

Plans for the BRICS Delhi Summit: March 29, 2012

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

BRIC	Brazil, Russia, India and China
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
CPC	Communist Party of China
G20	Group of 20 (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union)
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
WTO	World Trade Organization

Preface

This report on “Plans for the 2012 BRICS Summit” draws from public sources to aid researchers and other stakeholders interested in the BRICS summit. It thus focuses on the political and diplomatic aspects of the BRICS as a plurilateral summit institution, and includes material on the physical summit, India’s preparations for the Delhi Summit and other BRICS-related meetings. It is updated periodically as information becomes available.

Introduction: India 2012 BRICS Summit

India will host the fourth BRICS summit in New Delhi on March 29, 2012. The summit will cover issues including, trade, the global economy, agriculture, health and innovation, international terrorism, climate change, food and energy security. However, other issues will be identified as India develops the agenda.

The first summit was held in 2009 in Russia, with the leaders from Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC). The same four leaders met for the second summit in Brazil in 2010. In 2011, with China as the host, South Africa attended for the first time. In 2012 India will host the fourth summit with the leaders of all five BRICS countries.

The Delhi Summit will be the first major diplomatic event India will host in 2012.

Agenda

Priority Themes

An overarching priority for the Indian hosted BRICS summit is to strengthen “the multi-cooperation between members and consolidate their position in the world.” In light of the European crisis the BRICS leaders have highlighted the growing role of the group in

strengthening the world economy. Indian official Sudhir Vyas said the “agenda of BRICS was not to project itself as an opposition bloc but to see if it can contribute in reducing both social and economic crisis in the global arena.” Carlos Duarte, Brazil’s ambassador to India, said he wanted the agenda of the summit to include issues such as urbanization, housing, global terrorism and sustainable development. Deng Xijun, deputy head of mission in the Chinese Embassy, emphasized the maintenance of common security, saying that the BRICS’s primary priority should be to “maintain peace and safety among the countries.”¹ (January 31, 2012, Press Trust of India)

International attention on the BRICS countries has increased incrementally over the last decade. Recognizing this, Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh has stressed that with the relevance of the BRICS to the international order the summit agenda has gone far beyond purely economic issues to include international terrorism, climate change and food and energy security. Singh has outlined that the BRICS countries share similar positions on many issues including reform of the Bretton Woods institutions, trade protectionism and the Doha Development Round, achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and support for a multi-polar, equitable and democratic world order. The prime minister stressed that against the backdrop of these global challenges, it is “all the more essential for BRICS countries to closely consult with each other at this time.”² (December 15, 2011, Indo-Asian News Service)

European Crisis

Brazilian foreign minister Antonio Patriota said that his government is ready to contribute more money to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to alleviate the euro crisis on the condition that “the Europeans find methods and policies that do not only look at the fiscal side of things but also create conditions for a resumption of growth.” According to Patriota, the BRICS countries have begun tackling the global economic challenges posed by the euro crisis through their economic growth. He also added that the BRICS countries should commit to helping end the crisis using their foreign currency reserves, but only if the eurozone first takes comprehensive steps to end the crisis.³ (January 27, 2012, Dow Jones)

Economic Reform

While specifying some of the details of the Delhi Summit agenda, Sudhir Vyas, Indian secretary of economic affairs in the Ministry of External Affairs, said that discussions will focus on macroeconomics as well as the BRICS’s role in improving the global financial situation.⁴ (January 31, 2012, New Kerala)

An economic research group consisting of economic think tanks from the BRICS countries will meet to discuss issues that may affect BRICS countries and the developing world.⁵ (January 31, 2012, Press Trust of India)

¹ Press Trust of India (January 31, 2012), “Dignitaries Discuss BRICS’ growing role ahead of 2012 summit.”

² Indo-Asian News Service (December 15, 2011), “BRICS source of stability in time of recession: PM.”

