

# BRICS nations' interest in national currency trade is not de-dollarisation, says MEA official

**Amiti Sen**  
New Delhi

BRICS nations will work on increasing their understanding of the importance of having an alternative mechanism to do trade in national currencies to protect against geopolitical vulnerabilities, but the process is not the same as de-dollarisation, said a senior MEA official.

"The US dollar will continue to exist in the global trade. It's the most dominant currency. I don't think there's a competition there. It's just that countries will look for alternatives, and we have to appreciate their effort in the direction," said Dammu Ravi, MEA Secretary (ER).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on July 6 and 7, which will focus on global gov-



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ernance and artificial intelligence, a framework declaration on climate finance, and a partnership for the elimination of socially determined diseases. India will be the grouping's chair for the next year.

US President Donald Trump had accused BRICS countries of promoting de-dollarisation and threatened them with tariffs in case they

come up with a common currency. While there is an understanding among most BRICS nations that the idea of a BRICS common currency was not feasible at the moment, many members are already engaging in trading in national currencies and want to adopt it for intra-BRICS trade.

"What is important for us to note is that many coun-

tries are already doing it. Whether in the BRICS context or bilateral context, countries are doing it. And why this is happening, and we have to understand that in the geopolitical context, there is an economic angle.

"Countries of the Global South become more vulnerable when there are problems elsewhere in the world as well. So, which is why the alternative formats and the methods that countries in the Global South want to use, is very natural," Ravi explained.

## 'A KEY FORUM'

Responding to a question on Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin missing the summit, Ravi said it will be a key forum for India to continue to push for the interests of the Global South and engage with other members.