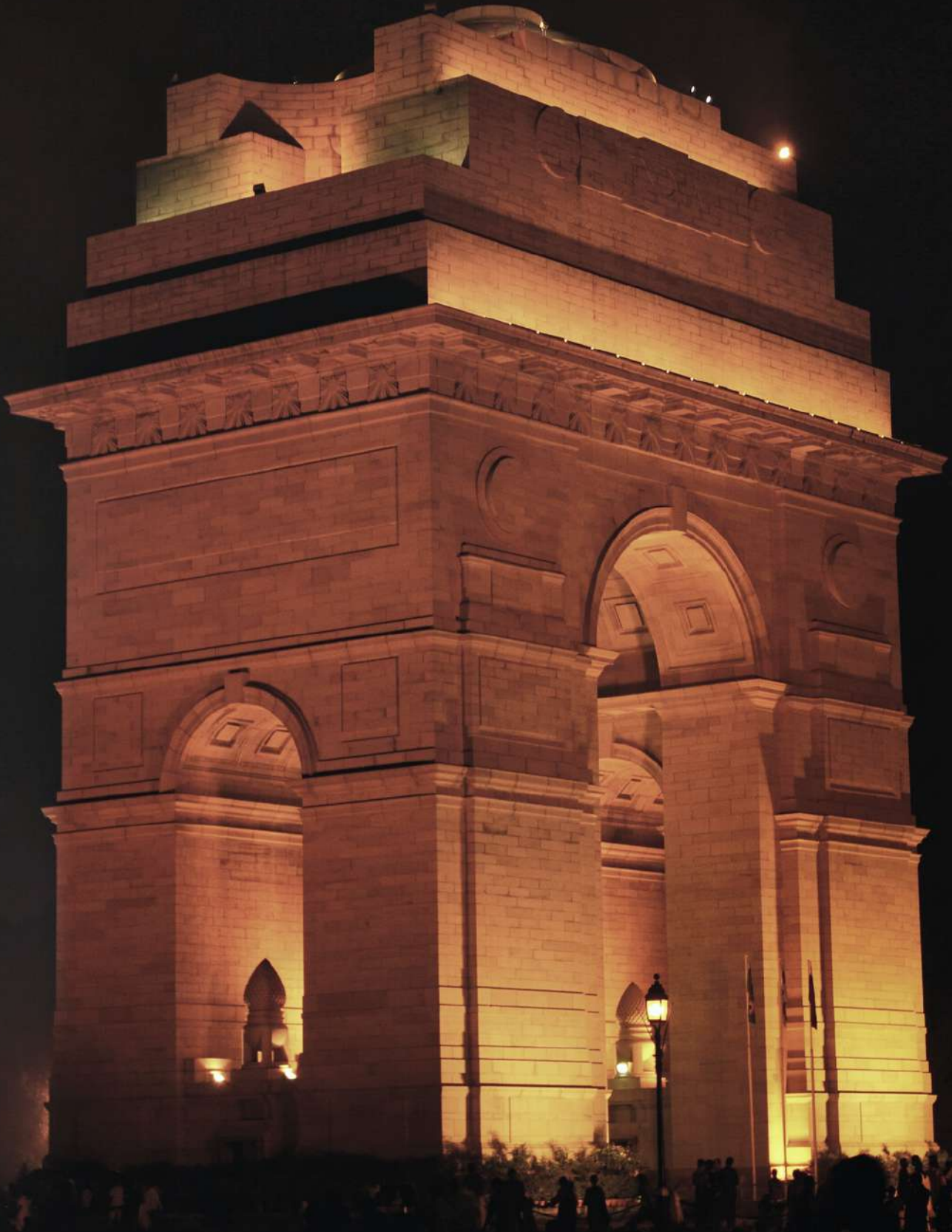


AUGUST | 2023

BRICS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY



BUILDING BUSINESS- BRICS AND BEYOND



What's inside!

- **New Members**
- **BRICS Business Incubator**
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- **BRICS and beyond news**
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NEW MEMBER



Dr. Priyanka Anuj Sidharth
Dental Surgeon

Dr. Priyanka Anuj Sidharth is a highly experienced dental professional who has been making significant contributions to the field for the past 18 years. She holds a Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree from Agra University and specializes in implantology and cosmetology, reflecting her commitment to offering comprehensive dental care.