³ Michael Casey, Dow Jones (January, 27, 2012), “Brazil Foreign min: Ready to Help Euro Zone via IMF, but with Conditions.”

⁴ New Kerala (January 31, 2012), “BRICS Summit to focus on fixing global recession.”

⁵ Press Trust of India (January 31, 2012) “Dignitaries Discuss BRICS’ growing role ahead of 2012 summit.”

The Reserve Bank of India has cut the amount of reserve deposits usually set aside by lenders. India has thus joined the BRICS initiative of shielding growth whilst also cutting borrowing costs, already implemented by Brazil, China and Russia. This action is in response to the increasing debt crisis in Europe that is deterring global economic expansion.⁶ (January 25, 2012, Bloomberg)

Trade

The BRICS trade ministers have planned to meet ahead of the Delhi Summit to discuss food security and agricultural productivity. They will also look at initiatives to promote business and investment amongst and beyond the BRICS countries, along with public health and the sharing of science and technology.⁷ (February 2, 2012, The Hindu)

Trade between India and China hit a record \$73.9 billion in 2011. Despite the growth, the trade continues to be unequal, as seen in the deficit in Beijing's favour rising to over \$27 billion. S. Jaishankar, India's ambassador to China, says that efforts are being made to improve market access for Indian products in China. Chinese officials have acknowledged India's concerns and the issue has been put forth to be discussed during the BRICS trade meeting on March 28, just prior to the BRICS summit.⁸ (January 30, 2012, The Statesman)

Other

Sonesh Jain, a student at the Indian Institute of technology at Roorkee, won the logo design competition organized by the Ministry of External Affairs.⁹ (February 11, 2012, India Blooms News Service)

Sudhir Vyas, secretary of economic affairs in the Ministry of External Affairs, has suggested that an academic forum come together during the Delhi Summit, where think tanks and experts from all five countries would discuss various subjects of interest for the developing world.¹⁰ (January 31, 2012, Press Trust of India)

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs has created a contest to have a 2012 BRICS summit logo designed. The logo should bring out the essence of the group of countries. The competition kicks off the preparations for the summit and the deadline is January 7, 2012.¹¹ (December 23, 2011, Economic Times)

⁶ Bloomberg News, Times of Oman (January 25, 2012), "India cuts cash reserve ratio, joins BRIC to shield growth."

⁷ Business Line, The Hindu (February 2, 2012), "BRICS trade ministers to meet ahead of Delhi Summit."

⁸ The Statesman (January 30, 2012), "India-China Trade hits all-time high."

⁹ India Blooms News Service (February 11, 2012), "IIT Roorkee student wins logo designing contest."

¹⁰ Press Trust of India (January 31, 2012), "Dignitaries Discuss BRICS' growing role ahead of 2012 summit."

¹¹ The Economic Times (December 23, 2011), "India gears up to host BRICS summit in March."

Bilateral Meetings

Singh is expected to hold bilateral meetings with each of the leaders from China, Brazil, Russia and South Africa on the margins of the summit.¹² (December 23, 2011, Daily News and Analysis)

India and Russia

Russian president Dmitry Medvedev hosted Manmohan Singh for the 12th annual India-Russia Summit, which coincided with Russia's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Before departing for the three-day summit, Singh announced that he was looking forward to in-depth discussions with Medvedev on trade, Russia's leadership in the global economic crisis, and political developments in West Asia, the Gulf and Afghanistan areas and their impact on peace and stability in the world. Singh said he was convinced that India-Russia consultations on global issues were more necessary than ever before.¹³ (December 15, 2011, United News of India) The leaders will pay special attention to the trade and investment dimension of India-Russia ties. The two countries have fixed a trade turnover target of \$20 billion by 2015.¹⁴ (December 15, 2011, Indo-Asian News Service)

The bilateral conversation will also address how to make advances in international forums such as United Nations Security Council (UNSC), Group of 20 (G20), and the BRICS and East Asia Summit.¹⁵ (December 15, 2011, United News of India)

