



Venue: India Habitat Centre (IHC), New Delhi, India

TENTATIVE AGENDA

16 th August 2026	
Time (hrs)	Agenda
19:00 onwards	Welcome Dinner for Visiting Delegates <i>Venue: Silver Oak</i>

17 th August 2026	
Time (hrs)	Agenda
9:00 - 10:00	Registration and Tea/Coffee
10:00 - 11:00	Inaugural Session Welcome Remarks: Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General, RIS, India Chairperson's Remarks: Dr. Seshadri Chari, Member, Governing Council, RIS, India <i>Lighting of the Lamp</i> Special Address: MEA (tbc) *Remarks by Representatives of BRICS Countries Vote of Thanks: Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, Associate Professor, RIS, India <i>Venue: Stein Auditorium</i> <i>Rapporteurs: Dr. Sayantan Ghosal and Ms. Anushka Tripathi</i> <i>(All the delegates and participants to sit in the auditorium by 9:45 AM)</i>
11:00 - 11:30	Tea/Coffee
11:30 - 13:00	<i>Plenary Session I: Localising Development for Resilience, Innovation, and Sustainability</i> Chair: Amb. (Retd.) Sudhir T. Devare, Chairman, Research Advisory Council, RIS, India Special Address: (tbc) Panelists: Ambassador Prof. (Dr.) Mohan Kumar, Professor & Dean, Strategic and International Initiatives, Office of JGU Vice Chancellor, Professor of Diplomatic

	Practice, Jindal School of International Affairs & Director General, Motwani Jadeja Institute for American Studies, India • Dr. Victoria Panova, Head of the BRICS Expert Council - Russia; Vice Rector at the HSE University; Co-Chair of the Russian NGO group on BRICS and G20; Russian W20 Sherpa, Russia • Dr. Ashwani Mahajan, Economist & National Co-Convener, Swadeshi Jagran Manch, India • Capt. Alok Bansal, Executive Vice President, India Foundation; Secretary General, Asian Eurasian Human Rights Forum (AEHRF), India • Dr. Hadriani Uli Silalahi, Head of Delegation, Civil BRICS Society of Indonesia, Indonesia • Professor Rasigan Maharajh, Professor, Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), South Africa • Professor Ram Singh, Director, Delhi School of Economics, India <i>Venue: Silver Oak</i> <i>Session Coordinator: Dr. Dinesh Kumar</i> <i>Rapporteurs: Ms. Alaknanda Mishra and Mr. Avinash</i>			
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch			
14:00 - 15:30	Working Group Sessions - I			
	Finance	Cyber Information Security, Advanced and Emerging Technologies, and Artificial Intelligence	Entrepreneurship and Social Welfare	Education
	<i>Casuarina</i>	<i>Jacaranda - II</i>	<i>Magnolia</i>	<i>Jacaranda - I</i>
	<i>Chair</i> • Professor Nagesh Kumar, Director and Chief Executive, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), India	<i>Chair</i> • Lt. Gen. Arun Kumar Sahni, Member, Governing Council, India Foundation, India.	<i>Chair</i> • Ms. Pragna Parande, Advisor, V. V. Giri National Labour Institute, India	<i>Chair</i> • Dr. Rajesh Tandon, Founding President, Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), India

