

Daily Defence Current Affairs

04 June 2026

India and South Africa Bilateral Cooperation In Future Technologies

- India and South Africa agreed to scale up bilateral cooperation in future technologies, with Artificial Intelligence, Digital Infrastructure and Advanced Manufacturing emerging as key priorities for the next phase of bilateral engagement.
- Dr Jitendra Singh said that the next phase of India-South Africa engagement must be shaped by emerging technologies, innovation ecosystems, startup partnerships and industry-linked research.
- The Minister said India and South Africa share a unique partnership forged through a common history, democratic values and a shared commitment to inclusive growth.
- Both countries are increasingly contributing to shaping international conversations on science, technology and innovation through platforms such as BRICS, IBSA, G20 and IORA, while also advancing bilateral cooperation across multiple strategic sectors.
- A key outcome of the discussions was the decision to intensify collaboration in Advanced Materials and Manufacturing, Geospatial Technologies and Digital Infrastructure, priority areas identified under the India-South Africa Joint Committee mechanism.
- Recognising the growing importance of multilateral scientific engagement, Dr. Jitendra Singh invited South Africa's active participation in the BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting scheduled to be held in Chennai in August 2026.
- India and South Africa have maintained a vibrant Science and Technology partnership since the signing of the bilateral S&T Agreement in 1995. Over the

years, the relationship has expanded across astronomy, biotechnology, health sciences, indigenous knowledge systems, renewable energy, advanced materials and earth sciences.



INS Sanshodhak Delivered To Indian Navy

- INS Sanshodhak, bearing the pennant number J24, has been officially delivered to the Indian Navy as the fourth and final vessel of the indigenously built Sandhayak-class Survey Vessel (Large) project.
- Constructed by GRSE this 110-metre hydrographic survey ship represents a significant addition to India's maritime mapping and oceanographic capabilities, reinforcing the Navy's ability to conduct precise and extensive surveys across coastal and deep-water environments.
- The primary role of INS Sanshodhak is to undertake hydrographic surveys, mapping navigational channels, and profiling port approaches to ensure safe and efficient maritime operations.
- Its secondary role includes deployment for search and rescue missions, oceanographic research, and functioning as a hospital ship during emergencies, thereby enhancing its versatility in both combat-support and humanitarian contexts.
- The vessel is fitted with advanced equipment such as Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs), Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs), and Multi-Beam Echo Sounders, enabling precise data acquisition and detailed seabed mapping.
- Built with over 80 percent indigenous content, the ship strongly aligns with the Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat defence initiatives. This high level of domestic integration showcases India's growing self-reliance in naval shipbuilding and advanced marine technologies.

- The vessel measures 110 metres in length, displaces 3,300 tonnes, and has an operating range of 6,500 nautical miles, making it capable of sustained deployments across the Indian Ocean Region and beyond.
- INS Sanshodhak, meaning “Researcher,” is aptly named for its role as a data-gathering platform. It follows three sister ships already inducted into the fleet: **INS Sandhayak, INS Nirdeshak, and INS Ikshak.**



Venezuela's Acting President Visit To India

- Venezuela's Acting President Delcy Rodriguez arrived in New Delhi for a five-day working visit aimed at further strengthening bilateral ties between India and Venezuela.
- MEA emphasised that the visit would deepen relations and expand collaboration across multiple sectors. Rodriguez is scheduled to hold bilateral discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The MEA emphasised that the visit would deepen relations and reinforce the traditionally warm ties rooted in energy cooperation and shared commitment to the Global South.
- The MEA confirmed that the high-level discussions will review the entire spectrum of India-Venezuela relations and explore avenues to deepen cooperation in energy security, trade and investment, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, transportation, and renewable energy.

- The delegation will also undertake site visits connected to India's energy, pharmaceutical, and automotive sectors to better understand industrial capabilities and identify new opportunities for collaboration.
- Economic engagement forms a central pillar of the visit. Bilateral trade between India and Venezuela stood at USD 678.94 million in FY 2025-26, with Venezuela emerging as the third-largest supplier of crude oil to India in May 2026.



IAF Airlifts 43 Tons of Ebola Medical Aid To Uganda

- India has delivered critical medical aid to Uganda to help combat the Ebola virus outbreak, using the strategic airlift capabilities of the Indian Air Force's C-17 Globemaster-III.
- The mission, carried out on 2 June 2026, was highlighted by the IAF in a post on X, underscoring its ability to respond swiftly to humanitarian contingencies.
- The aircraft transported vital medical supplies from New Delhi to Kampala, demonstrating India's readiness to assist in urgent public health crises.
- The first tranche of aid, weighing about 2.5 tons, was dispatched on 24 May 2026 and included protective gear, medical monitoring equipment, essential medicines, and supplements.
- After receiving a detailed list of requirements from Africa CDC, India mobilised a larger second tranche of 43 tonnes, which comprised protective gear, diagnostic and monitoring devices, sample transport kits, infection prevention supplies, medicines, and supplements.
- Ebola disease is caused by an infection with an orthoebolavirus.

- Orthoebolaviruses are found primarily in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Orthoebolaviruses can cause serious and often deadly disease, with a mortality rate as high as 80 to 90 percent.
- Ebola does NOT spread the same way as respiratory viruses like flu and COVID. You cannot get it from being near someone.
- Ebola disease is caused by a group of viruses, known as orthoebolaviruses (formerly ebolavirus)¹. These viruses can cause serious illness that, without treatment, can cause death. Orthoebolaviruses were discovered in 1976 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and are found primarily in sub-Saharan Africa.



