



BRICS Members and Partners

Member Countries

Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, United Arab Emirates

Partner Countries

Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vietnam

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CONTENTS

1	Background	5
2.	The NPHI.....	6
3.	Need for BRICS Network of NPHIs	6
4.	Vision of BRICS Network of NPHIs	6
5.	Objectives of BRICS Network of NPHIs	6
6.	Scope, Jurisdiction and Guiding Principles for BNN.....	7
7.	Strategic Pillars.....	8
8.	Strategic Core Actions for the BNN and NPHIs.....	8
9.	Collaboration and Operational Mechanisms.....	10
10.	Governance Mechanism.....	11
11.	Financial Resources	14
12.	Expected Outcomes	14
13.	Abbreviations	15
14.	Annexure	16





1. Background

BRICS binds together eleven major countries of the world having almost half of the humanity, contributing 40% of the world's gross domestic product (GDP), and 26% of international trade. It serves as an useful platform for consultation and cooperation on contemporary issues of global and regional significance.

Among the BRICS countries, one of the most promising areas of collaboration is strengthening of public health for improving the health of the BRICS nations' populations. On September 12, 2024, Russia hosted the First BRICS Experts' Meeting on Public Health. This initiative aimed to prepare for the launch of the 'BRICS Public Health Research Network' to foster cooperation and mutual support among BRICS countries in public health.

Following the discussions, the proposal to establish the Network was unanimously approved by the member countries. The central objective of this Network is to develop specialized cooperation among BRICS countries in the field of public health, facilitating collaboration in capacity building, healthcare provision, operational research, and knowledge exchange. Based on the 'expanded concept of health', advancements in public health knowledge fostered by the Network are expected to strengthen the national capacities of health systems to provide adequate public health services which include health promotion, preparedness, and rapid response to existing and emerging public health threats.

During past BRICS Chairships, several health-related initiatives were launched. To streamline coordination and enhance mutual understanding, the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ) - Brazil's National Public Health Institute - hosted the First Conference of the BRICS National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) in 2025, marking a significant milestone in establishing BRICS cooperation in public health. Endorsed by the BRICS Health Ministers and Leaders, the Conference brought together representatives from NPHIs, Health Ministries, international organizations, and technical partners to promote coordinated efforts on shared health priorities at the national, regional, and global levels.

Under India's BRICS Chairship in 2026, the BRICS Network of NPHIs (BNN) offers a milestone opportunity to consolidate earlier initiatives, transitioning from dialogue to structured collaboration, and to establish operational mechanisms for moving forward. The focus will be on institutionalizing the BRICS NPHI Network, agreeing on adopting a realistic operational framework, reflecting the national priorities, while strengthening collective public health preparedness and resilience.



2. The NPHIs

The National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) are the designated science-based national centres of excellence/ agencies dedicated to the development of public health leadership, research in public health including laboratory systems, capacity building, expertise in the promotion, prevention, and control/ elimination/ eradication of diseases, as well as other public health events and are the cornerstone of a country's public health system.

3. Need for BRICS Network of NPHIs

The COVID-19 pandemic, one of the most significant global health crises in the history of mankind, exposed critical gaps in surveillance, health system capacity, equitable access to medical countermeasures, and coordination at national, regional, and global levels. It highlighted the consequences of underinvestment in public health infrastructure, workforce, and preparedness, while also demonstrating the central role of strong National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) in providing scientific guidance, coordinating response efforts, and ensuring continuity of essential health services. The pandemic further underscored the need for resilient health systems, integrated approaches such as One Health, and strengthened regional collaboration.

Given that BRICS nations represent 49.5% of the global population, 40% of the world's GDP, and 26% of international trade, these diverse countries, both demographically and geographically, necessitate the development of a more resilient and comprehensive public health network. NPHIs would serve as countries' home to organise and link public health activities under one umbrella, thereby improving the public health collaboration, efficiency and impact.

4. Vision of BRICS Network of NPHIs

The BRICS Network of NPHIs (BNN) envisions networking the National Public Health Institutes of the member nations into a network of excellence, fostering collaboration for prevention and control of the priority diseases affecting the member countries, enabling seamless global health security and making a meaningful impact on the health of the BRICS nations' populations.