	Panelists • Mr. Ah Maftuchan, Senior Researcher, The PRAKARSA, Indonesia • Dr. Binod Singh Ajatshatru, Director, BRICS Institute, India • Professor Pami Dua, Distinguished Fellow, RIS, India • Ms. Anita Prakash Tripathi, Founder, Research Lab Asia; Former Director, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), India • Professor Ashima Goyal, Emeritus Professor of Economics, Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research, India • Dr. Arina Muresan Smith, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of South Africa, South Africa • Dr. Ashwani Mahajan, Economist & National Co-Convener, Swadeshi Jagran Manch, India	Panelists • Mr. Shiyu Dong, Project Director, China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO), China • Dr. Ming Zhuang, Chairman, Chengdu Huizhi Social Work Service Center, China • Shri. Virjesh Upadhayay, Director General, Dattopant Thengadi Foundation (DTF), India • Maj. Gen (Dr) Pawan Anand AVSM (Retd), Director, Centre for Emerging Technologies for Atma Nirbhar Bharat (CETANB), United Service Institution of India (USI), India • Dr. Anna Sytnik, Leading Research Fellow, Center for Comprehensive European and International Studies; Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia	Panelists • Shri Nikhil Mundle, General Secretary, Deendayal Research Institute, India • Dr. Fabiano Pellin Mielniczuk, Professor, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil • Ms. Irina Kostetskaya, Deputy Director, Infosvyaz Foundation, Coordinator of National Chapter of the Civil BRICS Council, Russia • Ms. Yanling Li, Director of Corporate Engagement, China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO), China • Mr. Raymond Matlala, Founder and Executive Chairman, South African BRICS Youth Association (SABYA), South Africa • Dr. Hadriani Uli Silalahi, Head of Delegation, Civil BRICS Society of Indonesia, Indonesia • Dr. Kaustuv Kanti Bandyopadhyay, Director, Participatory	Panelists • Professor Andrea Barbosa Gouveia, Associação Nacional de Política e Administração da Educação- (ANPAE), Brazil • Dr. Olga Rubtsova, Rector, Academy of Innovative Education and Development; Ambassador, Union of Women of Russia for the Information Environment for Children, Russia • Dr. Letjedi Thabang Mabinane, Member, Executive Committee and Director for Research, Policy Development, and M&E, South African BRICS Youth Association (SABYA), South Africa • Dr. Asees Puri, Assistant Director (Publication and Library), United Service Institution of India (USI), India • Dr. Bharati Hiremath, Head and Coordinator, Department of International Relations at Maharaja's College, University of Mysore, India
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	Coordinators: • Dr. Priyadarshi Dash, Associate Professor, RIS • Dr. Amol Baxi, Visiting Fellow, RIS	Coordinators: • Dr Amit Kumar, Assistant Professor, RIS • Dr. Sneha Sinha, Consultant, RIS	Coordinators: • Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Coordinator at DAKSHIN, RIS • Dr. Pankhuri Gaur, Assistant Professor, RIS • Dr. Sayantan Ghosal, Consultant, RIS	Coordinators: • Dr. Pankaj Vashisht, Associate Professor and Coordinator at AIC, RIS • Dr. Atul Kaushik, Visiting Fellow, RIS
	Rapporteurs: Ms. Ishanvi Goyal and Ms. Shri Nidhi Pareek	Rapporteurs: Dr. Amit Das and Ms. Paridhi Lohani	Rapporteurs: Mr. Pradeep Agarwal and Ms. Ishita Verma	Rapporteurs: Mr. Prateek Sharma and Ms. Krithika Manoj
15:30 - 15:45	Tea/Coffee			
15:45 - 17:00	Working Group Sessions - II			
	Culture	Health	Ecology	
	<i>Jacaranda - I</i>	<i>Casuarina</i>	<i>Magnolia</i>	
	Chair • Professor (Dr.) ShashiPrabha Kumar, Chairperson, Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS); Distinguished Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), India.	Chair • Dr. Anant Bhan, Co-Investigator, Sangath, India	Chair • Dr. Gajanan Dange, Founder & President, YOJAK, India	

