

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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BRICS Leaders Adopt New Delhi Declaration 2026

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that BRICS member countries had unanimously adopted the New Delhi Declaration 2026, with no objections raised by any nation.
- The adoption followed intensive negotiations aimed at bridging differences and achieving consensus on the joint statement. This marks a significant diplomatic success for India's chairship of the summit.
- The announcement came after a series of high-level bilateral engagements in New Delhi. Prime Minister Modi held separate meetings with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Russian President Vladimir Putin and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.
- These discussions took place on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit, reflecting India's active diplomatic outreach.
- The summit was hosted by India under the theme "Building Resilience and Innovation for Cooperation and Sustainability." Leaders gathered to deliberate on regional stability, economic ties and wider global challenges.
- The adoption of the declaration underscored the grouping's ability to find common ground despite diverse perspectives.
- India-Indonesia ties were in focus as Prime Minister Modi met Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations across a wide range of sectors.
- The 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi concluded with the unanimous adoption of the New Delhi Declaration 2026, reinforcing India's role as a consensus builder in a fractured global environment.
- The summit showcased India's leadership in fostering resilience, innovation and cooperation among emerging economies, while advancing the collective voice of the Global South in global governance.



BRICS Confronts Oil Shock With Push For Energy Security

- BRICS leaders gathered in New Delhi on 12–13 September as Brent crude surged past \$100 a barrel, placing energy security firmly back at the centre of the global economy.
- Brent futures touched \$102.07 on Thursday, driven by the Iran conflict and attacks on maritime shipping that disrupted flows through the Strait of Hormuz.
- This waterway has historically carried nearly one-fifth of global oil and gas supplies, making any prolonged disruption a severe risk for Asian importers.
- India, one of the world's largest oil importers, faces particular vulnerability. Higher crude prices, freight costs and shipping disruptions directly impact its economy.
- The timing is critical, as New Delhi has been working to build greater resilience into its energy system. This shock has therefore added urgency to India's push for diversified energy security.
- The BRICS grouping now has a significant energy dimension. The 11-member bloc includes major producers such as Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, alongside large consumers like India and China.
- Brazil also contributes as a notable oil producer. Collectively, BRICS accounts for 49.5 per cent of the global population, 40 per cent of global GDP and 26 per cent of global trade, according to Indian government figures.
- The BRICS Energy Cooperation Roadmap 2025–2030, adopted under Brazil's presidency, already seeks deeper collaboration on security, trade, infrastructure

and technology, while addressing the transition to lower-carbon systems. India's 2026 energy track has built on this, pursuing "Energy for All" while balancing security, affordability, sustainability and innovation.



Malaysian PM Confirms Talks On BrahMos Missile

- Malaysia has confirmed exploratory talks with India on acquiring the BrahMos air-to-surface missile, but Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim stressed that no final decision has been made and the Royal Malaysian Air Force will be the ultimate authority.
- The discussions highlight growing defence ties between Kuala Lumpur and New Delhi, with BrahMos seen as a potential game-changer for Malaysia's maritime and aerial deterrence.
- Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim stated in New Delhi on 13 September that Malaysia is considering the acquisition of India's BrahMos missile system. He emphasised that while discussions were held with Indian PM Narendra Modi, the final decision rests with Malaysia's Air Force, which will evaluate operational and technical requirements.
- Anwar explained that his position is to defer to the relevant agencies with expertise, particularly the Air Force, to continue the discussions. He noted that initial talks had already taken place and conveyed to Modi his strong support, citing the trust-based relationship between Malaysia and India as a foundation for expanding cooperation in all fields.

- The Malaysian leader, who also serves as Finance Minister, acknowledged India's defence capabilities and long-standing military experience. He highlighted India's growing role in aerospace, defence, and maritime security, areas where Malaysia seeks to deepen bilateral engagement beyond trade and investment.



India's Strategic Window For Su-57 And S-500 Deal

- Russia's offer of Su-57 stealth fighters and S-500 air defence systems could plug immediate capability gaps, but the deal's value depends on full technology transfer, source-code access, and co-production to avoid long-term dependence.
- Major Gaurav Arya stresses that India has only a limited strategic window to negotiate such terms in an interview with Times of India.
- Russia has placed the Su-57 and S-500 at the centre of its defence pitch to India. The Su-57 is a fifth-generation stealth fighter combining low observability, advanced avionics, long-range weapons, and supermaneuverability.
- India's Air Force currently suffers from depleted squadron strength, with only 29 operational squadrons against a sanctioned strength of 42. The indigenous AMCA program is unlikely to see its first flight before 2029–30, leaving a dangerous stealth gap as China expands its J-20 fleet and Pakistan prepares to induct J-35 fighters.
- The S-500 Prometheus represents Russia's most advanced long-range air and missile defence system. With an interception range of around 600 km and capability against ballistic missiles, hypersonic threats, and near-space targets, it would add a higher-tier shield above India's existing S-400 batteries.