The Russian Ministry of Economic Development, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized a seminar on "Preparing for the BRICS Summit in 2012: Key Themes for Russia" to discuss Russia's engagement within the BRICS partnership. The topics included sustainable development and innovation policy cooperation. The event was opened by Andrey Slepnev, Russia's deputy economy minister, and Haoliang Xu, UNDP deputy regional director, and was attended by Russian experts and representatives from ministries and all of the BRICS embassies. The outcomes from the seminar will be used for the BRICS senior officials meetings and other intergovernmental mechanisms to identify the projects and proposals that BRICS countries will fund.¹⁶ (December 27, 2011, UNDP)

India and Brazil

Celso Amorim, Brazil's defence minister, will travel to India for talks on boosting bilateral military cooperation. According to a statement delivered by the Ministry of Defence, there is an increased potential for scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries, which would be mutually beneficial, as both countries are trying to be technologically self-sufficient. Amorim is expected to discuss naval cooperation with his Indian counterparts, especially plans to build aircraft carriers and Scorpene-class submarines, whilst discussing expanding exchanged between military academies of the two countries.¹⁷ (February 2, 2012, Agence France Presse)

¹² Daily News and Analysis (December 23, 2011), "India gears up to host BRICS summit in March."

¹³ United News of India (December 15, 2011), "PM to discuss global economy, pol development with Russian leaders."

¹⁴ Indo-Asian News Service (December 15, 2011), "BRICS source of stability in time of recession: PM."

¹⁵ United News of India (December 15, 2011), "PM to discuss global economy, pol development with Russian leaders."

¹⁶ Dmitry Mariyasin, United Nations Development Programme (December 27, 2011), "Will BRICS take a lead in the global sustainability debate?"

¹⁷ Agence France Presse (February 2, 2012), "Brazil Minister heads to India to improve defense ties."

India and China

Wang Jiarui, head of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, met with S.M. Krishna, Indian minister of foreign affairs, during his visit to Beijing. They stressed the importance of strengthening communication and coordination between the two countries in regional and international affairs. They also discussed strengthening mutual development and regional prosperity and further strengthening exchanges between the two countries at central and local levels, with emphasis on exchanges between the younger generations.¹⁸ (February 8, 2012, British Broadcasting Corporation)

Krishna also met with Zhou Yongkang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC. According to Zhou, India and China should strengthen political trust and “properly handle questions left over by history — such as the border issue” so that they can work together to secure peace in these areas. Krishna reiterated that India “recognizes Tibet as a part of China and will tolerate no anti-China activities on Indian Territory.” The Indo-Chinese relationship has been solidified by the agreement to designate 2012 as the “Year of India-China Friendship and Cooperation,” a step forward from the Year of Exchange in 2011.¹⁹ (February 8, 2012, Xinhua News Agency)

To increase cooperation by exchanging high-level visits between the two nations, external affairs minister S.M. Krishna will visit China to discuss “climate change, the situation in Afghanistan and the role of neighbours in stabilizing the country and, above all, the western squeeze on Iran, which is a substantial supplier of crude to both India and China” with his Chinese counterpart, Yang Jiechi.²⁰ (February 3, 2012, The Hindu)

BRICS Meetings

March 29, 2012	BRICS Delhi Summit
March 28, 2012	BRICS trade ministers meeting
December 14, 2011	BRICS trade ministers meeting
November 24, 2011	BRICS deputy foreign ministers
October 29-30, 2011	BRICS agricultural ministers
September 23, 2011	BRICS finance ministers
September 15, 2011	BRICS senior officials meeting
July 11, 2011	BRICS health ministers meeting

BRICS Trade Ministers, December 14, 2011

The BRICS trade ministers met on the sidelines of the ministerial conference of the WTO in Geneva on December 14, 2011. The ministers welcomed Russia’s accession to the WTO, agreed to resist all forms of protectionism and recognized their pivotal role in furthering progress in the

¹⁸British Broadcasting Corporation Monitoring Asia Pacific (February 8, 2012), “Chinese Party official meets visiting Indian Foreign Minister.”

