



## ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

# BRICS RISING

## India's Strategic Presidency

21 May 2026 | The Grand, New Delhi



### BACKGROUND NOTE

India assumed the BRICS presidency in 2026 under the theme “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability,” at a moment of heightened uncertainty for global geopolitics, trade and investment.

A fragmented geopolitical landscape is emerging, and it is characterised by intensifying great-power rivalry, the weaponisation of interdependence (sanctions, export controls, financial restrictions), competing security architectures and weakening universal norms, and the rise of strategic hedging by middle and emerging powers.

Resultant disruption in supply chains, financial volatility and growing resort to unilateral trade measures have also complicated the trading environment for both advanced and developing economies. For BRICS+ members, these shifts underscore the need to diversify markets, strengthen South–South economic linkages and build more predictable, efficient frameworks for cross-border commerce.

India's current BRICS leadership carries specific geopolitical weight due to India's unique positioning. This presidency can credibly be framed as an opportunity to bring together the Global South under the geopolitical umbrella and to stabilise and deepen trade and investment ties within BRICS+ and generate positive spillovers for the global trading system.

In this backdrop, Chintan Research Foundation is pleased to organise a roundtable to explore how India's BRICS presidency can be used to unlock new momentum in geopolitics and geoeconomics among the BRICS+ partners. It proposes to do so in two consecutive sessions on geopolitics and geoeconomics, by focusing on the following four themes (two each in geopolitics and geoeconomics):

**(Geopolitics) - Shifting Power Balances: BRICS in a Fragmented World**

Theme 1: How can India's presidency address heightened systemic instability and help in achieving a just world order?

Theme 2: Does BRICS expansion enhance the group's geopolitical leverage, or does it risk diluting its influence by introducing new alignment pressures and regional rivalries?

**(Geoeconomics) - From Growth to Influence: BRICS and the New Economic Order**

Theme 3: Can India's presidency help revive trade flows and investment facilitation among BRICS+ countries through targeted trade-facilitation, standards cooperation and sector-specific initiatives?

Theme 4: Can reforms and initiatives under India's presidency contribute, even partially, to stabilising global trade and the wider world economy?

*The event will be a closed-door roundtable in Chatham House format with active participation by seasoned embassy diplomats, experts and academicians.*

*The aim is not to negotiate outcomes, but to exchange perspectives and identify a realistic, forward-looking roadmap on geopolitics and geoeconomics cooperation and global governance under India's BRICS presidency.*

## PROGRAMME

Schedule	Particulars
14:30 – 15:00	Tea / Networking
15:00 – 15:05	Welcome remarks
15:05 – 15:10	Introduction of the themes by the moderator
15:10 – 15:25	Opening interventions on Themes 1 & 2 (Geopolitics)
15:25 – 16:25	Moderated discussion on themes (Tea/coffee will be served at the discussion table)
16:25 – 16:35	Opening interventions on Themes 3 & 4 (Geoeconomics)
16:35 – 17:35	Moderated discussion on themes (The discussions are open to interventions from all participants in the roundtable)
17:35 – 18:00	Wrap-up / Closing thoughts
18:00 – 18:05	Vote of thanks
18:00 onwards	High Tea

## ABOUT CRF

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Chintan Research Foundation (CRF) is an emerging independent think tank dedicated to shaping policy through rigorous research and thought leadership. With a strong focus on fostering collaboration between policymakers and industry, CRF integrates practical insights into its research and advocacy efforts. It conducts comprehensive research to support informed decision-making and engages with stakeholders through discussions, events, and publications. CRF's research is focused on three core areas – Climate Change & Energy Transition, Economy & Trade, and Geopolitics & Strategic Studies. The Centre for Climate Change & Energy Transition aims to be a research and expertise hub, focusing on sustainable and clean energy, environmental stewardship, and climate actions.

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