In 2005, Dr. Sidharth embarked on her professional journey with a dedication to excellence and patient-centric care. Her clinic, located in Jangpura, operates on a remarkable concept - "paying back to society." Here, she and her dedicated team provide top-quality dental treatments at charitable rates, ensuring that dental care remains accessible to individuals from all walks of life.

What truly sets Dr. Sidharth apart is her unwavering commitment to maintaining the highest standards of quality, discipline, hygiene, and sanitation in her clinic, even while offering charitable services. Her holistic approach to patient care extends beyond treatment, focusing on overall oral health and aesthetics.

Dr. Priyanka Anuj Sidharth's journey in dentistry exemplifies her dedication to improving society's oral health. Her philanthropic work and innovative approach to accessible healthcare serve as an inspiring model for emerging dental professionals. Through her tireless efforts and commitment to "paying back to society," she has become a respected figure in the dental community, demonstrating the transformative impact of social responsibility in healthcare.

NEW MEMBER



Vikram Kumar
Co-founder
My Tat

Sound Leadership, skilling for the future and great teamwork are the three pillars of success. These have been the cornerstones of the professional journey of **Vikram Kumar, Co-founder of My Tat**, a leading name in the sphere of skill-based hiring and pre-employment testing solutions. He is also the Senior Director of Business Operations at Compass IDC, Hyderabad responsible for leading strategic operations and provides knowledge to ensure the overall growth and expansion of the company. Vikram is an exceptional business leader, with a strong focus on strategy and execution. He combines an entrepreneurial mindset alongwith a strong focus on improving productivity and driving business growth.

He has started numerous businesses in a variety of industries, including technology, hospitality, renewable energy, human resources, education and upskilling technology, which has equipped him with an understanding of different business sectors.

A seasoned professional with over two decades of experience across diverse organisations, Vikram has also worked with other leading technology firms such as Google and Facebook and was a proud recipient of several awards and certifications from these organizations for his exceptional performance.

Vikram recognizes the importance of effective communications in today's fast-paced environment and is passionate about helping his clients to improve productivity and drive business growth. His leadership style is about reaching moon-shot goals by empowering his team and seeking continuous growth in all aspects of his life.

Before joining the corporate sector, Vikram has seen multiple active operations while serving with the Indian Army. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy (NDA), Indian Military Academy (IMA) and School of Artillery.

NEW MEMBER



Mr. Vineet Vats
Director-Aditya Facilities
Managing Director
Global Ventures

Vineet Vats is the Managing Director of Global Ventures, which he has led since its inception in 2008. Under his leadership, the company has become a premium provider of IT and Facility management services, obtaining various quality and regulatory certificates such as ISO, CAPSI, and CII membership. Vineet Vats holds an MBA degree in HR and Marketing, equipping him with knowledge and skills in managing both human resources and marketing strategies. One of the notable subsidiaries of Global Ventures is Aditya Facilities, which excels in IT/ITES, Facilities Management and trade of goods. With strong support from its parent company, Aditya Facilities delivers top-notch services to its clients. In the IT/ITES field, the company offers innovative technological solutions to enhance

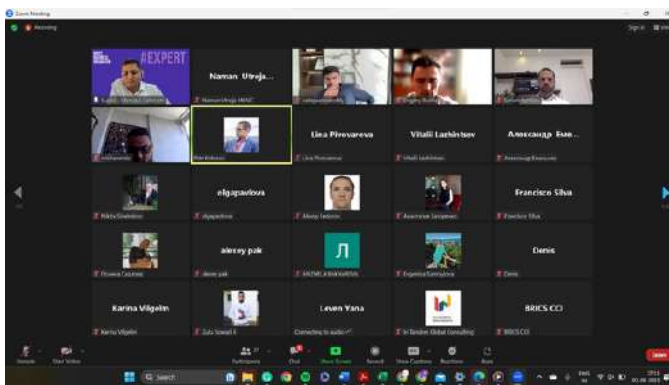
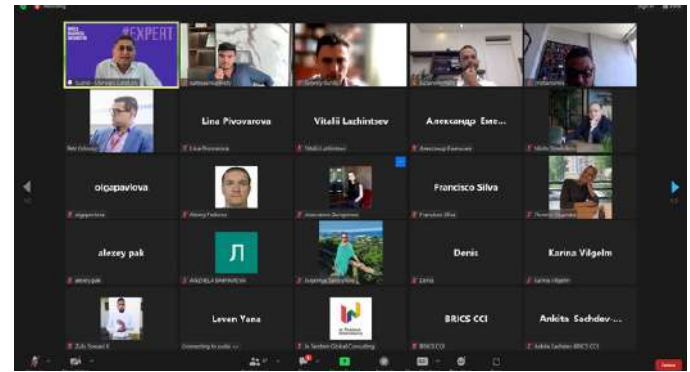
operational efficiency. In Facilities Management, it ensures a well-managed environment for clients, allowing them to focus on their core business objectives. Additionally, Aditya Facilities excels in the trade of goods, and provides reliable and high-quality products to meet diverse customer needs.