¹⁹Xinhua News Agency (February 8, 2012), “China Focus: China, India pledge closer ties for common development.”

²⁰Sandeep Dikshit, The Hindu (February 3, 2012), “Ahead of Hu Jintao visit, Krishna to tour China.”

Doha round. They also emphasized the essential role of the WTO in monitoring the implementation of multilateral trade disciplines. At the end of the meeting, host Anand Sharma, India's minister of commerce and industry, invited the BRICS trade ministers to the second meeting in New Delhi in March 2012.²¹ (December 15, 2011, India Infoline News Service)

BRICS Deputy Foreign Ministers, November 24, 2011

The BRICS deputy ministers of foreign affairs on November 24, 2011, met to discuss the situation in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). They emphasized the role of the UNSC and urged that any approach to a solution in Syria must be through peaceful negotiations and that "any external interference in Syria's affairs, not in accordance with the UN Charter, should be excluded." The meeting also addressed concerns about peace in the Gulf region and called for political dialogue in resolving differences.²² (November 24, 2011)

BRICS Agricultural Ministers, October 29-30, 2011

At their second meeting, on October 29-30, 2011, the BRICS agricultural ministers committed to enhance coordination and communication with international and regional organizations. They also pledged to enhance UN roles in helping BRICS and Africa's countries enhance food security through improved food production and establish a strategic alliance for agricultural research and technology cooperation and innovation, with India as the coordinating country for the latter.²³ (October 30, 2011)

BRICS Finance Ministers, September 23, 2011

At the BRICS finance ministerial in Washington DC on September 23, 2011, the finance ministers highlighted the immediate problem of inadequate growth in developed countries. The solution requires continued international cooperation, long-term planning, and responsible macroeconomic and fiscal policies. They welcomed the fiscal package announced by the United States as well as the decisions taken by euro area countries to address financial tensions. The ministers are concerned with the slow pace of quota and governance reforms in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and remain committed to work with the international community, specifically mentioning the G20 and the G20 Cannes Action Plan in the face of a slowdown in global economic growth.²⁴ (September 22, 2011)

²¹ India Infoline News Service (December 15, 2011), "Anand Sharma meets BRICS and SAARC leaders at Geneva."

²² BRICS Information Centre, (November 24, 2011), "Joint Communiqué on the Outcome of the Meeting of BRICS Deputy Foreign Ministers on the Situation in the Middle East and North Africa" Moscow, Russia.

²³ BRICS Information Centre (October 30, 2011), "Joint Declaration of the Second Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Development," Chengdu, China.

²⁴ BRICS Information Centre (September 22, 2011), "BRICS Finance Ministers' Joint Communiqué," Washington DC.

BRICS Senior Officials, September 15, 2011

The first BRICS senior officials meeting was held in Dalian, China, on scientific and technological co-operation on September 15, 2011. The decision to hold the meeting was a Russian initiative made at the third summit of the BRICS in April 2011 in Sanya, China, and took place of the margins of the summer forum hosted by the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Prior to the meeting it was expected that discussions would focus on ways to promote cooperation within the BRICS countries in science and high technology, with possibilities for joint implementation of innovation projects in microelectronics, nanotechnologies and materials, biotechnology, energy efficiency technology and renewable energy, and research on climate change. The meeting was also expected to consider establishing a working group on cooperation in the pharmaceutical industry.²⁵ (September 8, 2011, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation)

