

CONCEPT NOTE

India–Africa Defence Cooperation

India and the African countries share a close, historical and multifaceted relationship. The India–Africa defence and security partnership has evolved in recent years. It is embedded in shared values, principles of equality and commitment to peace, security, stability and prosperity. The foundation of India–Africa defence relations is based on the two guiding principles namely ‘SAGAR’, ‘Security and Growth for All in the Region’ and ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’, ‘The World is One Family’. India’s approach towards Africa is guided by the Kampala Principles enunciated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2018.

Over the decades, defence ties have intensified as India and Africa face a plethora of common security challenges like piracy, drug trafficking, illegal fishing, terrorism, insurgency, violent extremism and conflicts. India’s defence engagements with the African countries rest on African priorities and include providing training, military equipment; counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism training, technical assistance in the maritime sphere; joint exercises and friendly port visits; and the collaborative efforts to build inclusive dialogue platforms like the India–Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD). India and African countries are also important stakeholders in ensuring a safe and secure maritime environment, and work together in regional mechanisms such as the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and others.

Some significant developments in the recent past include the first-ever India–Africa Defence Ministers’ Conclave (IADMC) held in conjunction with DefExpo in February 2020, which led to the adoption of the ‘Lucknow Declaration’. Subsequently, the India–Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD) during DefExpos has been institutionalised, to be held once every two years with Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) as the knowledge partner. The second IADD was held in October 2022, following which the ‘Gandhinagar Declaration’ has been adopted.

Considering these developments and the growing potential for a mutually beneficial defence partnership between India and Africa, the *Journal of Defence Studies*, a peer-reviewed journal of MP-IDSA, intends to bring out a special issue on

“India–Africa Defence Cooperation”, and is inviting contributions for the same. The special issue endeavours to explore and examine the existing common security challenges faced by India and Africa, the various dimensions of India–Africa defence cooperation and scope for new areas of cooperation in the defence and security sector.

Topics of interest:

- Defence Cooperation (regional or country-specific)
- Training/Capacity-building
- Common Maritime Security Threats
- Impact of the Pandemic on India–Africa Defence and Security Ties
- UN Peacekeeping Operations: Challenges and Prospects (country-specific, e.g., Democratic Republic of Congo)
- Evolving Threat of Terrorism and Terror Finance
- Defence Industry Cooperation