The company has achieved ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 45001:2018 certifications for Quality Management System (QMS), and Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS), showcasing Vineet Vats' commitment to quality and continuous improvement. These certifications reflect the organization's dedication to maintaining high standards in service delivery, client satisfaction and operational efficiency.

Aditya Facilities' membership in CAPSI (Central Association of Private Security Industry) further strengthens its credibility in the facility management services sector. This membership keeps the company updated with industry trends, regulations and best practices, helping it maintain a competitive edge in the market.

Vineet Vats is also a member of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), where he actively participates in industry forums and initiatives, contributing to his recognition as an exemplary leader in the industry.

BRICS BUSINESS INCUBATOR



SUSHIL SHARMA FOUNDER & CEO, MARWARI CATALYSTS

Mr. Sushil Sharma delivered an insightful session on the Economy of India at the BRICS Business Incubator. He is on the advisory board of the BRICS CCI Investment Vertical and also a member of the Chamber. The dialogue put forward was indeed thought-provoking and we look forward to hearing more from him.

BRICS BUSINESS INCUBATOR



SAMEEP SHASTRI VICE CHAIRMAN - BRICS CCI

Mr. Sameep Shastri, the Vice Chairman of BRICS CCI and President of BRICS CCI Young Leaders, delivered a compelling session at the BRICS Business Incubator. He shed light on various facets of Indo-Russian relations, a topic of great importance within the BRICS framework. The session was characterized by its insightful and thought-provoking nature, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.

BUSINESS MEETS & EVENTS

TRAILBLAZERS DIALOGUES

Keeping the importance of women in diplomacy in mind, BRICS CCI WE, on August 4th, 2023, organized the “Trailblazers Dialogues”.

Women diplomats from various geographies expressed the need for gender equality in global diplomatic roles at the inaugural BRICS CCI WE Trailblazers Dialogues Roundtable on **“Global Women Diplomats: Breaking Barriers; Shaping Global Affairs”** held in the capital.

BRICS CCI WE represents the women’s vertical of the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BRICS CCI) which promotes trade and commerce in the BRICS and other friendly nations. The Vertical focuses on women empowerment initiatives and policies across geographies.

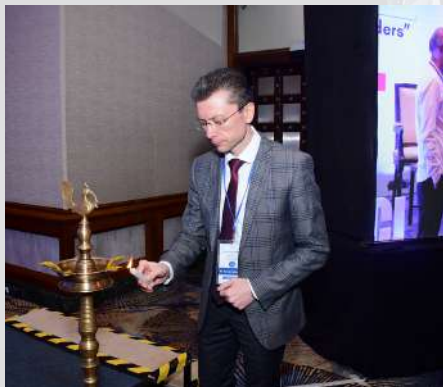
This discussion brought together influential women diplomats, policymakers, thought leaders, academics and practitioners to engage in meaningful discussions, share experiences and explore strategies for advancing women's participation and leadership in diplomatic endeavors.



BUSINESS MEETS & EVENTS

YOUTH DAY CONGRESS

Realizing the potential of Indian Youth in shaping the ideas of the new India, BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised a "Youth Day Congress" on 16th August 2023. The resounding success of the "Youth Day Congress: Unleashing the Power of Young Leaders" stands as a testament to the remarkable potential of youth in shaping a harmonious and interconnected world. This landmark event featured a distinguished lineup of speakers and panelists, fostering diplomatic dialogue and celebrating the vibrant contributions of youth leaders from across the BRICS nations.



BUSINESS MEETS & EVENTS

YOUTH DAY CONGRESS



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BRICS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

presents

The event was graced by the auspicious presence of H.E. Dr. Ali ACHOU, Ambassador, Embassy of Algeria; Ms. Tin Tin Htwe Win, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of Myanmar; Mr. Sahil Seth, Joint Commissioner, GST, Customs & Narcotics; Mr. Abhishek Gupta, ACP, North- East Delhi & representations from the Embassies of Brazil, Russia, China, Algeria, Australia, and the USA.