BRICS Health Ministers, July 11, 2011

The BRICS health ministers met for the first time on July 11, 2011. They agreed to support the work of health-related UN agencies and programs, improve health technology and innovative financing to ensure access to affordable, safe and effective care, and ensure respect of trade agreement and develop plans of action on building capacity in public health, innovation and intellectual property to open avenues for the BRICS countries to supply medicine to low- and middle-income countries. They also established a technical working group to discuss creating a BRICS network of technological cooperation. There is already a separate BRICS senior officials working group for scientific and technological co-operation.²⁶ (July 11, 2011)

India's Summit Team

- Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister
- Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of Finance
- Somanahalli Krishna, Minister of External Affairs
- Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture
- Ghulam Azad, Minister of Health and Family Welfare
- Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry

Participating Leaders

Brazil's Dilma Rousseff was elected the 36th president of Brazil on October 31, 2010, and inaugurated on January 1, 2011. In 2002, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva appointed her minister of energy. In 2005 she became chief of staff and remained in office until March 31, 2010, until stepping down to run for president. She was born in Minas Gerais, Brazil, on December 14, 1947. Rousseff studied economics at the Minas Gerais Federal University School of Economics and did

²⁵ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (September 8, 2011), "Briefing by Russian MFA Spokesman Alexander Lukashevich."

²⁶ BRICS Information Centre (July 11, 2011), "BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting: Beijing Declaration," Beijing, China.

postgraduate studies in economics at the Campinas State University. She is divorced from Carlos Franklin Paixão de Araújo with whom she has one child.

China's Hu Jintao has been president of the People's Republic of China since March 15, 2003. He replaced Jiang Zemin, who had held the position since 1989. Hu also serves as general secretary of the Communist Party of China's (CPC) Central Committee and chair of the Central Military Commission. Before entering into politics he worked as an engineer. He joined the CPC in April 1964, and began working with the party in 1968. In 1992, he was elected to the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and re-elected in 1997. He became vice-president of China in March 1998 and vice-chair of the Central Military Commission in 1999. In November 2002, Hu was elected general secretary of the CPC Central Committee. He was born in Jiangyan, Jiangsu, on December 21, 1942. In 1965 he received his engineering degree from Tsinghua University. He is married to Lui Yongqing and they have two children.

India's Manmohan Singh was re-elected prime minister of India in May 2009. He was first elected in 2004 when he replaced Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Before entering into politics, Singh worked as an economist, including for the International Monetary Fund. He was governor of the Reserve Bank of India from 1982 to 1985. Singh was first elected to the upper house of Indian parliament in 1995. He was re-elected in 2001 and 2007 and held cabinet positions including minister of finance and minister for external affairs. Singh also served as minister of finance from November 2008 to January 2009. He was born in Gah, Punjab (now known as Chakwal district, Pakistan), on September 26, 1932. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Punjab University in 1952 and 1954. He also received an additional undergraduate degree from Cambridge University in 1957 and a PhD from Oxford University in 1962. He and his wife, Gursharan Kaur, have three children.

Russia's Dmitry Medvedev became president of Russia in May 2008, having been officially endorsed as a presidential candidate in December 2007 by United Russia. He served as deputy prime minister from 2005 to 2008. Before entering politics, he worked as a legal expert and lawyer. He was born in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) on September 14, 1965, and earned a degree in law in 1987 and a doctorate in private law in 1990 from Leningrad State University. He is married to Svetlana Medvedeva and they have one child.

South Africa's Jacob Zuma became president of South Africa on May 9, 2009, succeeding Petrus Kgalema Motlanthe, who had held the position since September 2008. Zuma joined the African National Congress (ANC) in 1958 and started serving in its national executive committee in 1977. In 1994, Zuma was elected national chair of the ANC and chair of the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal. He was re-elected to the latter position in 1996 and selected as the deputy president of the ANC in December 1997. Zuma was appointed executive deputy president of South Africa in 1999. He held that position until 2005 and was elected ANC president at the end of 2007. He was born April 12, 1949, in Inkandla, KwaZulu-Natal Province. He has three wives and several children.