

TATHASTU ICS

23 AUGUST

KK/AJ

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1.	BRICS IS A PLATFORM FOR GLOBAL SOUTH, SAYS MODI
2.	CENTRE FOR MONITORING INDIAN ECONOMY (CMIE) DATA: A DISSONANT NOTE

BRICS IS A PLATFORM FOR GLOBAL SOUTH, SAYS MODI

SOURCE: [TH](#) , [HINDUSTAN TIMES](#) , [DECCAN HERALD](#) , [LIVEMINT](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the role of BRICS as a platform for discussing challenges facing the **Global South**.
- He departed for **South Africa** to attend the BRICS summit in **Johannesburg**.
- The summit marked the first in-person meeting since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ABOUT BRICS:

1. Formation and Purpose:

- a. BRICS is an acronym for the grouping of five major emerging economies: **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**.
- b. It was established in **2006** with the aim of fostering cooperation among these nations on **economic, political, and social fronts**.



2. Economic Powerhouses:

- a. BRICS countries collectively represent a significant portion of the global population, land area, and GDP.
- b. They play a crucial role in shaping the global economy and geopolitics.

3. **Cooperation Areas:** BRICS focuses on collaboration in various domains, including trade, investment, finance, technology, healthcare, and sustainable development.

4. **Annual Summits:** BRICS holds annual summits where leaders from member countries meet to discuss key issues and enhance cooperation. These summits rotate among the member nations.

5. **Geopolitical Influence:** BRICS countries often coordinate their positions on global issues, contributing to a multipolar world order.

6. New Development Bank (NDB):

- a. One of the significant achievements of BRICS is the establishment of the **New Development Bank (NDB) in 2014**.
- b. NDB provides **financial assistance for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in member countries and other emerging economies**.

7. **Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges:** BRICS promotes cultural exchanges, academic cooperation, and people-to-people ties to foster deeper understanding among member nations.

8. **Collaboration on Global Challenges:** BRICS discussions cover a wide range of topics, including climate change, terrorism, cybersecurity, and global health issues.
9. **Voice for Developing Nations:** BRICS serves as a platform for emerging economies to voice their concerns and aspirations on the global stage.
10. **Partnerships and Outreach:** BRICS engages with other nations and organizations through partnerships and dialogues, extending its influence beyond its member states.

SIGNIFICANCE OF BRICS IN CHANGING GEOPOLITICAL SCENARIO FOR INDIA:

1. **Diverse Alliances:** BRICS provides India with a platform to engage with other major emerging economies, diversifying its diplomatic and economic ties beyond traditional partnerships.
2. **Multipolarity:** BRICS reinforces the concept of a multipolar world, where India's voice is heard alongside other influential nations, countering the dominance of established powers.
3. **Economic Opportunities:** The collaboration within BRICS enhances India's access to trade, investment, and technology from fellow member countries, boosting economic growth.
4. **Development Financing:** Institutions like the New Development Bank (NDB) offer India and other members alternative sources of development funding, reducing reliance on Western-dominated financial institutions.
5. **Counterbalance to Western Influence:** BRICS presents India with a collective voice against unilateral decisions by Western powers, increasing its diplomatic leverage in global affairs.

CHALLENGES WITH BRICS:

- **Differing priorities and interests** among member countries can lead to coordination challenges.
- **Varying levels of economic development and political systems** can hinder cohesive decision-making.
- **Geopolitical tensions** among member countries, like **India-China border issues**, can strain cooperation.
- **Complex bureaucratic processes** and negotiations can slow down initiatives and agreements.
- **Balancing individual national interests with collective goals** can be a delicate task.

WAY FORWARD:

- **Strengthen Economic Ties:** Enhance trade and investment cooperation. Explore new economic sectors for collaboration.
- **Promote Innovation and Technology:** Foster joint research and innovation projects. Share technological expertise and best practices.
- **Address Global Challenges:** Collaborate on climate change, health, and security. Provide collective solutions to common challenges.
- **Enhance Cultural and Educational Exchanges:** Foster mutual understanding and academic partnerships. Promote people-to-people ties.
- **Maintain Diplomatic Coordination:** Regular high-level dialogues and summits. Present a unified voice on global issues.

OTHER GROUPINGS:

Regional Grouping/Organization	Member Countries	Description and Purpose
SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka	Collaboration among South Asian countries for regional development, economic integration, and cooperation.

BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand	Cooperation among nations around the Bay of Bengal to promote trade, investment, and development.
SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization)	India, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	Eurasian political, economic, and security organization comprising Central Asian and neighbouring states.
IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association)	India, Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, UAE	Collaboration among countries bordering the Indian Ocean for enhancing regional trade, growth, and security.
ARF (ASEAN Regional Forum)	ASEAN member states and their dialogue partners	Platform for political and security dialogue among ASEAN member states and their dialogue partners.
G20	Major global economies	Major economies coming together to discuss global financial stability, economic growth, and cooperation.
IONS (Indian Ocean Naval Symposium)	Participating Indian Ocean littoral states	Forum for maritime cooperation among Indian Ocean littoral states to ensure maritime security and stability.
MGC (Mekong-Ganga Cooperation)	India, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand	Collaboration between India and ASEAN countries along the Mekong and Ganga rivers to enhance cultural and economic ties.
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa	Grouping of major emerging economies to promote cooperation in economic, political, and social areas

CENTRE FOR MONITORING INDIAN ECONOMY (CMIE) DATA: A DISSONANT NOTE

SOURCE: [IE](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

The employment data sourced from the **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)** has shown that **India's work force has rapidly aged over the past seven years.**

Statistics:

- Data shows that the **share of India's youth**— defined as those between **ages 15 and 29** has fallen **from 25 percent in 2016-17 to just 17 percent at the end of 2022-23.**
- Further, even the share of those falling in the next 15-year age bracket (**30 to 44 years**) has **fallen from 38 percent to 33 percent** over the same period.
- While the share of these two categories has shrunk, that of the oldest cohort — **45 years and above** has **grown from 37 percent to 49 per cent.**

REASONS FOR UNDERUTILISATION OF DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND:

- 1. Skills Gap and Education Quality:**
 - a. Insufficient access to quality education and skill development programs.
 - b. Data: As of 2021, around 25% of Indian youth lack basic reading and math skills (ASER Report).
- 2. Job Mismatch and Informal Economy:**
 - a. Mismatch between skills possessed and skills demanded by the job market.
 - b. Data: Around 47% of Indian graduates are unemployable due to lack of skills (National Employability Report, 2020).
 - c. Example: Engineering graduates working in jobs unrelated to their field.
- 3. Limited Job Opportunities:**
 - a. Slow job creation in sectors that can absorb the growing workforce.
 - b. Data: In 2020, India's unemployment rate reached 23.5% due to the COVID-19 pandemic (CMIE).
 - c. Example: Many graduates competing for a limited number of government jobs.
- 4. Gender Disparities:**
 - a. Gender-based discrimination limiting women's workforce participation.
 - b. Data: India's female labour force participation rate is around 20%, one of the lowest in the world (World Bank).
 - c. Example: Traditional norms discouraging women from working outside the home.
- 5. Agricultural Dependency:**
 - a. Majority of the population dependent on agriculture with limited capacity to absorb the workforce.
 - b. Data: Over 50% of rural households depend on agriculture for livelihood (NSSO, 2019).
 - c. Example: Seasonal unemployment among agricultural workers.
- 6. Inadequate Entrepreneurial Ecosystem:**
 - a. Lack of support for entrepreneurship and startups.
 - b. Data: India ranks 3rd in the world for startups but faces challenges in scaling (NASSCOM).
 - c. Example: Limited access to funding for aspiring entrepreneurs.
- 7. Slow Industrial Growth:**
 - a. Slow growth in manufacturing and industry leading to job scarcity.

- b. Data: India's manufacturing sector contribution to GDP is around 15% (World Bank, 2019).
- c. Example: Decline in manufacturing jobs due to automation.

8. Population Growth Pressure:

- a. Rapid population growth leading to higher competition for available jobs.
- b. Data: India's population is projected to be 1.64 billion by 2050 (UN).
- c. Example: Large number of job seekers entering the workforce every year.

9. Social Inequalities:

- a. Caste-based discrimination and social inequalities limiting opportunities.
- b. Data: Caste-based disparities in education and employment opportunities persist (NSSO).
- c. Example: Limited access to education and jobs for marginalized communities.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES:	
INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE
Skill India	Aims to provide skill training to youth across various sectors, enhancing employability.
Make in India	Promotes manufacturing and job creation, attracting investments and boosting industrial growth.
Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)	Offers skill development training to improve the employability of youth.
Startup India	Supports and nurtures startups to encourage entrepreneurship and job creation.
Digital India	Promotes digital literacy and access, creating opportunities in technology and IT sectors.
Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana	Provides financial support to small businesses and entrepreneurs, fostering self-employment.
National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme	Encourages industries to provide apprenticeship training, bridging the skill gap.
Atal Innovation Mission	Fosters innovation and research in schools and universities, nurturing a culture of creativity.
Skill Development for Minorities	Focuses on skill training and entrepreneurship development for minority communities.
Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)	Focuses on rural youth, providing skill training and placements.
National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)	Promotes self-employment and micro-enterprises in rural areas, targeting youth and women.
Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)	Supports self-employment ventures through financial assistance.

WAY FORWARD:

- **Quality Education and Skill Training:** Enhance education quality from early stages to higher education. Focus on relevant skill development aligned with industry needs.
- **Job Creation and Industry Growth:** Promote industries with potential for high employment. Attract investments and ease of doing business to spur economic growth.
- **Entrepreneurship and Innovation:** Nurture a supportive ecosystem for startups and innovation. Encourage entrepreneurship through funding and mentorship.

- **Gender Equality and Women's Participation:** Empower women through education and economic opportunities. Ensure safe and inclusive workplaces to enhance workforce diversity.

