

CONCEPT NOTE

11th BRICS YOUNG SCIENTIST FORUM

2–6 November 2026 | Bengaluru, India

Organized by: Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India and National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A proposal for the creation of a BRICS Young Scientist Forum (BRICS YSF) was adopted at the 2nd BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting in Brasília in March 2015. During the VII BRICS Summit in Ufa, Russia, BRICS countries decided to host the Forum annually, beginning in 2016, with the country holding the BRICS Presidency hosting the event.

The Young Scientist Forum is an important platform for expanding international contacts among young scientists, including through the exchange of experience and best practices in supporting scientific research, with the participation of young scientists and postgraduate students from the BRICS countries.

The Forum promotes initiatives and contributes to establishing an integral system of international cooperation among future representatives of the science, technology and innovation systems of BRICS countries. These activities contribute to the sustainable development of BRICS cooperation and strengthen the role of young scientists and innovators in advancing science, technology and innovation.

The **11th BRICS Young Scientist Forum** will provide an opportunity for young scientists from BRICS countries to exchange research experiences, identify emerging scientific and technological opportunities, and develop collaborative approaches to contemporary global challenges.

The **9th BRICS Young Innovators Prize** will be organized as an integral component of the Young Scientist Forum. The Prize will recognize outstanding young innovators whose technological innovations, products, applications and services demonstrate potential for addressing important societal, environmental and economic challenges and contributing to sustainable development in BRICS countries.

The BRICS Young Innovators Prize provides a platform for young BRICS scientists and entrepreneurs to showcase innovative ideas, products and services and to exchange experiences in innovation and entrepreneurship. The initiative was introduced in 2018 during South Africa's BRICS Presidency and has subsequently become an important platform for young innovators from BRICS countries.

The **11th BRICS Young Scientist Forum and 9th BRICS Young Innovators Prize** will be held from **2 to 6 November 2026 in Bengaluru, India**, organized by the **National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru**, under the overall supervision of the **Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India**.

II. EVENT

THE BRICS YOUNG SCIENTIST FORUM – BRICS YSF

The YSF aims to offer opportunities for young scientists from BRICS countries to share their experiences, research, perspectives and ideas in science, engineering and related disciplines, with particular emphasis on emerging scientific and technological developments and their potential contribution to addressing common challenges.

YSF Participants' Requirements

Requirement	Details
Age Limit	Candidates must be under the age of 40 by 31 December 2026 .
Affiliation	Candidates must be affiliated with BRICS countries by nationality (born or naturalized) or residency (permanent residency visa).
Degree	Candidates must hold at least a master's degree, although an ongoing or completed doctorate is preferable.
Nominations per Country	Each BRICS country may nominate three (3) participants for each YSF theme, totalling nine (9) young scientists.

The BRICS Young Scientist Forum seeks to cultivate a cohort of well-prepared and innovative young researchers capable of contributing to scientific advancement, international cooperation and solutions to shared challenges.

Main Objectives

The objectives of the Forum encompass:

- Enhancing interaction among young people of BRICS countries to consolidate knowledge and perspectives in addressing common social, economic and environmental challenges through research and innovation;
- Promoting skills, research and professional development of young scientists in the BRICS countries;
- Strengthening the role of BRICS in the international science and technology landscape through the engagement of creative young scientists with the potential to accelerate innovation;
- Encouraging the development of transnational research networks, collaborations and partnerships that can drive innovation and advance scientific knowledge; and
- Strengthening BRICS STI and youth policies, enhancing the skills of talented young people and promoting entrepreneurial and collaborative approaches.

III. SESSIONS AND THEMES

BRICS Young Scientist Forum

The **11th BRICS Young Scientist Forum** will comprise three parallel thematic sessions:

Theme 1: Science in an Age of Synthetic Reality

The rapid convergence of artificial intelligence, generative models, immersive technologies, synthetic media, digital twins, extended reality and advanced computational systems is transforming the way scientific knowledge is generated, communicated and applied.

This theme will explore the implications and opportunities arising from the emergence of increasingly synthetic digital and physical environments. It will encourage young scientists to examine how science can maintain reliability, transparency, reproducibility and public trust in an environment where synthetic content and AI-generated information are becoming increasingly sophisticated.

Areas of interest may include AI-generated scientific knowledge and content; digital twins and simulation; extended and immersive reality; synthetic data; human-AI collaboration; AI-assisted discovery; scientific integrity and reproducibility; authentication and provenance of scientific information; responsible use of generative AI; and emerging interfaces between physical and digital realities.

