

INDIA-UAE JOINT DEFENCE COOPERATION COMMITTEE MEETING: INTERNATIONAL RELATION

NEWS: India & UAE Commit to Deepening Defence Partnership at 13th Joint Defence Cooperation Committee Meeting

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

India and the UAE held the 13th Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting in New Delhi to deepen defence ties through joint manufacturing, technology co-development, and maritime collaboration. This reflects a broader strategic partnership encompassing regional security, defence innovation, and India's export ambitions.

13th India–UAE Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) Meeting

- The 13th JDCC meeting was held in **New Delhi**, reaffirming both nations' commitment to **enhancing bilateral defence cooperation**.
- The meeting highlighted **joint production, technology co-development, and institutional collaboration** in key maritime and defence areas.

Key Outcomes of the 13th JDCC Meeting

Joint Manufacturing

- India and UAE decided to **replicate the ICOMM–CARACAL model** (collaboration in small arms manufacturing).
- Focus on boosting **defence industrial collaboration** and indigenisation under India's **‘Make in India’** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat** vision.

Technology Co-Development

- Agreement to co-develop **next-gen defence technologies** in:
 - Artificial Intelligence (AI)
 - Autonomous platforms
 - Cybersecurity systems
- Reflects a shift toward **technology-sharing partnerships** rather than just arms transactions.

MoU between Indian Coast Guard & UAE National Guard

- Deepened cooperation in:
 - Search and Rescue (SAR)

- Anti-piracy operations
- Pollution control response
- Maritime Situational Awareness
- Enhances **maritime domain interoperability** and operational synergy.

Strategic Significance of the Defence Cooperation

Regional Stability and Trust

- India's **balanced foreign policy in West Asia** positions it as a **non-hegemonic stabilising force**.
- Builds trust among Gulf nations and contributes to **de-escalating regional conflicts**.

Maritime Security Collaboration

- UAE's **strategic location near the Strait of Hormuz** complements India's **naval presence in the Arabian Sea**.
- Strengthens:
 - Sea lane safety
 - Anti-piracy surveillance
 - Maritime trade route protection

Boost to India's Defence Exports

- Defence collaboration aligns with India's export target of **₹35,000 crore by 2025**.
- Promotes **indigenous defence production**, capacity-building, and **export partnerships**.

Overview of India–UAE Bilateral Relations

Political and Strategic Ties

- Diplomatic relations established in **1972**.
- Defence cooperation governed by the **2003 Agreement on Defence Cooperation**, effective from 2004.
- Regular **ministerial-level engagements** under JDCC framework.

Multilateral & Plurilateral Platforms

- Both countries are part of key strategic groupings:

- **I2U2** (India-Israel-UAE-USA)
- **UFI Trilateral** (UAE–France–India)
- UAE was a **Guest Country at G20 India Summit**, showing its diplomatic proximity to India.

Economic & Trade Engagements

- **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** signed in 2022.
- Post-CEPA impact:
 - **Bilateral trade nearly doubled** from USD 43.3 billion (2020–21) to USD 83.7 billion (2023–24).
- **UAE is India's second-largest export destination** (after the US) – \$31.61 billion in 2022–23.
- A new **Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)** was signed in 2024 to encourage and safeguard investments.

Space Cooperation

- **ISRO and UAE Space Agency MoU (2016):**
 - Cooperation in **peaceful uses of outer space**.
 - Focus on **satellite launches**, space R&D, and training.

Defence Exercises

- **Desert Cyclone 2024** marked a major milestone in joint military exercises.
- Symbolises **high-level military interoperability and trust**.

Indian Diaspora in UAE

- Indian community in UAE is approximately **3.5 million** strong.
- Constitutes **35% of UAE's population**, forming the **largest expatriate group**.
- Acts as a **people-to-people bridge** between the two nations.

Conclusion: Strategic Maturity in India–UAE Partnership

- India–UAE defence ties now span **joint manufacturing, innovation, maritime security, and regional stability**.
- The cooperation supports India's aim of a **rules-based multipolar order** in:

- **West Asia**
- **Indo-Pacific region**
- The partnership contributes to **strategic autonomy, economic security**, and a **collaborative regional architecture**.

Source:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2150322#:~:text=India%20and%20the%20United%20Arab,Delhi%20on%20July%2030%2C%202025>