

BRICS Culture Working Group Meeting 2026

PRESS CONFERENCE • 1ST JUNE 2026

Ministry of Culture



BRICS AT A GLANCE

- Platform for emerging economies
- Focus on inclusive multilateralism and sustainable development



First BRICS 2026 Sherpa Meeting

Cooperation Across BRICS Tracks

- BRICS cooperation spans over 30 tracks and working mechanisms.
- 21 Ministerial Tracks drive collaboration across key sectors.

Areas of cooperation include:

Foreign Affairs, Finance, Trade, Health, Education, Science & Technology

Culture, Tourism, Youth, Sports, Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development

EVOLUTION OF BRICS

Year	Milestone
2001	Term “BRIC” coined
2006	First BRIC Foreign Ministers’ Meeting
2009	First BRIC Summit, Yekaterinburg, Russia
2011	South Africa joined; BRIC became BRICS
2015	Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Culture between BRICS Governments
2016	First BRICS Cultural Minister Meeting
2024	Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE joined
2025	Indonesia joined as full member

MEMBERS & PARTNER COUNTRIES

11 MEMBER COUNTRIES

The core of BRICS cooperation

Brazil
Russia
India
China
South Africa
Egypt
Ethiopia
Iran
Saudi Arabia
UAE
Indonesia

10 PARTNER COUNTRIES

Joined as Partner Countries in 2025

Belarus
Bolivia
Kazakhstan
Cuba
Malaysia
Nigeria
Thailand
Uganda
Uzbekistan
Vietnam

BRICS CULTURE TRACK

- **Objective:** Strengthening cultural cooperation and people-to-people exchanges among BRICS nations.
- **Key areas:** heritage, creative industries, museums, archives and digital culture
- In 2016, India hosted the 1st BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting in Goa.
- In 2020, BRICS Working Group on Culture was established to strengthen structured cultural cooperation.
- 10 BRICS Culture Ministers' Meetings have been successfully conducted.

India has hosted BRICS Culture Cooperation:

2016: GOA

2021: NEW DELHI

2026: Scheduled in Bhopal

2026 INDIA'S BRICS Culture Track

- Four official BRICS Culture Track meetings to be conducted:
 - Three Culture Working Group Meetings (one virtual meeting held on 29th-30th April 2026)
 - One BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting
- India will host the BRICS Cultural Festival at Bhopal
- BRICS Theatre Festival at New Delhi
- Three priority areas for cultural cooperation for 2026:

01 Creative Economy, CCI & Copyright in the Age of AI

02 Heritage Protection & Return of Cultural Property

03 Culture, Climate & Sustainable Development

BRICS Culture Track CALENDAR



29–30 APR

1st CWG Meeting

Virtual (Held)

4–5 JUN

2nd CWG Meeting

Varanasi

NEXT UP

5–6 AUG

3rd CWG Meeting

Bhopal

6–7 AUG

BRICS Cultural Festival

Bhopal

7–8 AUG

Culture Ministers' Meeting

Bhopal

12–14 OCT

BRICS Theatre Festival

New Delhi

1st BRICS CULTURE WORKING GROUP MEETING

29–30 APRIL 2026

Virtual Mode · Hosted by India

- BRICS Member Countries participated online-
- Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE and Indonesia
- India's three priority areas for 2026 were tabled and discussed.



SECOND BRICS CWG MEETING, VARANASI

- Varanasi — among the oldest living cities, reflects civilisational depth and living heritage
- Five panel discussions planned across the priority themes for 2026.
- Five thematic panel discussions will be held:
 1. Creative Economy and People-to-People Cooperation
 2. Copyright and Ethical AI in the Creative Economy
 3. Cultural Heritage Protection and Return of Cultural Property
 4. Collaborative Approaches to Safeguarding Shared Heritage
 5. Culture as a Driver of Sustainable Development
- Deliberations will contribute towards the Outcome Document

4 June – Cultural Programme

5 June – Ganga Cruise & Ganga Aarti

6 June – Sarnath Excursion: Buddhist Heritage Site

B R I C S

Thank You

धन्यवाद