The first panel saw the participation of Mr. Manoj K Bharti, Former Ambassador to Indonesia, Ukraine, Belarus & Timor Leste; Mr. Wang Tong, Head, Policy Research Section, The Embassy of the People's Republic of China; Ms. Leticia Marranghello, Head of the Culture, Education, STI and Public Diplomacy Section, Embassy of Brazil. The session was moderated by Amb. Amarendra Khatua, Senior Advisor, BRICS CCI. The session unfolded as a vibrant exchange of ideas, highlighting the pivotal role that cultural intelligence plays in fostering effective diplomacy.



BUSINESS MEETS & EVENTS

YOUTH DAY CONGRESS

The second-panel discussion on the topic “Youth Entrepreneurship- Zooming into a Borderless Economy that Values Sustainable Innovation” saw the participation of Mr. Sushil Sharma, Founder and CEO, Marwari Catalysts; Mr. Arpit Tyagi, Co-Founder, Hobit; Mr. Jitendra Sharma, Founder & CEO, HairOriginals; Ms. Ravneet Mann, Head of Strategy and Policy, Stride Ventures; Mr. Bibin Babu, Chief Growth Officer, 5ire.org and Mr. Devansh Sood, Founder & CEO, Mission ELIXIR. The session was moderated by Mr. Ankit Jhamb, Advisor- Steering Committee, BRICS CCI Young Leaders. Young entrepreneurs from across India deliberated and discussed their entrepreneurial journeys. From innovation to sustainability, this panel strived to address diverse perspectives on the most prevalent topics in the world of startups.



The event was Co- partnered by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China. The event was sponsored by the Brand Story, UBON, Top One Percent, Mission Elixir, Gift Express, Rhllyco and Fatfutur.

BUSINESS MEETS & EVENTS

BRICS Cloud City International Innovation Forum

The first edition of BRICS Innovation Forum was held from 27th August to 29th August in Moscow, Russia. Mr. Sameep Shastri, Vice Chairman, BRICS CCI and Ms. Ankita Sachdev, Joint Director, BRICS CCI graced the event with their presence.

This prestigious forum brought together leaders and experts from a myriad of sectors to deliberate on the latest technological trends and innovations shaping the global landscape.

Mr. Shastri expressed his views in a panel discussion on the theme “Space for Business. Prospects for BRICS Business Cooperation”. The discussion centered around identifying the most promising areas of technological cooperation within BRICS, finding ways for more effective cooperation and how to facilitate entrepreneurs’ access to BRICS markets.

In the same event, an MoU was entered into by the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and the South African Chamber of Commerce to further strengthen their economic ties and take collaborative steps towards growth and development.



BUSINESS MEETS & EVENTS

BRICS Incubator International Acceleration Program

The BRICS Business Incubator International Acceleration Program recently concluded in Omsk, showcasing international collaboration. Entrepreneurs from Brazil, Russia, China, India, South Africa, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan presented innovative projects, fostering networking and securing vital funding. Among the successful participants was Ms. Sharmishtha Ghosh, Founder MD of In Tandem Global Consulting and a BRICS CCI Governing Body member. This event, backed by extensive media coverage, further solidified Omsk Region's importance as an economic and humanitarian hub.

The program featured a pivotal pitch session where BRICS entrepreneurs presented their projects to both Russian and foreign investors. Beyond presentations, participants explored Omsk's industrial landscape and drew insights from the Omsk State Technical University's experiences in technology projects. The program's collaborative spirit promises enduring cooperation between countries across various sectors, driving innovation and shared prosperity. The BRICS Business Incubator represents the power of international collaboration, turning startups into thriving businesses and shaping the future of business and technology.





Ms. Shabana Naseem

MD, NF Infratech Service Private Limited
Executive Director, BRICS CCI

As GeM proudly marks seven years of commitment to fostering inclusive growth for buyers and sellers across India, we are honored to share the inspiring words of one of our distinguished Governing Body member, Shabana Naseem, the Managing Director of NF Infratech Service Private Limited. As a woman entrepreneur, Shabana eloquently highlights the transformative power of the GeM portal, stating, "We women, we could not travel the length and breadth of the country. We found GeM a platform where we could do business or trade from Kashmir to Kanyakumari." Shabana's testimonial serves as a poignant reminder of GeM's unwavering dedication to empowering entrepreneurs, transcending geographical boundaries, and facilitating business opportunities that drive economic growth and inclusivity.

