



INDIA'S ROLE IN CHANGING WORLD ORDER: THROUGH THE LENS OF BRICS

Asst. Prof. Akshay Manoj Jadhav

B. K. Birla College, Kalyan.

1. Abstract:

This paper explores India's potential role in shaping the evolving world order, analyzing it through the lens of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) grouping. It will examine India's economic growth, demographic advantage, strategic partnerships, and contributions to global governance in the context of BRICS's collective efforts to challenge the existing international order dominated by the West. The paper will conclude by discussing the challenges and opportunities India faces in realizing its aspirations on the global stage.

➤ Key Words :

BRICS, Economic Growth, ;World Order, Global Governance.

2. Introduction

The current global order, established after World War II with the United States at its core, is undergoing a significant transformation. The rise of emerging economies, particularly those within the BRICS grouping, is challenging the established hierarchy and prompting a shift towards a multipolar world. Within this context, India, with its rapid economic growth, vast population, and strategic location, emerges as a potential game-changer in the evolving international landscape.

3. Need of the Study-

Studying the relationship between India and BRICS is important for several reasons:

3.1 Understanding India's Global Role:

BRICS membership sheds light on India's strategic priorities in the international arena.

It showcases India's efforts to assert its influence and challenge the dominance of established powers.

3.2 Global Economic Trends:

Analysing BRICS cooperation helps us understand the rise of emerging economies and their impact on the global economic landscape.

This knowledge is crucial for businesses and policymakers navigating the complexities of international trade and investment.

3.3 International Institutions and Reforms:

BRICS highlights the need for reform in existing international institutions like the UN Security Council.

Studying India's role within BRICS can inform discussions about creating a more balanced and representative global order.

3.4 South-South Cooperation:

BRICS cooperation exemplifies the growing importance of collaboration between developing countries.

Understanding this trend is essential for fostering knowledge sharing and capacity building among nations facing similar challenges.

3.5 Contemporary Global Issues:

BRICS discussions address critical issues like climate change, counter-terrorism, and sustainable development.

By examining India's perspective within BRICS, you gain insights into how these issues are being tackled by emerging economies.

Overall, studying India and BRICS provides a valuable lens for understanding the evolving dynamics of power, cooperation, and development in the 21st century.

4. Historical legal Approach

BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) is a relatively new grouping on the world stage, and their approach to international law is distinct from traditional institutions. Here's a breakdown of the historical legal approach of BRICS:

4.1 Alternative World Order: BRICS nations don't strictly adhere to established legal frameworks. They advocate for alternative principles within a new model of global relations. This suggests a potential challenge to the existing legal order dominated by Western powers.

4.2 Focus on Development: BRICS summits have emphasized social development goals, social security, and full employment. Legal systems within these countries likely reflect these priorities.

4.3 Humanitarian Concerns: BRICS initiatives address social protection for vulnerable groups like the poor, women, youth, and people with disabilities. This translates to legal frameworks that aim to ensure social safety nets.

4.4 Overall, BRICS' legal approach seems to prioritize:

- Development and social justice
- Building a more equitable international legal order

It's important to note that BRICS is a group with diverse legal systems. However, they seem to find common ground in advocating for a reformed international legal landscape that better reflects the interests of developing nations.

5. What is BRICS

- **Members:** BRICS currently comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates.
- **Origin:** Originally BRIC (without South Africa), the term was coined by economist Jim O'Neill at Goldman Sachs in 2001. He predicted these economies would dominate the global scene by 2050.
- **Formation:** The first BRIC summit occurred in 2009, with South Africa joining in 2010. The recent inclusion of four new members took place in January 2024.
- **Goals:** BRICS aims for economic cooperation among members and seeks to amplify their collective voice in global affairs.

BRICS is a significant bloc considering its members:

- **Population:** BRICS countries hold roughly 45% of the world's population.
- **Economy:** They represent a substantial share of global GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

While the group started with a focus on economic cooperation, it has evolved into a more multifaceted organization.

6. India and BRICS

India's relationship with BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates) is a complex and evolving one. Here's a breakdown of the key points:

6.1 India's Contributions:

- **Active Member:** India has been a dedicated member since BRICS' inception, participating in all summits and discussions.
- **Leadership Role:** India successfully chaired the 2021 summit, focusing on inclusive growth and reforming global institutions.
- **Economic Cooperation:** India engages in significant trade with other BRICS members, collaborating on infrastructure, energy, and financial initiatives.

6.2 Benefits for India:

- **Global Influence:** BRICS provides a platform to amplify India's voice on global issues and challenge the dominance of established powers.
- **Economic Growth:** Collaboration with BRICS members opens doors for trade and investment, fostering economic development.
- **Multilateral Reform:** India can work with like-minded countries to push for reforms in institutions like the UN Security Council.

6.3 Challenges:

- **Internal Differences:** Varying political and economic priorities among members can lead to disagreements, like India's tense relations with China.
- **Consensus-Based Decision Making:** Reaching consensus can be slow and hinder swift action.

6.4 India's Specific Interests:

- **Balancing China's Influence:** BRICS is seen as a way to counter China's growing global influence, especially considering their border disputes.
- **Multilateral Reform Agenda:** India seeks reforms in international institutions like the UN Security Council and NSG, and BRICS provides a platform for support.
- **South-South Cooperation:** India prioritizes cooperation with developing countries within BRICS for knowledge sharing and capacity building.

6.5 Areas of Cooperation:

- **New Development Bank (NDB):** India played a key role in establishing the NDB, a BRICS-led development bank offering an alternative to Western-dominated institutions.
- **Counter-Terrorism:** BRICS provides a platform to address terrorism and collaborate on strategies to combat this global threat.

