

# IBSA Forum

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**Context-** The DiploFoundation, based in Geneva, says that the tripartite IBSA Forum, made up of India, Brazil, and South Africa, may play a big part in changing digital governance.

## Key Highlights

- South-South cooperation and exchange are the goals of the trilateral development initiative known as the **IBSA**.
- It is led by India, Brazil, and South Africa.
- **Formation:**
  - When the foreign ministers of the three nations met in Brasilia (Brazil) on June 6, 2003, they issued the Brasilia Declaration, which gave the group its formal name and gave it the name IBSA Dialogue Forum.

### Collaboration:

- **Joint Naval Activity:**
  - The IBSA Maritime Exercise, or IBSAMAR, is a crucial component of the IBSA trilateral defense cooperation.
- **IBSA Fund:**
  - IBSA Fund (India, Brazil, and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation) is a one-of-a-kind fund that was established in 2004.
  - Through it, development projects funded by IBSA are carried out in other developing nations.
- The UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) is in charge of managing the fund.

## In what ways can IBSA help global digital governance?

- **Possibilities of IBSA:**

- **Electronic inclusion:**

- The IBSA economies are expanding due to digitalization.
- By prioritizing citizens' affordable access to digital services, supporting digital skills training, and establishing a legal framework for the expansion of small digital businesses, the three nations have led the charge toward digital inclusion.
- India is the leader thanks to its thriving digital economy.

- **Governance of Data:**

- The goal of India's presidency of the G-20 is to exercise strategic leadership through concrete actions like self-evaluation of nations' data governance architectures, modernization of national data systems to regularly incorporate citizen preferences and voices, and data governance transparency principles.
- IBSA nations also view data as a resource for the nation because of their large populations.

- **Issues:**

- **Rivalry in geopolitics:**

- Space resource exploration, satellite collisions, cyber-resilience, and security of space services have increased competition between nations with the potential to weaponize outer space.
- Additionally, the US and China's geopolitical conflict centers on semiconductors.

- **Integration versus sovereignty:**

- The Foundation notes that many nations will have to strike a balance between data sovereignty and economic integration with the rest of the world.
- Small, export-oriented economies will require free data flow.

## Way Ahead

- **Work Together with Other Countries and Organizations:** In order to establish global standards for digital governance, data protection, and cybersecurity, IBSA nations ought to collaborate with other nations and international organizations.
- **Make a Plan Together:** Countries in the IBSA should work together to create a common digital governance strategy and a global digital economy vision that places digital inclusion, data privacy, and security first.
- Respect for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law are all shared values and principles that ought to serve as the foundation for this strategy.