Shabana's experience resonates deeply with the ethos of GeM, where diversity and inclusivity are celebrated. GeM has continually evolved into a dynamic marketplace that connects businesses, big and small, from every corner of India. Shabana Naseem's journey on GeM exemplifies the platform's role in democratizing commerce, enabling entrepreneurs, regardless of their location, to participate in India's economic growth.

We take immense pride in Shabana Naseem's membership in our community, and her words encapsulate the collaborative and progressive spirit that defines GeM's remarkable seven-year journey. GeM remains steadfast in its commitment to empowering entrepreneurs, promoting inclusivity, and contributing to India's economic prosperity.

BRICS AND BEYOND NEWS

15TH BRICS SUMMIT



The 15th BRICS Summit was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 22-24 August 2023. The theme for this year was "BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism". India participated in the BRICS-Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus Dialogue. The meeting included leaders from BRICS countries along with guest countries from Africa, Asia, and Latin America. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa invited the leaders of 67 countries to the summit.

India extended invitations for countries to join international initiatives like the International Solar Alliance, One Sun One World One Grid, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, One Earth One Health, Big Cat Alliance, and Global Centre for Traditional Medicine.

The conference entailed a series of significant dialogues regarding growth, inclusivity and sustainability.

HISTORIC EXPANSION OF THE BLOC

The BRICS bloc of developing nations agreed to include Saudi Arabia, Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt, Argentina, and the United Arab Emirates in their membership. This move is intended to speed up their efforts to revamp what they view as an outdated global order. This marks the first expansion of the bloc in 13 years.



While BRICS leaders approved this addition, they also kept the possibility of future expansions open, given the significant interest from numerous other countries. This expansion enhances the economic influence of BRICS, which currently consists of China, Brazil, Russia, India, and South Africa. Moreover, it has the potential to reinforce their stated goal of advocating for the Global South.

The six new countries are set to formally become BRICS members starting from January 1, 2024.

Source: Reuters

BRICS AND BEYOND NEWS

PM MODI'S ADDRESS

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the BRICS Summit in South Africa. In his address, he congratulated the BRICS Business Council on its 10th anniversary and highlighted the important role it has played in enhancing economic support over these 10 years. He emphasized India's growth and development in sectors like infrastructure, fintech, governance, startups and business by quoting statistics and credited the country's resilience and reforms for this success.



As per Mr. Modi, India is set to be the "growth engine" of the world in the coming years as well as the "world leader" in the renewable energy sector.

Furthermore, he expressed full support towards the expansion of the bloc stating that this move will further enhance their strength.

A 5-STEP COOPERATION PLAN



In order to further expand close cooperation, PM Modi extended 5 suggestions in his speech:

- Cooperation in the area of space: Significant strides have already been made on the BRICS Satellite Constellation. Mr. Modi suggested the creation of a BRICS Space Exploration Colosseum to work on areas such as space research and weather monitoring for the global good.
- His second suggestion was cooperation in the areas of education, skill development and technology. He emphasized on the role of technology, citing examples of Cowin app, Diksha platform and Atal labs.
- His third suggestion was carrying out a skill mapping exercise through which the nations can compliment each other in their development journey.
- His fourth suggestion was regarding protection of big cats found in the BRICS nations.
- The final suggestion was about creating a repository for traditional medicines that the BRICS nations have in abundance.

BRICS AND BEYOND NEWS

—RUSSIA'S UPCOMING CHAIRMANSHIP IN 2024—



External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov engaged in discussions regarding various bilateral and global matters during their meeting at the BRICS Summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa. Their talks covered subjects like cooperation within international forums such as the UN, G20 and BRICS.

The officials also explored ways to enhance trade, economic collaboration, logistics and financial interaction between their countries, as per statements from the Russian Foreign Ministry. In his address via video conferencing to the 15th BRICS Summit, President Putin advocated for reducing reliance on the US dollar, suggesting that BRICS nations should expand their use of national currencies in settlements and strengthen cooperation between their respective banks. Additionally, Putin announced Russia's upcoming chairmanship of BRICS and outlined its key themes: advancing multilateralism for global security and development. He mentioned that around 200 political, economic and public events were planned for Russia's tenure, including the BRICS summit scheduled for October 2024 in Kazan.

