



Employment News



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BRICS: Prospects and Challenges

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In 2001, Jim O'Neill, Chief Economist of the American bank, Goldman Sachs, in a report "Building Better Global Economic BRIC" first coined the phrase 'BRIC' which stands for Brazil, Russia, India and China---the four of then fastest-growing emerging economies of the world. Looking at the features like size of population, demographic dividend and rate of globalization, Goldman Sachs (GS) forecasted that these four countries had the growth potential to replace the European economy in terms of market size. GS also predicted that China, India, Brazil and Russia would become the first, third, fifth and sixth largest economies respectively, by 2050. However, 'BRIC' as an international forum was formalized with the first meeting of the foreign ministers of Brazil, Russia, India and China in New York on the margins of the UN General Assembly in September, 2006. Later in April 2011 (third BRIC summit), South Africa joined this forum and 'BRICS' was formed. The five countries together account for 43 percent of the world's population, 46 percent of the global labour force, 30 percent of the earth's land-mass and 25 percent of the world's

share of global gross domestic product (GDP). The BRICS countries, apart from complementing their respective economies in terms of resource exchange, are also the major resource suppliers to the industrialized world. However, these countries have very little cultural or political similarity; and their levels of development differ widely. Given that there were no significant prior economic ties among these countries, the creation of BRICS was a major step towards an alternative global economic landscape. The formation of the BRICS was rooted in the long-term common economic interests of the member nations, which include reforming global financial and economic architecture, strengthening the principles and standards of international law and supporting the complementarities of many sectors of their economies.

Objectives

The canvas of the BRICS agenda is very broad. Though it began with regular and intensive consultations on the global economic slowdown of 2008-09, the agenda incorporated other concerns such as climate change and sustainable development, food and energy security, the

global trading order, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), reforms in international economic and financial institutions and international and regional political developments.

BRICS Summits

BRICS has been operational as a forum only since 2009 and has become a topic of growing interest in development circles only in the past year or two. Regular meetings of foreign ministers and finance ministers are a feature of the BRICS calendar. In addition, over the years, a number of mechanisms have been developed for deepening intra-BRICS cooperation e.g. meetings of the ministers of trade, finance, agriculture, health, science and technology etc. of the member nations.

The first BRIC summit took place in Yekaterinburg, Russia in 2009. The second summit was held in Brasilia, Brazil in 2010. It is the third BRICS summit in Sanya, China in 2011, where the forum demanded for reform of international financial institutions and focused on establishing institutional mechanisms for collaborative work across BRICS through exchange of information and technology. The summit also highlighted issues like agriculture and food secu-

ity. The fourth summit was held in New Delhi in 2012, where the BRICS countries decided to explore the idea of forming a multi-lateral development bank for mobilizing resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies. The fifth summit was held in Durban, South Africa in March 2013. The theme of the summit was "BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialization". The key decision taken in this summit was to help African countries in their industrialization process by stimulating foreign direct investment, knowledge exchange, capacity-building and trade diversification. The major thrust was on stimulating infrastructure investment to support industrial development, job-creation, skills development, food and nutrition security, poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa. BRICS leaders reiterated to work together for attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 and also emphasized that post 2015 development agenda should build on the MDG framework, retaining the

Continued on page 56

JOB HIGHLIGHTS

SSC

- Staff Selection Commission will hold an All India Examination for recruitment of Sub-Inspector in Delhi Police, CAPFs and Assistant Sub-Inspector in CISF Examination - 2014 Vacancies: 2892

Last Date : 11.04.2014

NCL

- Northern Coalfields Limited, Singrauli, requires 2311 Staff Nurse Gr. C, Mining Sirdar Gr. C, ITI Electrician Trainee Cat-III, HEMM Operator Trainee Cat-II etc.

Last Date : 31.03.2014

ASRB

- Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, New Delhi invites applications for various Scientific posts.

Last Date : 31.03.2014

NHAI

- National Highways Authority of India requires 83 Dy. General Managers, Manager and Jr. Hindi Translators.