5. Objectives of BRICS Network of NPHIs

The BNN aims to strengthen collaboration among member countries to address shared public health challenges through sustained public health services, capacity building, coordinated applied research, and knowledge exchange, focusing on the following objectives to achieve operationalization of the Network by 2026, with a governance mechanism, to:





1. Undertake a comprehensive institutional capacity mapping of all member NPHIs and develop a targeted capacity-building plan to strengthen the NPHIs;
2. Establish a mechanism for workforce/faculty exchange programs, visiting fellowships, and best practices sharing among NPHIs;
3. Strengthen the structured process for capacity building of other Public Health Institutes (PHIs) within the member countries to augment their public health systems for coordinated surveillance and response mechanisms to effectively deal with the existing and emerging public health challenges;
4. Strengthen coordinated pandemic preparedness and response across BRICS nations by operationalizing early warning systems, joint risk assessments, strategic stockpile coordination aligned with International Health Regulations (IHR) obligations, and in complementary to the WHO pandemic agreement;
5. Promote applied research and innovation by multi-country collaboration.

6. Scope, Jurisdiction and Guiding Principles for the BNN

The BNN will function as a collaborative technical platform to facilitate cooperation among member countries in the field of public health. The Network will operate within the mandates of participating NPHIs in alignment with the priorities agreed upon by BRICS member states. The activities of the Network will be guided by the following guiding principles:

1. **Mutual respect and ownership:** All collaborations to respect national laws, data ownership, and priorities, with no interference in national health policies.
2. **Equality and inclusivity:** Each member NPHI has an equal voice, with decisions made by consensus.
3. **Cooperation:** BNN will focus on collective self-reliance to tackle shared threats (epidemics/AMR), promoting public health leadership among BRICS nations.
4. **Evidence-based decision-making and policy recommendations:** For strengthening the role of scientific evidence in public health policy and practice.
5. **Knowledge exchange:** To promote knowledge and technology transfers to bridge the gaps in public health.



6. Complementarity: Network would complement existing global and regional public health initiatives working in alignment with the international treaty obligations.

7. Sustainability: Governance structures and funding models are to be institutionalised for long-term continuity. The Network's success will be measured over the years in terms of sustainability.

7. Strategic Pillars

- ❖ Public Health Workforce Development, and Technical Collaboration;
- ❖ Prevention and Control of Diseases [communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs)], including Elimination/ Eradication, where applicable;
- ❖ Epidemic Preparedness, Response and Health Security;
- ❖ Environmental Health, Climate Change, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), and One Health;
- ❖ Digital Health & Innovation;
- ❖ Applied Research in Public Health and Health Systems;
- ❖ Policy and Advisory Support.

8. Strategic Core Actions for the BNN and NPHIs

Aligned with the vision and objectives of the BRICS Network of NPHIs, the following strategic core actions are proposed for the BNN and NPHIs:

- 1. Identifying and designating a NPHI:** One PHI in each country is identified and designated as 'NPHI' by the respective member nation.
- 2. Mapping strengths of NPHI:** Existing strengths of each member NPHI in terms of areas of expertise and capacity, and opportunities are mapped for further collaboration under BNN.
- 3. Prioritizing shared needs of BNN:** The BNN jointly identifies priority needs and other shared public health challenges, e.g., response to pandemic/ epidemic, combating AMR, etc.
- 4. Capacity building:** The BNN shall support the capacity development of public health workforce through thematic training programs and collaborative learning initiatives for a wide spectrum of



health personnel encompassing a holistic range of disciplines and functions such as BRICS field epidemiology training programmes (BRICS-FETP), laboratory sciences (BRICS-LabS), health programme management (BRICS-HPM), applied research etc.

5. Technical collaboration, knowledge exchange, and sharing best practices: The BNN shall facilitate technical collaboration among NPHIs and promote exchange of scientific knowledge, experiences, and best practices across BRICS countries on disease surveillance, epidemic preparedness, response and management, laboratory systems and genomic surveillance of pathogens, AI applications in health, and climate-sensitive research etc. Such collaboration may be undertaken through institutional visits, faculty exchanges, observing models, programs, and innovations across BRICS countries; and the development of repositories, webinars, and annual forums to support evidence-based public health policy and practice. Additionally, the BNN shall encourage joint trainings, including mock drills, as needed for health systems' strengthening.

