The IBSA task list

News

The IBSA (India, Brazil & South Africa) Sherpas’ Meeting was held in Cochin from May 3-5, 2019.

✓ Sherpas: A Sherpa is the personal representative of a head of state or government who prepares an international summit, like the annual IBSA meet, G7 and G20 summits.

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- IBSA Sherpas and senior officials of the three countries held detailed deliberations on all aspects of the grouping.
- Sherpas reviewed the progress made under IBSA, since their last meeting. IBSA Sherpas also reviewed the functioning of the Joint Working Groups.
- There is a candid and comprehensive exchange of views on
  ✓ the continuing relevance of IBSA;
  ✓ the need for a strategy to secure SDGs and cement South-South Cooperation;
  ✓ expanding trade cooperation; and
  ✓ the shared goal of enhancing academic collaboration on issues relating directly to the needs of democratic societies.
- The Sherpas welcomed the holding of the 6th IBSAMAR (Joint Naval Exercise) off the Coast of South Africa in October, 2018.

About IBSA

- IBSA is a unique Forum which brings together India, Brazil and South Africa, three large democracies and major economies from three different continents, facing similar challenges.
- It is formalized at Foreign Ministers meeting in Brasilia in June 2003
- Its summits, between 2006 and 2011, gave it a special global profile.
- But, 2011 onwards, BRICS, the larger group comprising IBSA countries, China and Russia, started to overshadow IBSA. IBSA has been unable, until now, to hold its sixth summit.

Importance of IBSA

- IBSA is the true inheritor of solidarity among developing countries, which was nurtured from the Bandung Conference (1955) through UNCTAD and G-77 to the BAPA+40 Declaration (2018)
• While the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation, IBSA Fund, is small in monetary terms, it has succeeded in implementing 31 development projects in diverse countries: Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, State of Palestine, Cambodia and Vietnam, among others.

• It is a purely South-South grouping of like-minded countries, committed to inclusive sustainable development, in pursuit of the well-being for their peoples and those of the developing world.

• IBSA remains determined to “step up advocacy for reforms of global governance institutions in multilateral fora”. In particular, it is strongly committed to the expansion of the UN Security Council.

• IBSA has greatest value is in bringing India, Brazil and South Africa closer together in a more general sense – allowing think tanks, civil society, academia, public sector specialists and foreign policymakers to engage and develop joint strategies to common problems.

• Strengthening IBSA could increase the effectiveness of BRICS and encourage it to follow a more balanced approach on key issues of interest to India, Brazil and South Africa. IBSA provide a platform to discuss a matter which cannot be discussed openly at BRICS summit.