

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2740
ANSWERED ON 12/08/2026**

IGB meeting of BRICS Network University

2740 Dr. Sikander Kumar:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- a) the core outcomes and institutional milestones achieved during the recently concluded BRICS Network University Conference and the International Governing Board (IGB) Meeting hosted by India;
- b) the structural details adopted by International Governing Board to advance academic cooperation and joint degree recognitions among member Nations;
- c) the implementation blueprint for newly proposed thematic area, Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Systems under BRICS Network University including India's role as a primary contributor; and
- d) the mechanisms established to protect intellectual property rights and prevent biopiracy while sharing traditional and indigenous knowledge across the expanded BRICS bloc?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (d): During India's BRICS Chairship 2026, the Ministry of Education organized the BRICS Network University (BRICS NU) conference, virtually, on 20th July 2026. The theme of the meeting was "Need and challenges of Preservation of Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Systems in the Digital Age". The Conference was divided into three sessions - (i) Mapping, Identification and Systematic Documentation of Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Systems Across BRICS Countries, (ii) Preservation and Protection of Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Systems and (iii) Role of Digital Technologies in Preserving Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Systems.

During these sessions subject experts from India and BRICS Member Countries held deliberations, included Mapping, Identification, Systematic documentation, Preservation, Protection and Role of Digital Technologies in Preserving Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge System. India shared the "Guiding Principles on Strengthening Collaboration on Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge System" with the member countries of BRICS.

The International Governing Board Meeting (IGB) of the BRICS NU took place, virtually, on 21st July 2026. During the meeting, members of the IGB presented updates on the collaborative activities between the 178 participating universities across the 11 International Thematic Groups (ITGs) in the BRICS NU.

Under the BRICS NU, each BRICS Member Country has option to nominate two Higher Educational Institute who work on subjects of focus in 11 International Thematic Groups (ITGs). India has 22 Institutions within the BRICS NU. India proposed “Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge System” as the 12th ITG during the BRICS NU and IGB meetings and has also been mentioned in the Declaration adopted during the 13th BRICS Education Ministers Meeting on 7th August 2026.