Last Date : 16.04.2014

IREL

- Indian Rare Earths Limited requires 52 Tradesman and Helper-B

Last Date : 31.03.2014

WEB EXCLUSIVES

Following item is available in the Web Exclusives section on www.employment-news.gov.in :

1. Ceiling of Poll Expenditure Increased

Disaster Management offers a Promising Career

Dr. Ashok G. Matani

February 28, 2013:

Kolkata market fire killed 21 people and injured six

June 16, 2013:

Flash floods left an estimated 5700 people dead

August 24, 2013:

Vizag HPCL fire claimed lives of 24 people

October 14, 2013:

Cyclone Phailin washed away thousands of huts and acres of crops

October 31, 2013:

46 people were burnt to death when Haveri Volvo bus caught fire

These are some of the worst disasters India has witnessed in the year 2013. Casualties and loss of property that were caused by these catastrophes expose the glaring inadequacies in disaster management preparedness in our country. India is densely populated and susceptible to various kinds of disasters. Given this, disaster management is crucial to safeguard both lives of people and the social and economic system of the country. So if you have the yearning to work for the greater cause of the society and the country, disaster management is a suitable career option for you.

Disaster Management deals with planning and practice of handling disasters. Disasters can be natural, like earthquakes, droughts and tsunamis, or man-made like wars, bomb blasts and chemical leaks. Whatever the category, they all cause loss of life and property. More importantly, they leave a long-lasting impact, on the lives of the people in the community. Often, the tangible losses they cause are minute when compared to the intangible impression they leave. Therefore, disaster management has to be approached with great diligence. It has to be

designed and developed keeping in view multiple facets of human life.

What it is all about

Disaster management begins at identifying potential disasters and developing strategies to avoid them. It covers contingency plans and procedures to be implemented to contain damage when and if the disaster erupts; it includes rehabilitation aftermath. Also known as emergency management, it guides how resources and responsibilities should be managed in the way to provide the best possible support to victims in case of a disaster.

Disaster management is an elaborate and intensive process that involves numerous activities and steps. So, disaster management teams comprise professionals from different academic backgrounds and work experience. For instance, when a flood is impending, NGOs and government officers, work together to get the area evacuated. Often, defence personnel strive to rescue people caught in floods. Medical and para-medical personnel work towards preventing outbreak of epidemics in the refuge camps. Social workers and volunteers ensure supply of basic necessities to rescued people. Various government and non-government organisations contribute towards rebuilding the community and rehabilitating the victims.

Skill required

Personnel working in this field need to possess decent level of knowledge and skills in multiple domains like logistics and supply chain, public health, communication and the likewise. Since the job involves co-ordination and collaboration with several people, ability to work in teams, interpersonal skills, communication skills and appreciation for contributions of other professionals are must. Intellectual acumen, empathy, commitment to serve people, ability to survive in severe

Continued on page 56

BRICS : Prospects and...

Continued from page 1

main focus on poverty eradication and human development. However, there are fears that growing trade and investment links of the BRICS with poorer developing countries seek to exploit the natural resource base of these countries, siphoning them off in ways that are ecologically damaging, inherently unequal and of little benefit to the local people. The discussion on establishing a dedicated BRICS bank was continued in the fifth BRICS summit, but there is doubt on whether BRICS will actually be able to give concrete shape to this idea. As far as investment and business is concerned, there is not much in common between these countries and some of the fundamental questions like location of the secretariat, the subscription amount, control and ownership and lending practices are yet to be

settled. BRICS nations aimed to inject an initial \$50 billion into the new development bank, but there was disagreement over whether each should contribute equally or if contributions should vary corresponding to the size of their economies. However, given that the Chinese economy is about 20 times the size of South Africa and four times as big as Russia or Indian economy, there is a possibility that the bank would be dominated by China.

India's position in BRICS

India is widely considered as a strong emerging economy given its population characteristics, strength of democracy, large domestic market, technological acumen and investment potential. However, the country's economic potential should not be the sole parameter for its comparison with other members of BRICS. Though, India shares certain common features with the other BRICS

nations, it is actually an exception in this group as pointed out by Dreze and Sen (2013). India's per capita GDP (adjusted for Purchasing Power Parity) is less than half of China, one third of Brazil and one fourth of Russia. (Dreze and Sen, 2013). Every country in this set has achieved universal or near universal adult literacy rate; the only exception is India. Similarly, proportion of fully immunized children is lowest in India as compared to other four countries. Though poverty and inequality are cross cutting issues across BRICS countries, India is the poorest, with high inequality, low productive employment and a large informal labour market.

India's role in BRICS

The 6th BRICS summit, which is going to take place in Fortaleza, Brazil in 2014 (likely to be held in July, this year); will continue with the existing agenda of reform of the inter-

national financial system and creation of a development bank. The group is also likely to move beyond economic cooperation and expand the range of their discussions. The current economic situation of India is gloomy with the economy growing at less than 5% per annum. In view of the same, the magnitude of India's financial contribution to the proposed development bank is largely uncertain. Rather, India can derive larger gains for itself (from this forum), by raising the issues of poverty, inequality, social infrastructure, agriculture and food security. Coordination and cooperation among the BRICS countries on their pressing issues could help India significantly in addressing some of these challenges.

