion by adding new members.
- Debate over admission criteria and guiding principles for new members.
- China, Russia, India show different level of support for expansion.
- Brazil is skeptical about enlargement.
- South Africa was the first to join BRIC member summit in 2011.
- It provide alternate forum to western-dominated diplomatic channels.

- 23 countries applied for new BRICS
- other agenda includes global geopolitics, trade, infrastructure development.
- membership expansion to be called BRICS

• Expanded BRICS OVERVIEW:-

- BRICS represent \$56.65 trillion (PPP) of world's GDP
- BRICS focus on funding projects, reducing poverty, tackling global challenges (almost 40)
- Expanded Brics holds 37% of global GDP.
- Discussion of new member demographics, global trade implications and UN reform potential.

• 2023 summit highlights :-

- Different countries expressed interest and sent official applications.
- Expectation of active part.
- Inclusion of muslim & Arab voices in bloc.
- Anticipation within the next six months.

• Implication of Expanded Brics

- Expanded Brics gain trade influence in South America, middle East & Africa.
- Make G7 somewhat obsolete.
- Introduction to New Brics member.
- Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia. and UAE.

• Geopolitical paradigm shift.

- Multipolarity & geo economic gaining traction in geopolitics &
- Global south seeks development path independent of west.
- Brics summit in Johannesburg highlighted this shift.

→ Significance of New members:
Saudi Arabia, UAE send a message of economic and strategic independence. ②

- Arab sheikhdoms breaking from traditional alignment with west.
- Iran acceptance reflects Global South's interest in engaging with Tehran.

→ Challenging old international order

- Expansion signifies seismic changes in Global order
- old order dominated by Global North, led by US and Europe
- Xi Jinping & Cyril Ramaphosa emphasize fairness, inclusivity, prosperity.

→ Ukraine War Crumbling Ancient Regime

- Ukraine war revealed cracks in old global political structure.
- Global South not fully supportive of west's approach towards Russia.
- BRICS expansion follows this trend of challenging the old order.

→ Pakistan's Prospects and BRICS membership :-

- 5 of Pakistan's regional neighbors now part of BRICS.
- BRICS and SCO offers global opportunities for Pakistan.
- Leverage China and Saudi Arabia relations for support.

→ Internal Challenges and future path;

- India's potential hurdles for Pakistan's BRICS membership.
- strength relations with China and Saudi for support.
- Address internal dissonance for successful membership application.

(B) BRICS currency and USD Trade Issues

- Request for finance ministers and central Bank Governors to reduce reliance on US dollar
 - Potential development of Common BRICS currency
- Further BRICS Expansion
- Possibility of more countries joining BRICS in future.

→ Implications of Expanding BRICS :-

- Influence on Global trade & Investment
- potential for reforming global institutions like the UN.



→ Many scholars think it is counterweight to G7 of west.

→ For some scholars BRICS represent the changing world order

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→ West scholar counter this mainly because of G7 has strong bonding with each other and BRICS have completely divergent interest on many issues including China-India rivalry, Russia-Ukraine

• Redollarization :-

→ Different ^{M.E} countries are negotiating with China to trade with them in local currency partly in Yuan for some scholars it represents a changing global economic order where Chinese currency is growing

→ Critics of China says that China is trying to develop its own sphere of influence or Chinese dominated Global South and wants to represent global southern states and voices.

→ Some scholars believed that Russia and China want to portray that Global North is biased against them and China & Russia are not globally isolated as claimed by west that they are spokesperson of global south.

→ Cold war emerging b/w US/China middle power has important role middle power are realizing its importance in global Affairs.

Will an expanded BRICS enable the Global South to counter-balance the western dominated world of Politics, Trade & Finance?

How will India reconcile its presence in BRICS with its strategic Partnership with US?

Q What does BRICS + mean for Pakistan?
(Rising multilateral organization in Global South)

Geopolitics :-

The rise of China, India and other Asean economies brighten prospects for Global South to challenge western dominance in present world order.

BRICS + is not Anti-West or challenge :-

- Although dedollarization is an aspiration of BRICS countries but actual shift toward other currencies require more time & effort
- \$5 trillion held in overseas central bank and \$2 trillion in Bank of China
- Global supply chains remain critical for economic health of all countries.
- Western countries are also inclined towards de-risking their economies rather than decoupling from China because ^{some} BRICS members are also part/member of G-7.

India :- Despite differences with China, India chose to play along with BRICS to assume leadership of Global South.

Modi attributed Chandrayaan 3 success to Global South. India also deepened its partnership

with US and built high stakes in US-led Indo-Pacific Strategy & Quad. It often takes positions unfavourable to west

e.g.:- Russia-Ukraine.

India played balancing act citing Strategic Autonomy

Pakistan : Pakistan didn't receive invitation to BRICS summit and was not included in BRICS + .

- Foreign office responded " Pakistan will take the latest developments and make determination about its future engagement with the group ". " Pakistan is an ardent supporter of multilateralism ". exam

→ Pakistan participation was blocked by BRICS member India

- Pakistan was invited to a seminar, where senator Mujahid Hussain represented desire to be part of BRICS Plus.

- India's hostility
- Economic situation
- Political instability
- violent extremism
- weak law & order

Factors :-

undermines the prospects of Pakistan joining BRICS.

- Pakistan is situated at the centre of expanded BRICS' economic geography.
- It can become a genuine hub connecting south Asia with western and Central Asia.
- Pakistan should consider opening its doors to east-west connectivity and complement north-south connectivity well.

