



India-South Africa Submarine Cooperation Agreements

[Source: IE](#)

India and South Africa signed **two agreements on submarine cooperation** during the **9th Joint Defence Committee (JDC)** meeting held in **Johannesburg**.

India-South Africa Joint Defence Committee (JDC)

- These are **bilateral institutional mechanisms** established under the **2000 MoU on Defence Cooperation** to strengthen defence ties.
 - Relations are rooted in a **shared anti-colonial struggle**, with formal **defence cooperation** beginning in **1996** through an MoU on **Defence Equipment**.
- Co-chaired by the **Defence Secretaries of both countries**, the JDC serves as a **high-level platform** to **review ongoing collaboration and identify new areas of mutual interest**, including **defence policy, military training, defence production**, and research.
- It also oversees two sub-committees on defence cooperation and acquisitions, while **facilitating structured dialogue**, maritime security, and India's strategic outreach to Africa.

South Africa

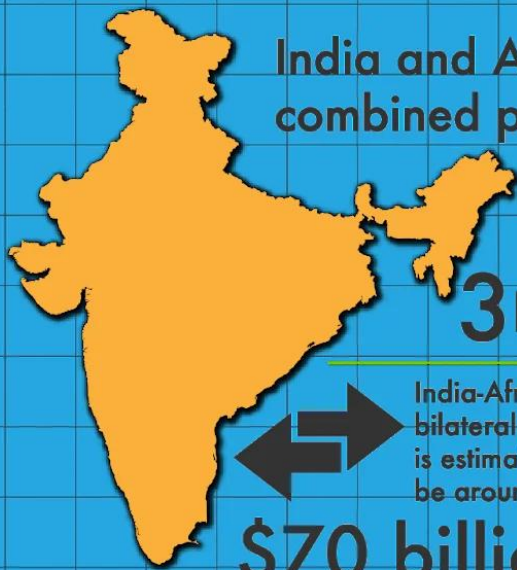
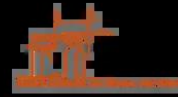
- It is the **southernmost country of Africa**, bordering **Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe (North), Mozambique, Eswatini (Northeast & East), and Lesotho (enclave)**.
- It has **3 capitals**: Pretoria (Executive), Cape Town (Legislative), Bloemfontein (Judicial).
- South Africa shares **maritime boundaries with the Indian and Atlantic Oceans**.
 - Major physical features include the **Drakensberg Mountains, Limpopo and Orange rivers**, and landforms like the **Highveld** (grassland plateau), **Bushveld** (tree-dotted plains), and the **Great Escarpment** (mountainous rim).

India's Initiatives to Support Africa

- **Infrastructure & Training Support**: Set up **Rural Technology Parks, Food Testing Labs, Vocational Training Centres**; provided training in **crop processing, composting, irrigation, and mechanisation**.
- **Trilateral Cooperation**: Partnered with [FAO](#), [USAID](#), and [SITA \(Supporting India's Trade Preferences for Africa\)](#) to deploy agri-experts and support **food security and irrigation planning** in African nations.
- **3A Framework**: Promotes **Affordable, Appropriate, Adaptable** agricultural technologies tailored to Africa's local conditions.



INDIA - AFRICA IN NUMBERS



India and Africa have a combined population of **2.3 billion**

Indian diaspora in Africa consists of nearly **3 million** people.

There is a **50,000**-strong ethnic African diaspora in India who descended from Bantu peoples of Southeast Africa.

India-Africa bilateral trade is estimated to be around **\$70 billion**

The trade has increased **20 times** in the past 15 years.



Nearly **4,500** Indian soldiers are on the ground in Africa under various UN peacekeeping missions.



A fully formed Indian female police unit is also present in Liberia.



India offers **900** scholarships to African students each year.



Indian owned/operated companies are **2nd largest employers in Nigeria.**



3% of South African population consists of people of Indian origin.

India is currently spending **\$7.5 billion** on infrastructure projects in over **40** countries.

Read More: [Evolving India-Africa Partnership](https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/india-south-africa-submarine-cooperation-)