	Panelists • Mr. Sérgio Cohn, Executive-Director, BRICS Arts Association, Brazil • Shri Shyam (K.G.) Parande, Global Co-ordinator, SEWA International, India • Ms. Kamvakazi Myataza, Member, Board of Directors at Project Youth SA; Former Director of Operations, SABYA, South Africa • Dr. Asees Puri, Assistant Director (Publication and Library), United Service Institution of India (USI), India • Dr. Arindam Mukherjee, Director, Institute of Social and Cultural Studies, India • Dr. Rajendran Govender, Commissioner, Cultural Religious and Linguistic Rights Commission, South Africa • Ms. Rashmi Lamba, Indian Council Chair, Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, India • Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Confluence, India • Dr. Madhuchanda Ghosh, Associate Professor, Presidency University, India Coordinator: • Dr. Vikash Ranjan, Consultant, RIS Rapporteurs: Dr.. Adrija Ganguly and Ms. Krishna Bhattacharya	Panelists • Dr. Atul Jain, Vice President, Deendayal Research Institute, India • Dr. Pir-Hossein Kolivand, President, Islamic Republic of Iran Red Crescent Society, Iran • Dr. Razieh Alishavandi, Under Secretary-General for International Affairs and International Humanitarian Law, Islamic Republic of Iran Red Crescent Society (IRCS), Iran • Dr. Maria Celia Medina, Board of Directors, CEBRAPAZ, Brazil • Dr. Natalia Bondarenko, Chief Physician, Clinical Hospital No. 85 of the Federal Medical-Biological Agency of Russia; Deputy Chair of Women's Union of Russia, Russia Coordinators: • Dr. Monika Kochar, Advisor (Health), RIS • Dr. Sarin N.S, Coordinator (FITM), RIS Rapporteurs: Dr. Sanket Chavan and Ms. Deeksha Gupta	Panelists • Ms. Savitha Sulugodu, Chief Executive Officer, Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM), India • Professor Marina Paula Oliveira, Movement for Popular Sovereignty in Mining (MAM), Brazil • Mr. Sergey Rybakov, Director, Nature and People Foundation; Program Director, Vostok Discussion Club, Russia • Ms. Xiangyi Wang, Vice Chair and Secretary General, China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO), China • Mr. Harsh Jaitli, Chief Executive Officer, Voluntary Action Network India (VANI), India Coordinators: • Professor Pratap Singh Birthal, Distinguished Fellow, RIS • Cmde. Sujeet Samaddar, Visiting Fellow, RIS Rapporteurs: Ms. Vanshika Goyal and Ms. Shagun Verma
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17:00 - 17:30	Closing Session Chair: Dr. Prabir De, Professor, RIS, India Special Remarks: Mr. Rajiv Bodwade, Joint Secretary, [MER-III], Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India Remarks: • Prof. Amitabh Mattoo, Dean and Professor, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India • Professor Harsh V. Pant, Vice President, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), India <i>Venue: Silver Oak</i> <i>Session Coordinator: Dr. Jaswant Singh Kain</i> <i>Rapporteurs: Ms. K Deepshikha Ganesh and Ms. Mansi Aggarwal</i>
18:00 - 19:00	Cultural Program “SAMYUKTI” – Amalgamation of Classical and Folk Dances of India <i>Choreography by Smt. Vani Madhav</i> <i>Venue: Stein Auditorium</i>
19:00 - 21:00	Gala Dinner for Delegates and Participants

18 th August 2026	
Time (Hrs)	Agenda
10:30 - 11:00	Tea/Coffee
11:00 - 13:00	<i>Plenary Session II: Dialogue on People-Centric Development and Entrepreneurship</i> Chair: Ms. Sindhushree Khullar, Member, Research Advisory Council, RIS, India Keynote Address: Professor Dhananjay Singh, Member Secretary, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), India Panelists: • Amb. Dr. Anil Sooklal, High Commissioner of South Africa to India, India • Professor Sanjay Bhattacharyya, JSIA and Director, Jindal Global Centre for G20 Studies, O.P. Jindal Global University, India • Ms. Xiangyi Wang, Vice Chair and Secretary General, China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO), China • Dr. Rajesh Tandon, Founding President, Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), India • Professor (Dr.) ShashiPrabha Kumar, Chairperson, Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS); Distinguished Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), India • Shri Shyam (K.G.) Parande, Global Co-ordinator, SEWA International, India • Ms. Elena Peryshkina, Director, Infosvyaz Foundation; Deputy Head of the BRICS Expert Council, Russia • Dr. Moara Crivelente, CEBRAPAZ, Brazil <i>Venue: Silver Oak</i> <i>Session Coordinator: Dr. Amit Kumar</i> <i>Rapporteurs: Ms. Anushka Tripathi and Ms. K. Deepshikha Ganesh</i>
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch

14:00 - 15:30	Roundtable Discussions RTD-1: Practical Pathways for Innovation, Creativity and Capacity Building Chair: Lt. Gen. Arun Kumar Sahni, Member, Governing Council, India Foundation, India Panelists: • Dr. Arina Muresan Smith, Senior Fellow, University of Johannesburg, South Africa. • Prof. Shahid Ahmed, Professor Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India • Ms. Kamvakazi Myataza, Member Board of Directors at Project Youth SA; Former Director of Operations at SABYA, South Africa • Mr. Sérgio Cohn, Executive-Director, BRICS Arts Association, Brazil • Mr. Varun Sharma, Programme Director, Association for Rural Advancement through Voluntary Action & Local Involvement (ARAVALI), India • Mr. Petr Punchenko, Senior Lecturer at the St. Petersburg State University of Aerospace Instrumentation; Advisor to the Chairman of the Committee on External Relations of St. Petersburg, Russia • Mr. Ah Maftuchan, Senior Advisor, The PRAKARSA, Indonesia <i>Venue: Silver Oak</i> <i>Session Coordinator: Dr. Pankhuri Gaur</i> <i>Rapporteurs: Ms. Alisha Goswami and Mr. Krishnanath Reghunadhan</i> RTD-2: Community-Led Climate Resilience and Disaster Response Chair: Dr. Abhijit Das, Member, Research Advisory Council, RIS, India Panelists: • Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Coordinator, DAKSHIN, RIS, India • Dr. Ruchita Beri, Senior Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation, India • Commissioner Rajendran Govender, Commissioner, Cultural Religious and Linguistic Rights Commission, South Africa • Ms. Yanling Li, Director of Corporate Engagement, China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO), China
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	• Ms. Irina Tokareva, Member, Moscow branch of the Union of Women of Russia, Russia • Ms. Judite Santos, National Coordination of the MST; Member, Civil BRICS Council, Brazil <i>Venue: Jacaranda</i> <i>Session Coordinator: Ms. Paavni Mathur</i> <i>Rapporteurs: Dr. P. Srinivas Rao and Ms. Namita Mittal</i>
15:30 - 16:00	Tea/Coffee
16:00 - 17:00	Valedictory Session Chair: Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General, RIS, India Key Takeaways: Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, Associate Professor, RIS, India Special Remarks: Professor Nagesh Kumar, Director & Chief Executive, ISID, India. Valedictory Address: Mr. Shambhu L. Hakki, BRICS Sous-Sherpa, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India Vote of Thanks: Dr. Sushil Kumar, Assistant Professor, RIS, India <i>Venue: Silver Oak</i> <i>Session Coordinator: Ms. Lakshmi Swathi Ganti</i> <i>Rapporteurs: Ms. Tanya Malhotra and Mr. Harshit Srivastava</i>
17:00 - 18:00	High Tea



Session Briefs

Plenary Session I: Localising Development for Resilience, Innovation and Sustainability

The proposed theme of the BRICS Civil Forum 2026 “Localising Development for Resilience, Innovation and Sustainability” reflects the BRICS conviction that global development challenges can only be addressed effectively when solutions are grounded in local realities, community participation, and people-centric approaches. Localisation enables the translation of global commitments into meaningful outcomes by empowering communities as active agents of development rather than passive beneficiaries. This session would present the views from BRICS on effective pathways for localisation of development with a focus on building resilience, promoting innovation and achieving sustainable development in a holistic manner. BRICS experience in climate adaptation, disaster preparedness, resilient health systems and sustainable food systems, etc. among others may be explored for practical pathways.

