



## Mumbai Gears Up to Host BRICS Friendship Cities Conclave 2026 After a Decade, Renewing Global Urban Collaboration

*Global City Leaders to Converge in Mumbai to Shape the Future of Cities*

Mumbai, India | 11–12 August 2026

Mumbai is set to take centre stage on the global urban map as it hosts the [BRICS Friendship Cities Conclave 2026](#) on **11–12 August 2026**, marking the revival of a landmark city-level dialogue gathering of city leaders, policymakers, industry captains, and global experts from across BRICS nations.

Convened by **Mumbai First**, in partnership with the **Government of Maharashtra** and the **Government of India**, the Conclave is expected to emerge as one of the **most significant urban dialogues under India's BRICS engagement**, focused on unlocking new models of collaboration between the world's fastest-growing cities.

### High Infrastructure Demand



~\$840 billion in infrastructure investment required by Indian cities by 2036, while contributing nearly 70% of the country's GDP

The Conclave comes at a time when urban centres are under growing pressure to deliver economic growth, resilience, and sustainability. It will serve as a **high-impact platform to drive actionable partnerships, investment conversations, and scalable urban solutions** for the Global South. In India alone, cities are expected to require **over \$840 billion in infrastructure investment by 2036**, while contributing nearly **70% of the country's GDP**—highlighting both the scale of opportunity and the urgency for coordinated action.

At the same time, building climate-resilient urban systems will demand investments exceeding **\$2.4 trillion by 2050**, as cities face increasing risks from extreme weather, flooding, and rapid population growth.

Held under the theme **“Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability,”** the Conclave will spotlight transformative ideas and real-world solutions that can redefine **how cities plan, finance, and govern their future.**



This edition builds on the **BRICS Friendship Cities initiative first hosted in Mumbai in 2016**, which brought city-level collaboration into the BRICS agenda and saw its outcomes presented at the **BRICS Summit in Goa (October 2016)**.

A decade later, the role of cities has expanded significantly. From climate action to infrastructure delivery and digital transformation, cities are now at the centre of shaping economic and social outcomes across the Global South.

Highlighting the importance of international collaboration, **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Devendra Fadnavis**, had earlier stated:

*"With more than 50% of the population migrating to urban areas, there is a need to collaborate with other countries to find solutions to tackle the challenges of urbanization."*

Over two days, the Conclave will drive focused discussions across four priority areas shaping the cities of tomorrow:

- **Climate and Environmental Resilience**
- **Next-Generation Urban Infrastructure and Mobility**
- **Inclusive and People-Centric Development**
- **Digital, Financial, and Governance Innovations in Cities**

### **Why Mumbai**

Mumbai hosted the **first BRICS Friendship Cities initiative in 2016**, which brought city-level collaboration into the BRICS agenda and saw its outcomes presented at the BRICS Summit in Goa.

A decade later, the Conclave returns to Mumbai with a stronger focus on outcomes—moving from dialogue to action. As India's financial capital and a leading megacity, Mumbai continues to undertake transformative work across infrastructure, mobility, and climate resilience, as it offers a powerful example of how cities can **adapt, innovate, and lead at scale**.

*From placing city collaboration on the BRICS agenda in 2016 to advancing climate, digital, and infrastructure cooperation at the Rio 2025 Summit—BRICS today represents nearly 40% of the world's population and over 40% of global GDP, making this Conclave critical to shaping the future of global cities.*



## Leadership Speak

**Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal, Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, said:**

*“Maharashtra is proud to support the BRICS Friendship Cities Conclave 2026 in Mumbai. This platform reflects our commitment to building stronger global partnerships and advancing sustainable, inclusive urban growth. We are confident this Conclave will drive meaningful collaboration, strengthen city-to-city ties, and deliver impactful outcomes for BRICS cities.”*

**Mr. Narinder Nayar, Chairman, Mumbai First, said:**

*“This Conclave is about moving from dialogue to action. Mumbai First plan to bring cities together to build partnerships that translate into real progress—across infrastructure, mobility, investment, and innovation.”*

*The BRICS Friendship Cities Conclave 2026 is expected to **catalyze cross-border partnerships, unlock new investment pathways, and define a shared roadmap for resilient and future-ready cities.***

## About Mumbai First

Mumbai First is a not-for-profit think tank dedicated to transforming Mumbai into a more liveable, competitive, and sustainable city by fostering collaboration between government, industry, and civil society. Operating on a public-private partnership model, it has played a key role in shaping urban governance, long-term planning, and infrastructure delivery across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

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