



DAILY EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

TOPIC

**INDIA–CANADA DEFENCE RELATIONS
IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER**

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Context

- India and Canada are seeing a resurgence in engagement after the **India-Canada Joint Leaders' Statement**, with defence, critical minerals, space and technology cooperation emerging as priorities for both countries in the changing global security environment.

About India-Canada Relations

- India and Canada share a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** based on democratic values, rule of law, people-to-people ties, and expanding economic cooperation.
- The recent **Joint Leaders' Statement** was a reaffirmation of cooperation in **trade, clean energy, critical minerals, defence, innovation and the Indo-Pacific**, and the restoration of high-level political engagement.
- Canada views India** as an important partner in the creation of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, while **India views Canada** as an important source of technology, investment, education and strategic resources.
- The two countries also cooperate through multilateral forums such as the **G20, United Nations, Commonwealth, and WTO**.

India-Canada Defence Cooperation

- Military Cooperation:** India and Canada have **reaccredited Defence Advisers** in New Delhi and Ottawa to strengthen military engagement.
 - Both countries agreed to institutionalise a **Defence Dialogue** to identify priority areas and improve strategic coordination.
 - The **Indian and Canadian Navies** have participated together in multilateral exercises such as **RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific Exercise); and Exercise Talisman Sabre**.
 - A delegation from the National Defence College, India will visit Canada in 2026 to advance professional military education and exchanges of officers.
- Technology and Defence Industrial Collaboration:** Modern warfare is driven by drones, autonomous systems, artificial intelligence, cyber capabilities and advanced aerospace technologies that creates opportunities for deeper collaboration.
 - Canada has invested roughly **\$500 million in next-generation aerospace technologies**, including drone innovation, and established the **Defence Investment and Industrial Agencies** to streamline procurement and diversify supply chains.
 - These research ecosystems in Canada are suitable to India's expanding manufacturing capacity under **'Make in India' and Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.
- Strategic Cooperation in Space:** Potential areas of cooperation could be in the field of satellite technologies, space robotics, earth observation, maritime domain awareness, space based security applications.
 - Canada's satellite constellation RADARSAT** can be a boost to India's maritime surveillance and navy capabilities, particularly in the Indo-Pacific.
- Critical Minerals Partnership:** Critical minerals are now vital for defence manufacturing, semiconductors, electric vehicles, renewable energy and advanced electronics.
 - Canada has the tenth-largest reserves of critical minerals, third-largest recoverable uranium resources, about 5% of the world's tungsten reserves, close to 24% of the world's uranium production (2024), and 31 critical mineral reserves.
 - India and Canada signed **MoU on Critical Minerals Value Chain (2026)** to boost resilient supply chains. It helps Canada diversify to trusted markets and supports India's goal of secure access to strategic minerals.

Related Challenges and Issues

- **Legacy diplomatic tensions** have affected political trust and bilateral cooperation.
- Differences on **security concerns and law enforcement issues** remain to require continued communication.
- Defence cooperation is still in its early stages and has few institutional mechanisms.
- Global competition for **critical minerals** could impact supply security.
- Regulatory barriers, technology transfer restrictions and different procurement systems could slow down defence industrial cooperation.
- The Indo-Pacific and West Asia are experiencing geopolitical uncertainty that is changing strategic priorities.

Way Forward: India – Canada Relationship

- The **India–Canada Defence Dialogue** should be institutionalised through regular ministerial and military-level consultations.
- Increase joint naval exercises, military training and officers exchanges to improve interoperability.
- Promoting **co-development and co-production** in aerospace, drones, AI-enabled defence systems and cyber technologies.
- Operationalise the **Critical Minerals Value Chain MoU** with long term investment and resilient supply chains.
- Enhance cooperation in **space technology**, satellite applications and maritime domain awareness.
- Foster innovation through collaboration between academia, research institutions, start-ups and the defence industry.
- Broader strategic ties underpinned by defence cooperation, with expanded economic engagement through greater trade, investment and technology links.

Daily Mains Practice Question

[Q] Discuss the significance of India–Canada defence cooperation in strengthening bilateral relations. Examine the key areas of collaboration, the challenges involved, and suggest measures to enhance the partnership.

Source: TH