Plenary Session II: Dialogue on People-Centric Development and Entrepreneurship

India’s BRICS Chairship is anchored in people-centric and humanity first approach. People-centric development lies at the heart of the BRICS vision for inclusive and equitable growth. This session will explore how localisation of development can empower communities, promote

women led development, reduce inequalities, and generate sustainable livelihoods through entrepreneurship, social innovation, and inclusive institutional frameworks. The emphasis will be on enabling communities particularly in rural and semi-urban areas to become drivers of economic and social transformation. Further, civil society engagement can play a crucial role in preserving and revitalising indigenous knowledge, cultural heritage, and traditional practices that support environmental stewardship and sustainable living.

Roundtable Discussion 1: Practical Pathways for Innovation, Creativity and Capacity Building

Innovation and technology are reshaping development pathways across BRICS nations, offering unprecedented opportunities to expand inclusion, improve service delivery and enhance productivity and Capacity Building. This session will explore how innovation ecosystems can be designed to serve public good objectives, reduce inequalities, and empower communities, rather than exacerbate existing divides. Emerging areas of digital solutions for financial inclusion, Artificial Intelligence and development outcomes may be explored for practical outcomes.

Roundtable Discussion 2: Community-led Climate Resilience and Disaster Response

Climate change, environmental degradation, and increasing disaster risks pose profound challenges for BRICS countries, disproportionately affecting vulnerable communities. This session will focus on community-led approaches to climate adaptation, resilience building, and disaster response, recognising local knowledge and community participation as essential components of effective and sustainable solutions for climate adaptation, sustainable food systems; people-centered disaster response and resilience building.

Working Group Sessions

The Working Group sessions shall consolidate the deliberations held so far and reflect on the way forward.

- **Health**

Civil society engagement is key to national public health models and promoting cooperation. Community-based monitoring and structured community feedback mechanisms remain critical elements of national health systems. Integration of Traditional Medicine, and community

knowledge systems serve as a living health resource. Among emerging pathways digital health may be promoted for equity.

- **Education**

Guided by shared convictions, cooperation in Education in BRICS may evolve to promote lifelong learning, comprehensive education, equitable access, and to promote digital education. BRICS cooperation may focus on continued, systematic interaction for sharing experiences, norms and best practices, for harnessing digital technologies and use of AI for lifelong learning and comprehensive education.

- **Ecology**

There is a need to ensure a holistic approach to climate change, covering all dimensions including mitigation, adaptation, capacity building and technology transfer. Further, agricultural productivity, reducing food loss and waste across the value chain, improving marketing and storage, and to build more sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture and food systems is an imperative.

- **Culture**

Culture is a foundation for resilience and inclusive development, as it embodies the value system, identity, and ethos of societies important for promoting sustainable lifestyles and social cohesion. This working group has focused on cultural heritage preservation, knowledge transmission, sustainable tourism and the role of civil society in strengthening cultural linkages across BRICS countries.

- **Finance**

Efforts are being made to mobilizing new and additional finance from all sources, including use of various innovative financing instruments and associated regulatory architecture in particular for developing countries to support achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Further, role of digital public infrastructure in promoting financial inclusion has been a key institutional development in recent years. BRICS financial cooperation may develop through strengthening the NDB and broader multilateral financial linkages, with civil society playing an active role in reinforcing pathways of development finance.

- **Cyber Information Security, Advanced and Emerging Technologies, AI**

Technology cooperation is associated with sharing best practices, fostering joint innovation initiatives, and ensuring equitable access to emerging technologies. Artificial Intelligence and its development outcomes are a central consideration, along with ethical governance, transparency, equity, inclusivity, and respect for social and cultural contexts. Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) has been a transformative tool for inclusive development as well as transformative digital governance.

- **Entrepreneurship & Social Welfare**

There is a need to document and promote successful country-wise village development models, women led enterprises, and best practices across BRICS countries, including grassroots finance, digital entrepreneurship, cooperative development, to facilitate adaptation rooted in national contexts. In this effort, establish BRICS may facilitate knowledge sharing, institutional collaboration and promotion of social entrepreneurship.