Source: Mint

BRICS CCI | CSR PRESENTS



DR. SUSHI SINGH
FOUNDING MEMBER, BRICS CCI
PRESIDENT, CENTRE FOR CSR | BRICS CCI
CHAIRPERSON, POSH COMMITTEE BRICS CCI

As President of Centre of Excellence in CSR & Sustainable Development, BRICS CCI, it is heartening to collate the social responsibility statements as cornerstone of the business philosophy of companies across BRICS & beyond. You may like to appreciate that after the start of UNGA 78 & CSR mandate in countries like India, companies across the globe are practicing some or other form of corporate social responsibility. We also believe in the statement that it is important for companies not just to show their best practices as corporate social responsibility but also to actively engage in effecting change. While we reiterate the latest best statements and practices, you may like to find out how these companies are balancing their investors, employees, suppliers, customers & community.

I. Direct Relief and The Pfizer Foundation Support 19 Programs To Improve Infectious Disease Care in the United States

Direct Relief today announced the recipients of the Innovation Awards in Community Health: Addressing Infectious Disease in Underserved Communities. Grants totaling more than \$4.5 million will go to 19 U.S. safety-net community healthcare providers.

Read more:

https://www.csrwire.com/press_releases/782321-direct-relief-and-pfizer-foundation-support-19-programs-improve-inf

Source : csrwire

II. Cadence Sets New Precedent As First Affordable Housing Development To Achieve Green Communities Plus and WELL Certification

This summer, Cadence, an affordable senior living development located in Fort Collins, Colorado and comprising 55 senior living apartments, achieved a new first in the country — attaining Green Communities Plus and WELL Certification. Green Communities, created and administered by Enterprise Community Partners, is the leading sustainable building program designed specifically for affordable housing, while the WELL Building Standard (WELL), developed by the International WELL Building Institute (IWBI), is the world's leading framework for creating and certifying spaces that advance human health and well-being.

Read more:

https://www.csrwire.com/press_releases/782401-cadence-sets-new-precedent-first-affordable-housing-development-achieve-green

III. Global Environment & Technology Foundation (GETF)

Global Water Challenge and Cargill Launch Impactful New Projects to Expand Access to Safe Drinking Water in Brazil

WASHINGTON, AUG 2023: Cargill and GWC launched its Cargill Currents platform in 2021 to address water challenges faced by local communities. The program supports access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and enhanced water security in priority regions by tailoring to the specific needs of the target communities. The global program is expected to benefit more than 150,000 people by the end of 2024. Building on this partnership, Cargill and GWC are expanding their efforts across Brazil by constructing sanitation facilities and water supply systems, which will significantly improve drinking water provision, community health and the overall well-being of Brazilian community members throughout seven projects across five municipalities and watersheds.

Read more:

https://www.csrwire.com/press_releases/781956-global-water-challenge-and-cargill-launch-impactful-new-projects-expand

IV. How Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) can help in Achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Source :csrjournal, By Hency Thacker, April 17, 2023

Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG 8) aims to promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. SDG 8 is one of the 17 SDGs established by the United Nations in 2015 as a global blueprint for a better and more sustainable future. India, being a developing country with a large population, has a significant role to play in achieving SDG 8. Let us explore how Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) can help in achieving SDG 8 in India.

1. Creation of employment opportunities
2. Investment in education
3. Promotion of diversity and inclusion
4. Investment in sustainable infrastructure

Read more:

<https://thecsrjournal.in/corporate-social-responsibility-csr-sustainable-development-goal-sdg-8-decent-work-and-economic-growth/>

V. New Research and Ideas This Week: HBS Working Knowledge

A) You're More Than Your Job: 3 Tips for a Healthier Work-Life Balance
by Kara Baskin

Younger workers are rejecting the idea of sticking with one employer for the long haul and are instead finding happiness by job-hopping and creating dramatically different boundaries with work. In a new book, Christina M. Wallace maps out a step-by-step guide to building a flexible and fulfilling life that includes rest, relationships, and a rewarding career.

Read more: [Click Here](#)

VI. Should companies speak out on social issues? IROs give their take- By Lyod Bevan

Part of the rise of ESG in recent years has been an increasing demand for companies to engage in social issues. This is not just about a company being held accountable for its own internal performance on these matters; it's also about the extent to which it is actively seeking to effect change in wider society. In March, IR Magazine released its Corporate Social Activism report, which examines the extent and effects of how companies engage in social and political issues. The report looks at how important corporate engagement on issues of social concern is to both IROs and investors and whether this will have any effect on a company's investment possibilities.