6. Applied research in public health and health systems, multi-country studies, and innovations: The BNN shall encourage joint research initiatives and multi-country studies addressing priority public health challenges affecting BRICS countries through memoranda of understanding and cooperation.

7. Thematic Working Groups: Thematic Working Groups (TWG) would serve as a key platform across the BRICS Network for dialogue, knowledge sharing, and joint action in the public health sector in line with global health priorities and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG-3: Good Health and Well-being.

The TWGs may further organize/ undertake their work on specific themes e.g. Epidemic Preparedness, Response & Health Security, Environmental Health, Climate Change, AMR & One Health etc. (an indicative list of priority thematic areas is included at Annexure-I) to promote focused collaboration, applied research, and knowledge exchange.

Each TWG would consist of domain experts from the identified thematic areas and nominated by the BRICS member countries. The experts, in each TWG, shall nominate a 'Lead' and a 'Co-lead' amongst themselves who would coordinate and facilitate the working of each TWG. Each TWG is expected to develop an 'Annual Work Plan (AWP)' with specific deliverables and meet at least quarterly (online, and at least once physically during the annual NPHI Conference). The TWG annual report is to be submitted to the BNN Secretariat (under the BRICS Chair).



8. Supporting National Health Programmes, public health policy, and advisory role: The BNN shall support various national health programmes by providing technical expertise, facilitating cross-country learning, and strengthening implementation of priority public health interventions, monitoring & evaluation, and applied/ operational research. The BNN may provide technical advice and recommendations to BRICS member countries' health authorities and relevant working groups to support the development and implementation of public health policies. Further, in other priorities of BRICS Health Working Groups of each presidency, the respective NPHI would serve as technical partner and align the priorities of the TWG accordingly.

9. Resource mobilization: The BNN may leverage existing BRICS cooperation funding mechanisms, and resource pooling of multi-country/ donor grants for maximizing innovation and collaboration.

9. Collaboration and Operational Mechanisms

The BNN provides a structured technical platform for strategic collaboration among BRICS countries to address common public health priorities and strengthen collective preparedness and response, supported by clearly defined collaboration and operational mechanisms as follows:

1. Strategic direction: The BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting provides the strategic direction and priorities for the BNN. The BNN Secretariat (under the BRICS Chair) provides technical & secretarial support and maintains continuity across successive BRICS Chairship cycles. The Secretariat operates throughout the year aligned with the annual BRICS Chairship, with the Chair country providing leadership and hosting the annual Conference.

2. Collaboration: Collaboration is facilitated through -

- NPHIs as the focal institutions coordinating the country's participation in the BNN;
- Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) enabling joint technical work on identified thematic areas;
- Periodic consultations and expert meetings for knowledge exchange and alignment.

3. Implementation: Member NPHIs implement agreed activities at (and within) the country level, supported by TWGs with defined deliverables. The NPHIs would also be responsible to undertake capacity building and strengthening of all the PHIs within the respective member country.





4. Conference of BRICS NPHIs: The annual Conference, hosted by the BRICS Chairship country, is the decision-making and convening forum. It sets strategic direction, reviews progress, ensures continuity across chairships, and enables policy dialogue, knowledge exchange, and cooperation between/ among the member countries.

5. Partnerships and capacity strengthening: The BNN engages with international and other national academic & research partners to support/ obtain technical cooperation, training, and institutional strengthening.

6. Governance and coordination within the Member Country: The National Steering Committee, as the focal point for the member NPHI and located at the NPHI, translates agreed priorities into work plans, ensures coordination and implementation of agreed activities within the respective member country.

10. Governance Mechanism

The BNN operates through a three-tiered governance structure designed to ensure strategic alignment, effective coordination, and efficient technical implementation across BRICS member countries. This structure reflects the principles of collective leadership, country ownership, continuity across chairships, and result-oriented collaboration.