[The author works with Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA), New Delhi]

Disaster management ...

Continued from page 1

conditions, and willingness to work hard go without saying.

Job responsibilities

Job roles in the field of disaster management are diverse. Based on the job, responsibilities range from rehabilitation of the disaster affected people, to post disaster settlement of affected people, policy formulation, field training, research, consultancy, training and capacity-building, assessment of losses, psycho-social intervention, popularisation of appropriate technology, mobilisation of human resource, coordination with NGOs and government organisations, and publications and documentation. Students looking forward to career in this field can specialise in one of the relevant fields of study. A short-term

course in disaster management can provide knowledge and skills specific to the field.

Employment opportunities

Some of the job roles in the field of disaster management include project officer, emergency response manager, disaster management officer, security officer, social scientist, para-medical professional, environmentalist and so on. Opportunities are in government and private organisations.

National Institute of Disaster Management, Indian Institute of Public Administration, SAARC Disaster Management Centre, Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Indian Red Cross Society, India Meteorological Department and National Disaster Management Authority are some organisations that hire disaster management professionals.

Job opportunities in disaster management are plenty, lucrative and professionally satisfying. So what are you waiting for? If you have the aptitude to work in this field and are interested in serving the society start explore opportunities in the field right away. There are several opportunities awaiting you.

Colleges and courses:

- College :** Uttarakhand Open University, Uttarakhand
- Course :** PG Diploma in Disaster Management
- Eligibility :** Graduation
- Website :** www.uou.ac.in
- College :** Indira Gandhi

- National Open University, Delhi
- Course :** Post Graduate Diploma in Disaster Management
- Eligibility :** Graduation
- Website :** www.ignou.ac.in
- College :** Symbiosis Institute of Geoinformatics, Pune
- Course :** Post Graduate Diploma in Disaster Management
- Eligibility :** Graduation
- Admission :** Performance in personal interview and group discussion
- Website :** www.sig.ac.in

- College :** Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar University, Agra
- Course :** Post Graduate

- Diploma in Disaster Management
- Eligibility :** Graduation
- Website :** www.dbrau.ac.in
- College :** Sangam University, Bhilawar
- Course :** MBA in Disaster Management
- Eligibility :** Graduation in any discipline with 50 per cent marks
- Admission :** Performance in entrance test
- Website :** http://sangamuniversity.ac.in

[The write up is contributed by TMIE2E Academy Career Centre, Secunderabad.]

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NEWS DIGEST

- The Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh attended at the 3rd BIMSTEC Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 4th March, 2014. He said India is working with BIMSTEC members to improve physical connectivity through various projects such as the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project, the Asian Highway Network, the ASEAN Master Plan for Connectivity and others. He also promised to launch a direct shipping line to Myanmar that will enhance the region's growing maritime links.
- Since March 1, administration of oral polio vaccine (OPV) six weeks before departure for all India-bound travelers has become mandatory from seven countries where polio cases are still being reported: Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Syria, Kenya, Somalia, Nigeria and Pakistan. Indians headed for these countries will also be administered the vaccine.
- The Election Commission March set in motion the process for general election 2014. The elections for the 16th Lok Sabha, along with the Assembly polls in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim, will be held on nine different dates from April 7 to May 12. The entire process will be spread over 73 days. Counting of votes will be held on May 16.
- The model code of conduct, a set of legally binding dos and don'ts, became operational with immediate effect with the announcement of the Lok Sabha election schedule on 5th March. The code bars Ministers from combining official visits with electioneering work and bans the use of official machinery for electioneering and advertisements at the cost of the exchequer. There can be no announcement of financial grants or promise of roads and water supply. Transfer of officials is also banned.
- The Rajasthan High Court has annulled the result of Rajasthan Administrative Service-2012 examination by holding as invalid the scaling system adopted by the Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) and directed the RPSC to declare the result afresh on the basis of "raw marks", after which the interviews will be conducted. The judgment, was delivered at the High Court's principle seat on Jodhpur on 3rd March.
- Harrowing historical drama '12 Years a Slave' won the coveted best picture Oscar on 2nd March, while 3D space thriller Gravity was the top prize winner with seven. Slave's win marks the first time a film directed by a black filmmaker has won best picture. True-life AIDS activist drama Dallas Buyers Club won three Oscars including best actor for Matthew Mc Conaughey, while Australia's Cate Blanchett won best actress for Woody Allen's Blue Jasmine.