- **Climate Change:** India and other BRICS members share concerns about climate change and can work together towards sustainable solutions.

6.6 Future Considerations:

- **India's Growing Importance:** India's economic and demographic weight is likely to make its role even more significant within BRICS.
- **Expanded BRICS:** The inclusion of new members presents both opportunities and challenges for navigating internal dynamics.

Overall, India's relationship with BRICS is a strategic one. While there are challenges, India leverages BRICS to assert its global influence, pursue economic development, and advocate for a reformed international order.

7. India's Growth Story:

India has witnessed remarkable economic progress in recent decades, becoming the world's fifth-largest economy by nominal GDP in 2023. This growth is driven by factors such as a young and skilled workforce, increasing foreign direct investment, and a growing domestic market. India's ambitious infrastructure development projects and its focus on digitalization further solidify its economic potential. This economic growth translates to increased global influence, allowing India to play a more significant role in shaping international economic institutions and trade agreements.

7.1 Demographic Advantage:

India boasts a young and growing population, projected to become the world's most populous country by 2027. This demographic advantage presents both opportunities and challenges. On the one hand, it provides a vast pool of human resources that can fuel further economic growth and innovation. On the other hand, India needs to address issues like skill development and job creation to ensure this demographic dividend becomes a reality.

7.2 Beyond Growth, Nurturing a Skilled Workforce:

While India's economic growth is commendable, a major challenge lies in harnessing its demographic dividend effectively. Converting the young population into a skilled and employable workforce requires significant investments in education, skill development programs, and infrastructure. This will empower the youth, enable them to contribute meaningfully to economic growth, and further solidify India's position in the globalized world.

7.3 Strategic Partnerships:

India actively pursues strategic partnerships with other major powers, including the United States, Japan, and the European Union, while also strengthening ties with BRICS partners. This multi-pronged approach allows India to diversify its foreign policy options, enhance its security

cooperation, and leverage its growing economic clout to secure favorable trade deals and access to advanced technologies.

7.4 Contributions to Global Governance:

India actively participates in global governance initiatives, including the G20, the United Nations, and various international organizations. It advocates for reforms within these institutions, aiming for a more equitable and representative global order that reflects the rise of emerging economies. India's growing influence within these institutions allows it to shape the global agenda on issues such as climate change, sustainable development, and global trade.

8. Beyond BRICS: A Multifaceted Approach to International Engagement:

While BRICS serves as a relevant platform for India to collaborate with other emerging economies and challenge the established order, it is crucial to recognize the limitations of this grouping. The inherent differences in political systems, economic priorities, and strategic interests among BRICS members can hinder the formation of a unified front. India, therefore, pursues a multi-pronged approach, engaging not only within BRICS but also with other major powers like the United States, Japan, and the European Union. This strategic diversification allows India to:

8.1 Mitigate risks:

By establishing relationships with various power blocs, India can hedge against potential vulnerabilities arising from overdependence on any one group.

8.2 Leverage economic opportunities:

Engaging with different partners unlocks diverse trade and investment opportunities, fostering India's economic growth and integration into the global economic system.

8.3 Enhance its security posture:

Strategic partnerships with key players in various regions can bolster India's security cooperation, ensuring its strategic interests are addressed on a global scale.

8.4 Beyond Multilateralism, Championing Regional Leadership:

India's aspirations extend beyond shaping global governance through established multilateral institutions. Recognizing its strategic location and growing influence, India actively pursues regional leadership, playing a pivotal role in organizations like the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). This regional leadership allows India to:

8.5 Promote regional stability and cooperation:

By fostering economic and security partnerships with neighboring countries, India can contribute to a peaceful and stable South Asia, conducive to regional development.

8.6 Project its leadership credentials:

By assuming a leading role in regional organizations, India can establish itself as a key player in Asia and assert its strategic interests on a regional level.

8.7 Beyond Advocacy, Spearheading Initiatives for Global Impact:

India's contributions to global governance go beyond mere advocacy within established institutions. It spearheads ambitious initiatives like the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), demonstrating its commitment to tackling global challenges like climate change and disaster management. These initiatives:

8.8 Showcase India's leadership and expertise:

By taking the lead in addressing critical global issues, India positions itself as a responsible and proactive actor on the international stage.

8.9 Foster international cooperation:

These initiatives provide platforms for collaboration with other countries, promoting knowledge sharing, technological advancements, and collective action towards achieving sustainable development goals.

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9. Navigating the Complexities: Challenges and Opportunities:

While India possesses immense potential, its path towards becoming a major player in the evolving world order is fraught with challenges. Internal issues like poverty, social inequities, and political complexities can impede its progress. Additionally, managing its relationships with neighboring countries and external powers with competing interests necessitates skillful diplomacy and strategic maneuvering. However, India also presents significant opportunities:

- **A burgeoning market:**

India's vast and growing domestic market presents a lucrative opportunity for foreign investment and trade, making it an attractive partner for other nations.

- **Technological advancements:**

India's growing expertise in areas like information technology and artificial intelligence can position it as a global leader in these crucial sectors.

- **Soft power projection:**

India's rich cultural heritage, democratic values, and commitment to global peace and development can strengthen its soft power, garnering international goodwill and support.

10. Conclusion: A Balancing Act for India's Future

India's role in shaping the evolving world order is multifaceted and complex. Its economic growth, demographic advantage, and strategic partnerships, coupled with its active participation in global governance and regional leadership aspirations, position it as a potential game-changer. However, navigating the intricate web of international relations, overcoming internal challenges, and leveraging its strengths will be crucial for India to translate its potential into a tangible and enduring global influence. By balancing its diverse interests, strategically engaging with various partners, and addressing its internal roadblocks, India can emerge as a key architect of the future global order.

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