BRICS Network of NPHIs: Three Tier Governance Structure, Activities, & Mandate			
Tier		Activities	Mandate
Tier 1	BRICS Health Ministers	Ministers' Meeting (annual)	Policy direction, Political mandate, Strategic endorsement for BNN
Tier 2	BNN Secretariat (under BRICS Chair)	Assembly Session (annual)	Guidance, Operational coordination, & Documentation for BNN
Tier 3	National Steering Committee (located at NPHI)	Assembly/ Meeting (bi-annual)	Strategic support, coordination, implementation, and oversight of agreed activities within the respective member country



Tier 1: BRICS Health Ministers:

The BRICS Health Ministers constitute the highest political and strategic authority guiding the Network. Meeting annually under the BRICS Chairship, they provide overarching policy direction, political mandate, and strategic endorsement for BNN's priorities and activities.

This tier ensures that the work of the BNN remains aligned with broader BRICS health agenda and global health commitments. It also plays a critical role in endorsing key declarations, collaborative frameworks, and initiatives thereby facilitating high-level political commitment and resource mobilization across member countries.

Tier 2: BRICS Network of NPHIs (BNN) Secretariat:

The designated NPHI of the BRICS Chair shall serve as the 'BNN Secretariat' to facilitate operational coordination of the BNN.

Functions:

The BNN Secretariat will -

- Facilitate communication, on behalf of BNN, among member NPHIs;
- Safeguard governance commitments made under one BRICS Chairship to the next, thereby maintaining institutional momentum, coherence, and continuity;
- Develop and maintain the Chairship Transition Protocol to ensure structured handover of institutional knowledge, data systems, ongoing workstreams, and partner relationships between successive Secretariat hosts;
- Coordinate governance meetings, digital platforms, workshops, and collaborative activities;
- Maintain documentation and knowledge resources of the BNN;
- Support monitoring of activities and reporting of progress through annual report(s);
- Produce and publicly release a newsletter/ journal on BNN activities and performance;
- Manage financial accounts in accordance with approved budget guidelines and audit requirements.





Secretary General of BNN Secretariat: each member country shall nominate a representative from its designated NPHI to serve as part of the BNN's leadership pool for a tenure of three years (with an option to re-nominate after completion of three years). From this pool, the Secretary-General (belonging to Chairship country) shall be designated to provide leadership and coordination of the BNN's activities. The tenure of the Secretary-General shall be one year and rotate in alignment with the BRICS Chairship.

Roles and responsibilities of the Secretary General would be to -

- Provide overall leadership and strategic guidance to the BNN and the National Steering Committee;
- Host and chair the Conference of the BRICS Network of NPHIs;
- Facilitate coordination among member NPHIs;
- Oversee implementation of the BNN's activities and initiatives;
- Represent the BNN in BRICS and other relevant international forums.

Tier 3: National Steering Committee (NSC):

The National Steering Committee (located at each NPHI) carries primary strategic responsibility as the focal point for the member NPHI. NSC is chaired by the Director/ Head of respective member NPHI and comprises nominated experts within and outside the NPHI of the respective member country. These experts are from the main fields in which the NPHI works (e.g., Public Health, Lab support, Entomology, Veterinary, IT, etc.) and other research/ academic institutes within the member country, and State/ provincial public health experts. The NSC meets at least twice a year, irrespective of the conference, and at least once (virtually/physically) during the inter-Conference period. Member countries as per their governance structure in respective public health institutes may formalise the committee formation for advocating the agenda of the BNN.

Functions:

- Provides strategic support to the BRICS Network of NPHIs (BNN) Secretariat for undertaking the BNN's activities within the respective member country;
- Ensures effective coordination with the stakeholders (such as other PHIs within the member country) and implementation of BNN's initiatives within the respective member country;



- Reviews and approves TWG proposals for the respective member country;
- Supports governance and other commitments made under BRICS Chairship.

11. Financial Resources

Strategic Financing through the New Development Bank (NDB) and other sources: For sustainability and financial resource mobilization, the BNN may leverage existing BRICS cooperation mechanisms, including the BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Framework, and other sources to support various NPHI activities as well as explore financing opportunities within the country and through the New Development Bank (NDB). The NDB, recognized as a strategic development institution within BRICS, provides financing through grants, concessional loans, and technical support aligned with its mandate for sustainable development.