IAF's Mega Drone Event Kicks Off At Pokharan Range In Rajasthan

- An event hosted by the Indian Air Force, which seeks to offer domestic manufacturers an opportunity to exhibit their capabilities and advancements in unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and counter-UAS, kicked off at the Pokhran range in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer on Monday.
- The three-day event-- 'Dronathon 2026-- is designed to help stakeholders to witness emerging drone and counter-drone technologies along with their operations demonstration, officials said.
- "In line with the national objective of Atmanirbhar Bharat and with a focus on enhancing the IAF's capabilities in the unmanned domain, 'Dronathon 2026' was inaugurated by the Vice Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, at Jaisalmer today," a senior official said.
- It follows an industry outreach programme undertaken by the IAF to identify and engage Indian industry and technology developers in the unmanned domain.
- The focus areas include UAS and counter-UAS, the official added.
- Participating companies are undertaking live demonstrations of their systems at the Pokhran range, Jaisalmer, during the event. These demonstrations are aimed at assessing available technologies against identified operational requirements in the unmanned domain.
- The systems and technologies being demonstrated include, expendable Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) systems; loitering munitions;

UAS with electronic warfare capabilities; logistics and delivery drones; mapping and surveying systems; counter-drone systems; and technologies incorporating artificial intelligence (AI), autonomous navigation, real-time data transmission and advanced payloads, the officials said.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the New Delhi Declaration 2026:

- 1. It was adopted during the 18th BRICS Summit.**
- 2. The summit was hosted by India in New Delhi.**
- 3. The declaration was adopted unanimously.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only**
- B. 1 and 2 only**
- C. 2 and 3 only**
- D. 1, 2 and 3**

Answer: D

Q2. The 18th BRICS Summit hosted by India in 2026 was held under which theme?

- A. One Earth, One Family, One Future**
- B. Building Resilience and Innovation for Cooperation and Sustainability**
- C. Strengthening Global South through Development**
- D. Reforming Multilateralism for a Sustainable Future**

Answer: B

Q3. Which of the following waterways is particularly important for global energy security because a significant share of global oil and gas supplies passes through it?

- A. Strait of Malacca
- B. Strait of Hormuz
- C. Bab-el-Mandeb
- D. Bosphorus Strait

Answer: B

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Malaysia's discussions with India on the BrahMos missile:

1. Malaysia has confirmed exploratory talks regarding BrahMos.
2. No final decision on acquisition has been made.
3. The Royal Malaysian Air Force will assess the operational and technical requirements.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Q5. The Su-57 and S-500 systems, recently discussed in the context of India's defence requirements, are associated with which country?

- A. France
- B. Israel
- C. Russia
- D. United States

Answer: C

Explanation: Both the Su-57 fifth-generation stealth fighter and the S-500 Prometheus air and missile defence system are Russian defence systems.

Q6. Which of the following correctly describes the S-500 Prometheus?

- A. A Russian fifth-generation fighter aircraft
- B. A Russian long-range air and missile defence system

- C. An Indian unmanned combat aerial vehicle
- D. A Russian naval anti-ship missile

Answer: B

Q7. Dronathon 2026, organised by the Indian Air Force, is primarily focused on which domain?

- A. Naval warfare and submarine operations
- B. Unmanned aerial systems and counter-UAS technologies
- C. Cyber warfare and satellite communication
- D. Fighter aircraft engine development

Answer: B

Q8. Linear/Sequence-Type Question

Consider the following sequence of events/topics:

- 1. Adoption of the New Delhi Declaration 2026**
- 2. Discussions on Malaysia's possible acquisition of BrahMos**
- 3. Dronathon 2026 at Pokhran Range**
- 4. BRICS discussions on energy security amid crude oil price concerns**

Which of the following represents the correct association of these events with their principal focus?

- A. BRICS diplomacy → Defence exports → Unmanned warfare → Energy security
- B. Energy security → Unmanned warfare → BRICS diplomacy → Defence exports
- C. Defence exports → BRICS diplomacy → Energy security → Unmanned warfare
- D. Unmanned warfare → Energy security → Defence exports → BRICS diplomacy

Answer: A

9. Major General Rank Of Indian Army Is Equivalent To Rank Of IAF Is

- A. Commander
- B. Squadron Leader
- C. Group Captain
- D. Air Vice Marshal

ANSWER: D

10. The India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) came into force in

- A. 2015
- B. 2016

C. 2017

D. 2018

ANSWER: A

11. Mitra Shakti Ex Held B/w India &

A. Sri Lanka

B. USA

C. UK

D. Nepal

ANSWER: A

12. __Himalayan pass is situated b/w India and China.

A. Shenkora

B. Thalghat

C. Bhorthat

D. Shipki La

ANSWER: D

13. AMCA Stands For

A. Advanced Medium Cockpit Aircraft

B. Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft

C. Advanced Motor Combat Aircraft

D. Advanced Machine Combat Aircraft

ANSWER: B

14. Wartime Gallantry Award Is/Are

A. Param Vir Chakra

B. Maha Vir Chakra

C. Ashok Chakra

D. Both a & b

ANSWER: D

15. Military College of Telecommunication Engineering Is At

A. Gopalpur

B. Mhow

C. Pune

D. Haridwar

ANSWER: B

16. "Bolo Hindustan Ki Jay" Is The War Cry Of

- A. JKRIF
- B. RR
- C. MAHAR REGIMENT
- D. JKLIR

ANSWER: C

17. Quito Is The Capital Of

- A. Ecuador
- B. Qatar
- C. UAE
- D. Ethiopia

ANSWER: A

18. "The Earth spinner" Book Is Written By

- A. Brisha Jain
- B. Sanjay Gubbi
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. Anuradha Roy

ANSWER: D

19. Joint Exercises B/w The India And Japan Is Called:

- A. Shinyuu Maitri
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: A

20. Motto of Territorial Army Is

- A. Rhino Charge
- B. Duty Unto Death
- C. Valour
- D. Savdhani Va Shoorta

ANSWER: D