



Expansion of BRICS

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Why in News?

Recently, **BRICS** foreign ministers held their first meeting since the BRICS was expanded to add Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia in 2023.

- They have joined the BRICS with effect from **1st January 2024**.

What is BRICS?

▪ About:

- BRICS is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa**.
- The BRICS Leaders' Summit is convened annually.
- The 15th BRICS Summit was hosted by South Africa in 2023, and Russia will host the 16th Brics summit in October 2024.

▪ Formation of BRICS:

- The grouping was first informally formed during a meeting of the leaders of **Brazil, Russia, India, and China (BRIC)** on the sidelines of the **G8 (now G7) Outreach Summit** in St.Petersburg, Russia, in 2006, this was later formalised during the 1st BRIC Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New York in 2006.
- In 2009, the inaugural BRIC summit took place in Yekaterinburg, Russia. The following year (2010), South Africa joined to form the group known as BRICS.

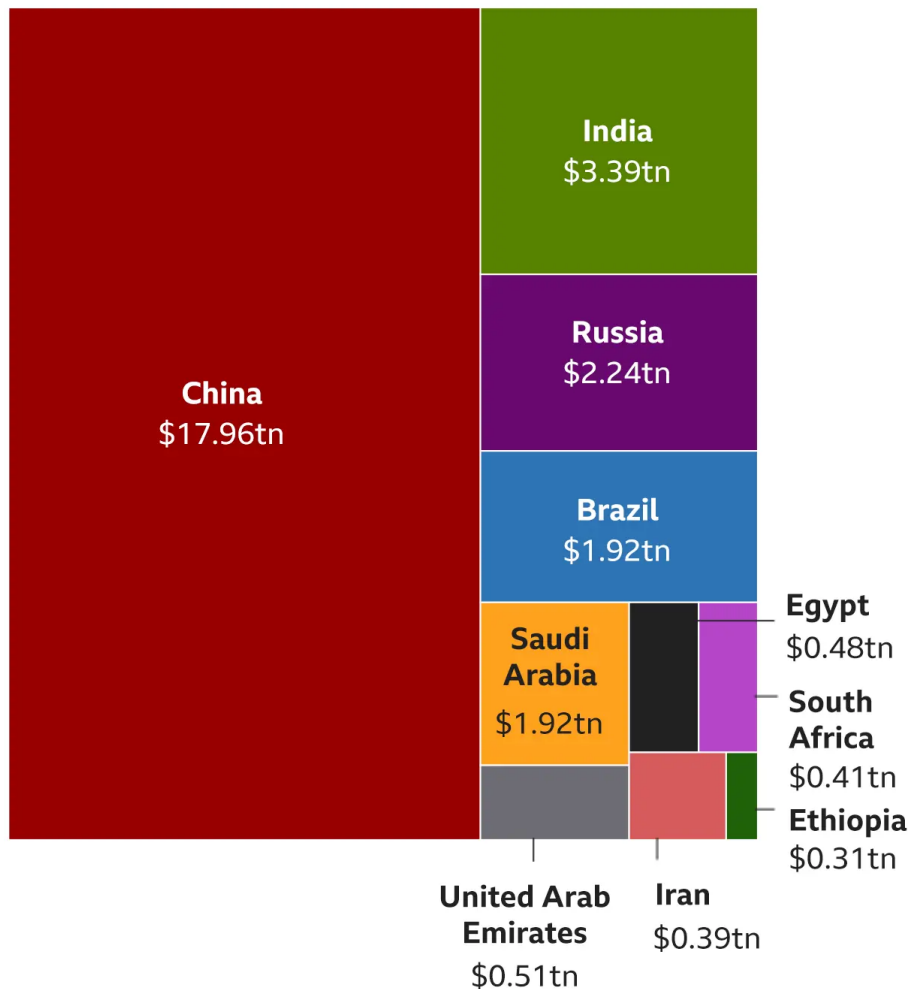
Note:

- During the **6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza (2014)** the leaders signed the Agreement establishing the **New Development Bank (NDB)**.
- **Significance:**
 - The group (enlarged) consists of approximately **3.5 billion** people, representing **45%** of the world's population.
 - Collectively, the economies of its members exceed **USD 28.5 trillion**, accounting for around **28%** of the global economy.
 - Iran, Saudi Arabia, and UAE, as part of the grouping, collectively contribute to approximately **44%** of the global crude oil production.