Read More: <https://www.irmagazine.com/esg/should-companies-speak-out-social-issues-iros-give-their-take>

VII. SAP Gears Up for UNGA 78

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) returns next week and is set to be larger and more impactful than ever before. The SDG Summit takes center stage at UNGA this year, a crucial gathering that occurs every four years. This year's summit holds particular significance for many, including SAP, as it signifies the midpoint toward the 2030 target for implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Adding to the prominence of the agenda is the UN Secretary-General's assertive Climate Ambition Summit and a trio of high-level health meetings. As SAP anticipates the start of UNGA 78, we find ourselves at a pivotal juncture in our commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR). On September 5, 2023, global leaders will converge in New York under the theme "Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs toward peace, prosperity, progress, and sustainability for all."

Read more: <https://news.sap.com/2023/09/sap-unga-78/>

Share your Views on News at convener.csr@bricscci.com

BRICS CCI- Women Vertical

Global Women Diplomats: Breaking Barriers; Shaping Global Affairs

In recognition of the pivotal role of women in diplomacy, on **August 4th, 2023**, BRICS CCI Women in Diplomacy (BRICS CCI WE) hosted the inaugural 'Trailblazers Dialogues.' This noteworthy event saw women diplomats hailing from diverse regions converge in the capital to address the imperative for gender equality in global diplomatic roles. The event, titled “**BRICS CCI WE, Trailblazers Dialogues Roundtable on Global Women Diplomats: Breaking Barriers; Shaping Global Affairs**”, served as a platform for thought-provoking discussions.



The Round Table saw the participation of Ambassador Bizunesh Meseret, Deputy Head Of Mission, Embassy of Ethiopia; Ms. Wathsala Amarasinghe, Minister Counsellor, High Commission of Sri Lanka; Ms. Hagar Spiro-Tal, First Secretary (Political), Embassy of Israel in India; Ms. Amaranta Vandeperre, Third Secretary and Counsel, Embassy of Chile; Ms. Jalpa Ratna, Chief of Field Services, United Nations Children's Fund. The discussion was moderated by Ms. Shormishtha Ghosh, Governing Body Member, BRICS CCI. Amb. Manju Seth (Retd.), The former Ambassador & Consul General of India delivered the valedictory address.



Mr. Amarendra Khatua

Former Ambassador
 India to Argentina, Uruguay and
 Paraguay
 Senior Advisor, BRICS CCI

? **As a former ambassador, could you share some memorable moments or achievements during your tenure that significantly impacted India's position and engagement within the BRICS group?**

India's position inside BRICS is towards reaching consensus with world's leading, economically important, politically active and multilaterally super entities- nations to support its own growth and bilateral and multilateral aspirations as well as to actively cooperate with other BRICS countries in the globalization process, creation of a just order, bridging skill and economic differences between the developed and developing and least developed and attaining the SDG in a time bound and orderly manner. Engagement process is both bilateral, multilateral and in BRICS summit meetings and deliberations.

? **BRICS countries have diverse cultural, economic, and political backgrounds. How does India navigate these diversities to build consensus and drive collaboration on various agendas?**

While BRICS agenda and priorities include developing a partnership towards an equitable just transition including managing the risks associated with climate change, transforming education and skill development for the future, unlocking opportunities through the African Continental Free Trade Area, time has come for BRICS nations to develop a short and medium term follow up action norms for all the economic, scientific, developmental, financial, multilateral and other identified goals, priorities and agenda items (Political issues with different approaches and political differences among member countries or being faced by member countries could be kept in the long term delivery basket without impacting other mentioned issues and may be tracked over medium and longer term follow-up approach). Consensus and follow-up at BRICS' countries foreign ministries level are requisite and the implemented priorities must become global and multilateral documents of cooperation and institution building.

? **As the global geopolitical landscape evolves, how do you see the relevance and future prospects of BRICS in shaping international decision-making and policies?**

Till now, delivery schedule of BRICS is slow and limited. Russian federation is confronting a war, China is yet to resolve border issue with India, Brazil and South Africa are facing severe economic and financial problems nationally. However, despite these problems and constraints, BRICS has the leadership position and political framework to lead, cooperate, collaborate and work together on global issues of relevance and priorities. Developing nations and LDCS are waiting for the assistance, approach and policy and technical credit support eagerly. Multilateral bodies like UN, WTO, WHO, FAO and other bodies actively need support and leading role of BRICS for reforms, growth and fulfillment of SDG and other targets.