Theme 2: Biology as the New Manufacturing Platform

The convergence of biology, engineering, computation and advanced manufacturing is opening new possibilities for producing materials, chemicals, food, therapeutics and other high-value products using biological systems as programmable and scalable manufacturing platforms.

This theme will explore the emerging transition towards a bio-based production paradigm and its implications for the future of manufacturing in BRICS countries.

Areas of interest may include synthetic biology; engineering biology; biomanufacturing; precision fermentation; cell-free systems; biomaterials; bio-based chemicals and fuels; sustainable food production; engineered microorganisms and cells; computational biology; AI-enabled biological design; bioprocessing; scale-up and translation; and circular bioeconomy approaches.

The theme will particularly encourage research and technological approaches that can contribute to sustainable, resource-efficient and economically viable manufacturing ecosystems.

Theme 3: Climate Adaptation as the Next Deep-Tech Frontier

Climate change is creating complex and interconnected challenges for cities, agriculture, water systems, health, infrastructure, energy and ecosystems. While mitigation remains essential, increasing climate risks require science and technology-driven approaches for adaptation and resilience.

This theme will explore climate adaptation as an emerging frontier for deep-tech innovation and scientific research.

Areas of interest may include climate-resilient infrastructure; advanced climate modelling and early-warning systems; resilient agriculture and food systems; water

security and climate-resilient water technologies; disaster-risk reduction; climate-resilient cities; heat adaptation; climate and health; resilient energy systems; nature-based and technology-enabled adaptation; biodiversity resilience; remote sensing and geospatial technologies; and AI-enabled climate risk assessment.

The theme will encourage research and technological solutions that can strengthen the resilience of BRICS societies and ecosystems to current and anticipated climate-related risks.

IV. LOGISTICS

The **11th BRICS Young Scientist Forum and 9th BRICS Young Innovators Prize** will be held from **2 to 6 November 2026 in Bengaluru, India**.

The event will be organized by the **National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru**, under the overall supervision of the **Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India**.

The programme will comprise thematic sessions of the BRICS Young Scientist Forum, the BRICS Young Innovators Prize, plenary sessions, networking and interaction among young scientists and innovators, and other activities as finalized by the host.

Participants are expected to arrive in Bengaluru on **2 November 2026** and depart on **6 November 2026**, subject to the final travel and programme arrangements.

The host/organizing side will make arrangements for local hospitality and related logistical support for the participating delegates, in accordance with the applicable Government of India rules and approved arrangements.

Air tickets, travel documents, medical and travel insurance of delegates shall be borne by the respective BRICS participating countries, as applicable.

Detailed information regarding accommodation, airport transfers, venue, visa requirements, accreditation, travel arrangements and other logistical matters will be communicated separately through an Administrative/Logistics Circular.

Each country will proceed with its national selection of nominees for the Forum and Young Innovators Prize. The nominated delegates will be required to complete the registration/accreditation process and provide the information required by the organizers.

The Head of Delegation for each country will provide the list of nominated participants, indicating their participation in the YSF and/or YIP and the designated thematic area.

V. PARTICIPATION AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Forum is expected to provide an opportunity for young scientists and innovators from BRICS countries to:

- Exchange scientific knowledge, research experiences and innovative practices;
- Establish new professional and institutional networks across BRICS countries;
- Identify opportunities for collaborative research and innovation;
- Discuss emerging scientific and technological trends and their societal implications;
- Develop interdisciplinary approaches to common BRICS challenges;
- Promote entrepreneurship, technology translation and innovation among young researchers;
- Facilitate interaction between young scientists, innovators, academia, research institutions, enterprises and other stakeholders; and
- Strengthen the long-term engagement of young scientific and innovation communities in BRICS cooperation.

The **9th BRICS Young Innovators Prize** will additionally provide an international platform for young innovators to present their technologies, products and services to an expert BRICS jury and other participants, with the objective of encouraging innovation, entrepreneurship and cross-border cooperation.

The outcomes of the Forum and Prize may include identification of promising areas for future BRICS collaboration, development of research and innovation networks, exploration of opportunities for technology development and translation, and enhanced engagement among young scientists and innovators of BRICS countries.

VI. ORGANIZATION

The **National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru** will organize the **11th BRICS Young Scientist Forum and 9th BRICS Young Innovators Prize**, under the overall supervision of the **Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India**.

The detailed programme, nomination procedure, registration requirements, evaluation arrangements, logistical arrangements and other operational aspects will be communicated separately by the organizers in consultation with the BRICS Member States and DST, Government of India.

YIP Terms and Conditions will be circulated separately.