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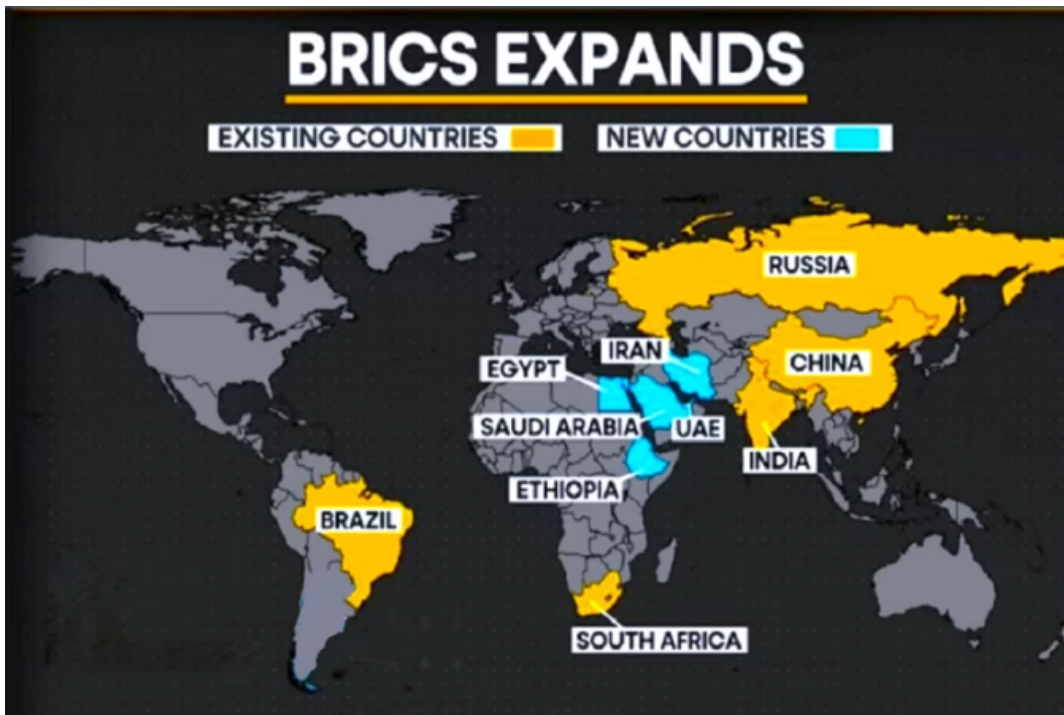
Brics countries and their GDPs

GDP in trillions of US dollars



What is the Geopolitical Importance of the Recently Included BRICS Members?

- The inclusion of **Saudi Arabia** and **Iran** boosts BRICS access to significant energy reserves, with Saudi oil increasingly directed to China and India, and Iran expanding its oil exports to China despite sanctions, highlighting the importance of energy cooperation within BRICS.
- Russia's exploration of new markets within BRICS for its energy exports **diversifies the group's energy supply**, reducing Russia's reliance on traditional markets and bolstering the coalition's energy security.
- The strategic inclusion of Egypt and Ethiopia enhances BRICS' geopolitical significance by providing greater influence and access to the crucial maritime trade routes in the **Horn of Africa** and the **Red Sea region**.



Read More: [BRICS Expansion: Challenging Western Dominance](#)

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q. Consider the following statements: (2016)

1. New Development Bank has been set up by APEC.
2. The headquarters of the New Development Bank is in Shanghai.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)

Q. The 'Fortaleza Declaration', recently in the news, is related to the affairs of (2015)

- (a) ASEAN
- (b) BRICS
- (c) OECD
- (d) WTO

Ans: (b)

Q. With reference to a grouping of countries known as BRICS, consider the following statements: (2014)

1. The First Summit of BRICS was held in Rio de Janeiro in 2009.
2. South Africa was the last to join the BRICS grouping.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)

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