



1st Meeting of BRICS Sherpas and Sous Sherpas 24-26 February 2021

BRICS Sherpas and Sous Sherpas held their first meeting under India's Chairship from 24-26 February 2021. The meeting was chaired by Secretary CPV&OIA, Mr. Sanjay Bhattacharyya, and Additional Secretary Economic Relations, P. Harish, as India's BRICS Sherpa and Sous Sherpa.

India presented its priorities for its Chairship in 2021 under the theme - "BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus" - (i) Reform of the Multilateral System; (ii) Counter Terrorism cooperation; (iii) Using Digital and Technological Solutions for attaining SDGs; and (iv) Enhancing People to People exchanges. The calendar of events for BRICS 2021 was also presented followed by discussion and feedback sessions.

A series of briefings and presentations were made by various GoI Ministries on India's priorities across various thematic areas during its Chairship. These included BRICS Counter Terrorism cooperation, Agriculture with a special emphasis on Sustainable Development and Digital Agriculture, Innovation cooperation, Digital Health, cooperation in countering the Covid-19 pandemic and Traditional Medicine, Economic Strategy Partnership and trade agenda. The Vice President of the BRICS New Development Bank, Mr. Anil Kishora, briefed BRICS Sherpas on the bank's priorities for the year, including the opening of the bank's regional offices in Russia and India, and on NDB membership expansion.

Cultural and People-to-people engagement was a focus area during the three day meeting with the Chairs of the BRICS Business Council, BRICS Women Business Alliance, BRICS Academic Forum, BRICS Civil Forum and BRICS Think Tank Council presenting their agenda and planned activities for the year.

BRICS partners appreciated the theme and priorities selected by India for its Chairship year for being timely and relevant, and expressed support for the new initiatives proposed by India. BRICS Sherpas agreed to meet again in two months time to review the progress made on the discussions, and the programme of upcoming Foreign and other Ministerial meetings.

New Delhi
26 February 2021

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