12. Expected Outcomes

The BRICS Network of NPHIs would strengthen public health systems to effectively address the public health challenges, leading to appreciable improvement in the health of member nations' populations through:

- Strengthened collaboration among BRICS NPHIs – Institutional linkages, cooperation, and coordination to address shared public health challenges;
- Strengthened public health workforce capacity among BRICS member nations;
- Strengthened surveillance capacities and coordinated rapid response systems for existing, emerging, and re-emerging diseases of public health importance;
- Enhanced knowledge sharing and best practices dissemination;
- Enhanced research collaboration, advanced digital health, and innovation;
- Strengthened capacity of other PHIs in each member nation, consequent to strengthened NPHIs.
- Development of a BRICS NPHI Knowledge and Publication Platform, including a newsletter/peer-reviewed journal, policy briefs, to disseminate best practices and research findings for a long-term sustainable impact.





ABBREVIATIONS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
BNN	BRICS Network of NPHIs
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Iran
Dte. GHS	Directorate General of Health Services
EIS	Epidemic Intelligence Services
FETP	Field Epidemiology Training Programme
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IHR	International Health Regulations
IT	Information Technology
NCD	Non-Communicable Diseases
NDB	New Development Bank
NPHI	National Public Health Institute
PHI	Public Health Institute
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
STI	Science Technology and Innovation
TWG	Thematic Working Group



Annexure I

Indicative list of priority thematic areas

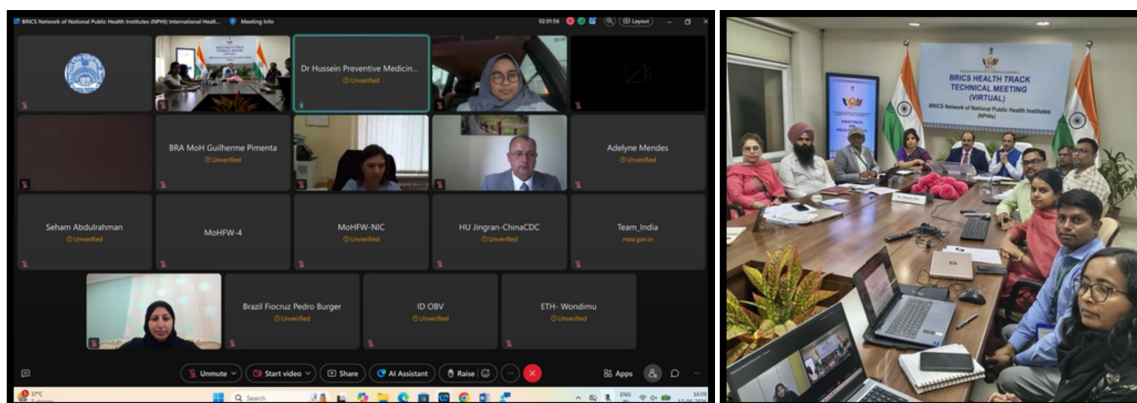
Sr. No.	Thematic Area	Rationale
1	Communicable Diseases	High burden of communicable diseases e.g. HIV, TB, malaria, dengue, and zoonoses
2	Public Health Workforce Development, and Technical Collaboration	Need for: ➤ trained epidemiologists, public health specialists; EIS/FETP expansion (BRICS FETP) ➤ laboratory capacity building ➤ capacity building of other technical personnel
3	Environmental Health, Climate Change, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), and One Health	Climate-sensitive disease burden, AMR, One Health approach integrating animal-human-environment interface.
4	Research in Public Health and Health Systems	Joint operational research to generate evidence on disease burden, health system resilience, workforce effectiveness, and cost-effective interventions
5	Global Health Strategies and Aligning with International Organisations	Aligning BRICS health policy priorities with global health agendas and international frameworks through policy talks, technology cooperation and interactions with multilateral and international organizations, thereby strengthening collective leadership, health security and joint action in common health challenges



