



## 5th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meet

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### Why in News

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The **5<sup>th</sup> BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting** was held through a video conference under the **Chairpersonship of Russian Federation**.

The delegates from Culture Ministries of the **BRICS nations - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa** - participated in the meeting.

### Key Points

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- **Discussions Held:**
  - Impact of the **Covid-19** situation on the cultural sphere in the BRICS countries.
  - Review of the **possible implementation of joint cultural online-projects** within BRICS.
- **Suggestions Given by India:**
  - **Digitisation:**
    - Exploring possibilities of hosting a **Digital Online Exhibition** on a shared theme towards the end of 2021 under the auspices of **BRICS Alliance of Museums**.
    - Extending full cooperation and **content sharing for the website envisaged** under the BRICS Alliance.
  - **BRICS Corner:** Opening the BRICS Corner under the auspices of **BRICS Alliance of Libraries** proposed **to be inaugurated during India's BRICS Presidency in 2021**. The Corner will disseminate information related to the history and culture of BRICS countries.
- **Joint Exhibition to be Organised by India:** The **National Gallery of Modern Arts, New Delhi** will host the **BRICS Joint Exhibition** titled **'Bonding Regions & Imagining Cultural Synergies'** under the auspices of the **BRICS Alliance of Art Museums and Galleries in 2021**.

- **Cultural Cooperation among BRICS Nations:**

- In **2018**, the BRICS nations endorsed **institution-to-institution collaborations** in the form of BRICS Alliance of Museums, BRICS Alliance of Art Museums and Galleries.
- In **2017**, the **agreement on cooperation in the field of culture (2017-21)** between the governments of BRICS nations was signed.

## BRICS

- BRICS is an **acronym** for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**.
  - In 2001, the British Economist **Jim O'Neill coined the term BRIC** to describe the four emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, and China.
  - The grouping was **formalised** during the first meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers' in **2006**.
  - **South Africa** was invited to join BRIC in December **2010**, after which the group adopted the acronym BRICS.
- The **chairmanship of the forum is rotated annually among the members**, in accordance with the acronym B-R-I-C-S.
- During the **Sixth BRICS Summit in Fortaleza** (Brazil) in **2014**, the leaders signed the Agreement establishing the **New Development Bank** (NDB - Shanghai, China). They also signed the **BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement** to provide short-term liquidity support to the members.



## Way Forward

- Culture is a particularly **opportune area** because most BRICS countries have historical or even ancient ties with one another. For instance, India, China and Russia were all connected by the **ancient Silk Route**, which was a corridor not only for trade, but also for religions and philosophies. Cultural cooperation can **reduce conflicts** and lead to **peace** among the BRICS nations.
- The **New Development Bank has a definite role here**. Numerous tourist destinations need investment in infrastructure—roads to drive, facilities like hotels and motels, and rail and aviation infrastructure linking the multiple BRICS centers.

**Source: PIB**