? In your view, what are the most significant achievements that India has made within the BRICS framework, and how do these achievements contribute to its national interests and global influence?

India's role during the COVID-19 pandemic and its covid diplomacy, India's ongoing developmental, technical cooperation and education, vocational and other training related assistance to African countries (in this context India's strong support to BRICS and Africa: partnership for mutually accelerated growth, sustainable development and inclusive multilateralism taken up in the 22-24 August BRICS Summit at Sandton, South Africa), India's contribution to UN's international peacekeeping operations and efforts towards ending conflicts, humanitarian crises and refugee situations are some of the significant Indian achievements in the context of BRICS priorities. India also through its extended assistance to world in satellite launching, its continuing aids and grants to LDCs and strong support and leadership role in SDGs is working with BRICS and other global partners well.

? How has India leveraged its historical ties and cultural connections with other BRICS nations to foster stronger diplomatic relations and collaboration within the group?

Traditionally India has very strong trade and economic and political relations with Russia. Our support to South Africa's decades long struggle against apartheid, to leadership of Mandela and economic and technical assistance and presence of a strong disciplined and vibrant Indian diaspora and growing trade and technological cooperation are deepening factors in India-south Africa relations. Traditionally in almost all multilateral bodies, India and Brazil fought together to safeguard interests of the south (bilateral cooperation in all sectors slowly increasing between the two counties). Despite the border issues, Indo Chinese commercial relations is one of the top five globally and annual growth is impressive. India's trade with BRICS countries totaled a healthy \$ 300 billion in 2022 (Including services trade). India also works closely with BRICS countries in the areas of UN reforms, WTO negotiations after the failed Doha Round, Climate Change, SDG, etc.

? Six new nations, namely Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Argentina, are set to join the BRICS alliance from 1 January 2024. What are your personal views on the potential benefits and challenges of adding a new member(s) to the group, and how might this affect the dynamics of cooperation?

As mentioned above, BRICS has a loaded workable agenda, though achievements are slow and will take time to be globalised. It has now been agreed to take six new members in BRICS- Ethiopia, Egypt, Argentina, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Iran. Expansion will bring new issues on agenda including resolution of disputes, functioning of regional and multilateral organisations, increasing aid and assistance to Africa, Consensus building in global issues of importance including climate change etc. Certain disagreements and initial issue oriented problems may cloud the agenda, but the expansion will cover now all parts of the developing world and almost all major regional BRICS leaders.

❓ **With your experience, what strategic areas should India prioritize for follow-up after the summit to ensure that the momentum and commitments generated translate into tangible benefits for the nation?**

India's priorities include enhancing economic cooperation and trade, promoting sustainable development and inclusive growth, facilitating political cooperation and mutual understanding among member and building intra-BRICS and global cooperation and joint work in the sectors of SMEs, infrastructure, agriculture, trade, energy, financial and banking. Since joining as a founding member of BRICS in 2009, India has worked towards consensus building among BRICS member countries on global, national and cooperation issues.

❓ **The G20 is a platform for multilateral diplomacy. How do you see India's role in bridging differences and facilitating dialogue among member countries, especially on issues where consensus is challenging?**

Consensus building will be a work in progress. As our Prime Minister has stated during his Summit participation, it is time to work together in a world which is now facing all sorts of problems including poverty, famine, war, pandemic, climate change, etc. and it is specifically a moral and political responsibility of BRICS nations as active world leaders to work together to help, identify and resolve the problems and work for a better future.

❓ **In your view, how does India's G20 Presidency contribute to the nation's stature as a responsible global actor, and how might it shape India's role in international affairs beyond the presidency?**

India's G20 priorities include accelerated progress on SDGs (creating a 2030 SDG agenda and addressing COVID19 impact), technical transformation and digital public infrastructure, multilateral institutions for 21st century (inclusive, accountable and representative international system fit to address 21st century challenges), women-led development (empowerment and inclusive growth with development), accelerated, inclusive and resilient growth (addressing global skill gaps, inclusive agricultural value chain and food system, labour rights, MSMEs, structural transformation) and green development, climate finance and life that promotes environmentally conscious practices.



GALLERY



GALLERY