North Korea unveils a new plant to produce fuel for nuclear weapons

- North Korea on Thursday unveiled a new facility to produce nuclear bomb fuels, with leader Kim Jong Un announcing plans to bolster the country's nuclear forces "at an exponential rate."
- The official Korean Central News Agency said the facility used "more sophisticated technology" but didn't provide further details, such as where it is located and when it began its operation. State media photos showed what appeared to be a large centrifuge hall, indicating the plant is likely used to enrich weapons-grade uranium.
- The disclosure of the new factory is in line with Kim's repeated vows to expand its nuclear weapons program to cope with what he called escalating U.S.-led military threats.

- KCNA quoted Kim as saying the urgency for bolstering up the country's nuclear war deterrent, both in quality and quantity, has grown because of confrontations with "the most ferocious enemies," an apparent reference to the United States and South Korea. Kim cited other unspecified threats and crises as a need to boost North Korea's nuclear capability, it said.
- Kim claimed that North Korea's weapons-grade nuclear materials production capacity has more than doubled compared with five years ago, according to KCNA. There are virtually no ways to independently verify his claim.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. India and South Africa have identified which of the following as key priorities for future bilateral cooperation?

- A) Agriculture and Mining
- B) Artificial Intelligence, Digital Infrastructure and Advanced Manufacturing
- C) Tourism and Sports
- D) Fisheries and Textile Industry

Answer: B) Artificial Intelligence, Digital Infrastructure and Advanced Manufacturing

2. INS Sanshodhak, recently delivered to the Indian Navy, belongs to which class of vessels?

- A) Kolkata-class Destroyer
- B) Shivalik-class Frigate
- C) Sandhayak-class Survey Vessel (Large)
- D) Kamorta-class Corvette

Answer: C) Sandhayak-class Survey Vessel (Large)

3. Which Indian shipbuilding company constructed INS Sanshodhak?

- A) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- B) Cochin Shipyard Limited
- C) Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- D) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)

Answer: D) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)

4. Venezuela's Acting President, who recently visited India, is:

- A) Nicolás Maduro
- B) Jorge Arreaza
- C) Delcy Rodríguez
- D) Tareck El Aissami

Answer: C) Delcy Rodríguez

5. The Indian Air Force used which aircraft to transport 43 tonnes of Ebola-related medical aid to Uganda?

- A) C-130J Super Hercules
- B) Boeing C-17 Globemaster III
- C) IL-76 Gajraj
- D) Dornier Do-228

Answer: B) Boeing C-17 Globemaster III

6. Ebola disease is caused by infection with which group of viruses?

- A) Coronaviruses
- B) Flaviviruses

- C) Orthoebolaviruses
- D) Orthomyxoviruses

Answer: C) Orthoebolaviruses

7. C295 Aircraft Manufactured By

- A. Boeing
- B. Airbus
- C. HAL
- D. None

ANSWER: B

8. Indian Space Science Data Centre Is Located At

- A. Chennai
- B. Bengaluru
- C. New Delhi
- D. Kochi

ANSWER: B

9. ___ Becomes Indian Army's First Woman Sky Diver

- A. Roop Rai
- B. Lance Naik Manju
- C. Corporal Manju
- D. None

ANSWER: B

10. ___ Plans To Establish The National Government Cloud To Store Sensitive Data.

- A. MOD
- B. MEA
- C. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

11. The Hawker Siddeley HS 748 Is A

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. UAV
- D. Transport Aircraft

ANSWER: D

12. 'Swift and Sure' Is The Motto Of

- A.** Army Aviation Corps
- B.** Sikh Regiment
- C.** Rajput Regiment
- D.** Gorkha

ANSWER: A

13. Which Regiment Has Motto: "Veer Bhogya Vasundhara"?

- A.** RAJPUTANA RIFLES
- B.** RAJPUT REGIMENT
- C.** DOGRA REGIMENT
- D.** SIKH REGIMENT

ANSWER: A

14. ICMF Stands For

- A.** Integrated Cryogenic Engine Manufacturing Facility
- B.** Integrated Cry Engine Manufacturing Facility
- C.** Integrated Cryogenic Engine Make Facility
- D.** None of the above

ANSWER: A

15. "Bolo Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj ki jai" Is The War Cry Of

- A.** Maratha Light Infantry Regiment
- B.** Grenadiers
- C.** Punjab Regiment
- D.** Parachute Regiment

ANSWER: A

16. Rabat Is The Capital Of

- A.** Morocco
- B.** Montenegro
- C.** Monaco
- D.** Maldives

ANSWER: A

17. "Without Fear or Favour" Book Written By

- A. R K Narayan
- B. Khushwant Singh
- C. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy
- D. APJ Abdul Kalam

ANSWER: C

18. Exercises B/w The India And Bangladesh Is Called:

- A. GARUDA SHAKTI
- B. SLINEX
- C. SAMPRITI
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: C

19. __Is The Legal Branch Of The Indian Army.

- A. Army Court
- B. Supreme Court
- C. Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Department
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

20. Exercises B/w India And Kyrgyzstan Is Called:

- A. KHANJAR
- B. SLINEX
- C. NOMADIC ELEPHANT
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: A