

AIKEYME 2025 – DEFENCE EXERCISE

NEWS: India, in partnership with nine African countries, launched a major naval exercise called **AIKEYME 2025** off the coast of **Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania**. This exercise, held over six days, is a significant step in enhancing **maritime security collaboration** between India and the African continent.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

What is AIKEYME?

- **AIKEYME** stands for **Africa-India Key Maritime Engagement**.
- It is a **multilateral naval exercise**, co-hosted by the **Indian Navy** and the **Tanzania People's Defence Force**.
- The **first edition** of this initiative marks a significant step in strengthening maritime collaboration between India and African nations.



2. Strategic Objectives of AIKEYME

- Aims to **promote maritime security** and **foster regional cooperation** in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- Part of India's vision to become a **Net Security Provider** in the IOR.

- Supports **South-South cooperation**, aligning with India's **Act East and Africa Policy**.
- Reinforces India's **MAHASAGAR Vision**:
“**Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions**”

3. Key Elements of the MAHASAGAR Vision

- **Strengthening ties with the Global South** by engaging with African littoral states.
- Promoting **collective maritime security** in shared waters.
- Enhancing **regional development** and maritime infrastructure through partnerships.

4. Participating Nations

- In addition to **India and Tanzania**, the participating African maritime nations include:
 - **Comoros**
 - **Djibouti**
 - **Eritrea**
 - **Kenya**
 - **Madagascar**
 - **Mauritius**
 - **Mozambique**
 - **Seychelles**
 - **South Africa**

5. Related India-Africa Defence Initiatives

a) India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD)

- Launched in **2020**, IADD serves as a platform for:
 - Enhancing cooperation in **maritime security**

- Addressing challenges in **cybersecurity** and **counter-terrorism**
- Facilitating **capacity-building** efforts

b) Africa-India Defence Ministers' Conference

- Aims to **deepen military synergy** and **defence cooperation** between India and African nations.
- Functions as part of a broader **regional cooperation framework**.

c) Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX)

- Conducted in **2019** at **Pune**, India.
- Featured the participation of **17 African countries**.
- Focused on **joint training**, **interoperability**, and **disaster response coordination**.

6. Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) Sagar Initiative

- A **new naval initiative** involving joint manning of an Indian Navy ship.
- **INS Sunayna**, an **Offshore Patrol Vessel**, will be crewed by:
 - **Indian sailors**
 - **44 personnel from 9 African partner countries**
- Reflects a **first-of-its-kind collaborative deployment**, promoting shared responsibilities in maritime governance.

7. Why AIKEYME Matters?

- Reinforces India's commitment to **maritime peace and security** in the IOR.
- Enhances **interoperability and trust-building** among Indian and African navies.
- Projects India's soft power and **strategic outreach** in Africa.
- Aligns with India's broader geopolitical goal of being a **responsible maritime actor** in the Global South.

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