



BRICS 2026: Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)

ISSUE NOTE

BACKGROUND

BRICS MoU on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Cooperation was signed in 2015. Protocol on Accession of New BRICS members to the MoU was done in Brasilia on 25th June 2025. An arrangement of BRICS STI Framework Programme from the BRICS countries aimed to support multilateral interdisciplinary research & innovation funding. Currently, there are 14 Working Groups (WGs) on various fields of STI. Besides the WGs, other meetings include the BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting; Senior Officials Meetings and BRICS STI events.

BRICS STI Cooperation has gained significantly from the vision of BRICS STI Ministers who have met 13 times so far, and BRICS STI Senior Officials, who have met 15 times so far. The last Ministerial and Senior Officials meetings were held in Brasilia, Brazil on June 23rd-25th, 2025.

Areas of Cooperation are as follows:

- Strengthening the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Ecosystem in BRICS
- Putting a strong signature of the STI Leadership in the Global South and in BRICS
- Creation of STI ecosystem on the basis of Mutual Sharing and Co-Creation in BRICS
- Enhancing the Partnership for Youths to lead Startup and Innovation ecosystem
- Leadership in the Emerging Fields of STI through multiple Working Groups (14)

PRIORITIES

The working group aims to deliver outcomes under the following priority areas:

I. BRICS Initiative on Science and Research Repository:

The BRICS Science and Research Repository (BSRR) initiative aims to function as a flagship platform for digital scientific publication records that has immense knowledge-driven public good for BRICS. The Repository would function as a structured platform to map, curate, and share scientific knowledge, research outputs, datasets, infrastructures, experts, and collaboration opportunities across BRICS countries.



II. Youth Startup Platform to Boost Innovation Ecosystem

The aim of this initiative is to foster dialogue and sharing of mutual knowledge, capacity and strength of cross-incubation with a broad view to advancing BRICS systems of innovation/Startups specifically to integrate the Youth Startups in a virtual platform. The Virtual Platform for Youth Startups for BRICS is proposed to be developed by India.

III. Enabling Pathways for a Sustainable and Inclusive Bioeconomic Growth

Enabling pathways for sustainable and inclusive bioeconomic growth across BRICS lie in leveraging the BRICS bloc's rich biological resources, scientific capabilities, and market scale through coordinated action. This includes strengthening collaborative R&D in bio-based technologies, promoting responsible use of biodiversity through common sustainability standards, and fostering bio-innovation ecosystems that link research to industry and local communities. Enhancing BRICS cooperation, investing in skills and infrastructure, and ensuring equitable benefit-sharing, can together position BRICS as a global driver of a resilient, green, and people-centric bioeconomy.

POTENTIAL DELIVERABLES

Subject to discussions among BRICS Countries, the working group proposes the following potential deliverables for consideration:

- 1. The BRICS Science and Research Repository (BSRR)**
To establish a comprehensive, interoperable, and sustainable digital repository that strengthens BRICS STI cooperation by enabling knowledge sharing, informed decision-making and enhanced visibility of BRICS scientific and research capacities.
- 2. Youth Startup Platform to Boost Innovation Ecosystem**
Setting up Youth Startups on a shared virtual platform across BRICS is expected to deliver a dynamic pipeline of innovation-led enterprises.
- 3. Enabling Pathways for a Sustainable and Inclusive Bioeconomic Growth**
Enabling pathways for sustainable and inclusive bioeconomic growth across BRICS is expected to deliver a portfolio of tangible outcomes, including jointly developed bio-based technologies and value chains that leverage regional biodiversity, strengthen circular economy practices, and support climate-resilient livelihoods.



WORKING GROUP TENTATIVE TIMELINE (INDIA)

Activity	Mode/ Venue	Timeline	Lead Agency
BRICS International Workshop on Technological Foresight and STI Policy	Online	29-30 April (TBC)	DST, New Delhi
4th Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Prevention and Monitoring of Natural Disasters	Online	13-14 May (TBC)	DST, New Delhi
5th Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on New and Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	Online	25-26 May (TBC)	DST, New Delhi
BRICS Academies of Science	Online and In-person (Venue TBC)	June/ July	INSA, New Delhi
8th Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Research Infrastructures and Mega-Science Projects	Online	10-11 June (TBC)	DST, New Delhi
8th Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Material Science and Nanotechnology	In-person Bangalore	June (TBC)	DST, New Delhi
BRICS Water Forum	Online	01-02 July (TBC)	DST, New Delhi
11th Meeting of BRICS Working Group on Oceanic and Polar Science and Technology*	In-person Goa	July (TBC)	MoES, New Delhi/ UAE Govt.
5th Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Geospatial Technologies and Application.	In-person Tirupati	July (TBC)	DST, New Delhi
BRICS Funders Working Group Meeting	In-person Chennai	10 August	DST, DBT and CSIR, New Delhi
Meeting of BRICS Senior Officials on Science, Technology & Innovation	In-person Chennai	11-12 August	DST, DBT, CSIR and MoES, New Delhi
Meeting of BRICS Science, Technology & Innovation Ministers	In-person Chennai	13 August	
BRICS Initiative on Science and Research Repository[#]	Online	31 August	DST, ANRF New Delhi
7th Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Biotechnology, Bio-Medicine and Human Health and Neuroscience	(TBC)	September (TBC)	DBT, New Delhi



Enabling Pathways for a Sustainable and Inclusive Bio-economic Growth[#]	(TBC)	September (TBC)	DBT, New Delhi
8th Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on High-Performance Computing and Artificial Intelligence.	In-person Goa (TBC)	September (TBC)	DST, New Delhi
6th Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Photonics.	In-person Bangalore	05-08 October (TBC)	DST, New Delhi
11th BRICS Young Scientist Forum and 9th BRICS Young Innovator Prize.	In-person Bangalore	2-6 November (TBC)	DST, New Delhi
8th Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Partnership.	In-person Mumbai	November (TBC)	DST and DPIIT, New Delhi
Youth Startup Platform to Boost Innovation Ecosystem[#]	In-person Mumbai	November (TBC)	
10th Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Astronomy	In-person Pune	14-17 December (TBC)	DST, New Delhi

[#]New initiative by India; *To be discussed bilaterally

LEADERSHIP

Working group lead(s): All the Working groups are under the coordination of Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India being the Nodal for the STI Track in BRICS.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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