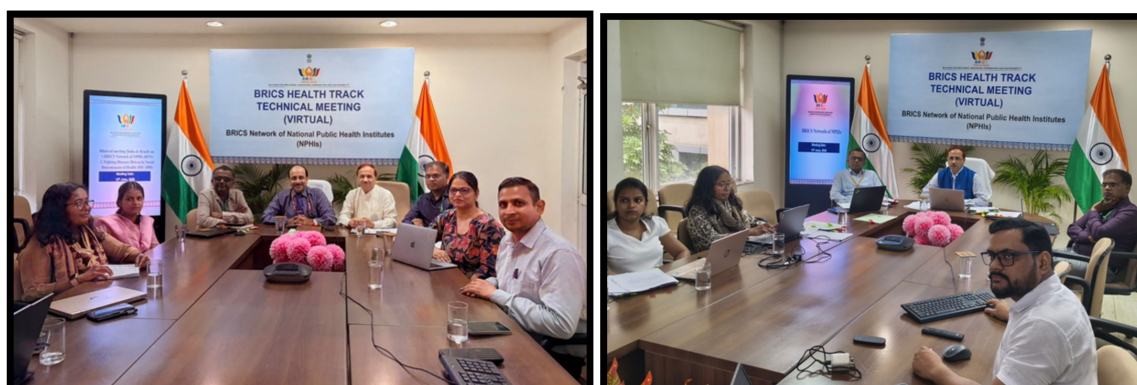




BRICS Network of NPHIs Meetings



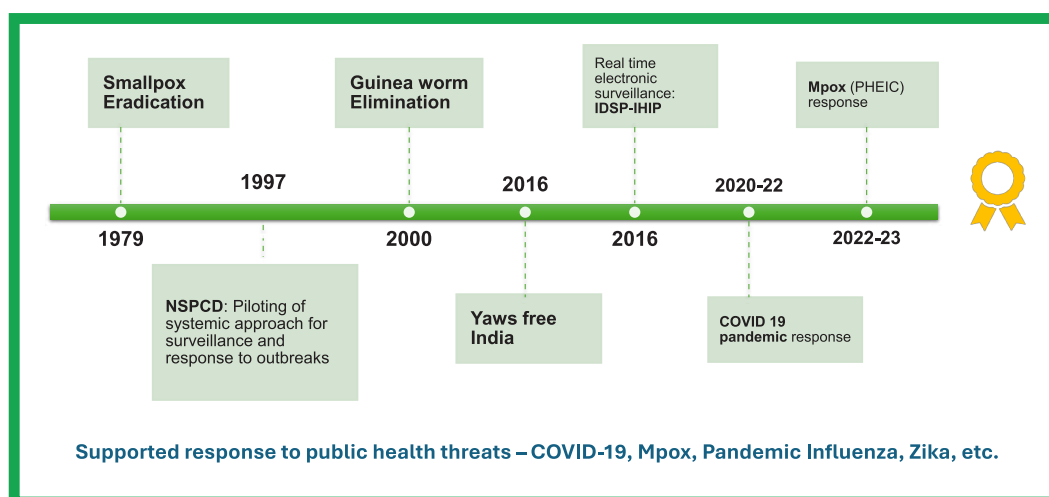
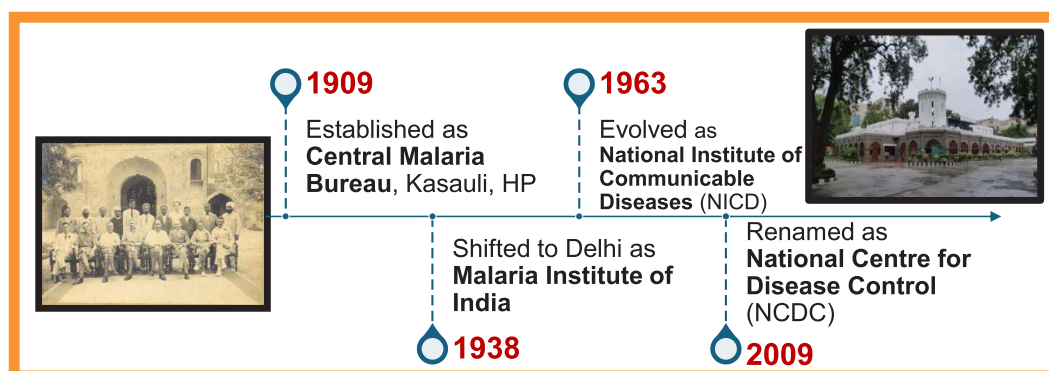
First BRICS NPHI meeting | 15.4.2026



Second BRICS NPHI meeting | 15.6.2026

NCDC - the NPHI of India

At a Glance



NCDC : Mission & Mandates

