

## **HC's SPEECH FOR DEFENCE EXHIBITION & SEMINAR-19 Jan 2026**

Her Excellency Soipan Tuya, Cabinet Secretary for Defence of Kenya and Chief Guest for today's event;

H.E Mr Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary, Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence India.

Dr Patrick Mariru, Principal Secretary Defence, Kenya

Lt Gen John M Omenda, Vice-Chief of Defence Forces;

Service Chiefs of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF);

Senior Generals, Heads of Organizations & Directorates ;

Representatives of FICCI and Indian Companies,

All KDF personnel, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

**Namaskar, Jambo, Good Morning!**

1. It is my great pleasure to welcome you all this morning for the 3rd edition of India-Kenya Defence Exhibition and Seminar being co-organised by High Commission of India and Kenya Defence Forces with the support of Department of Defence Production of Ministry of Defence of India. I thank the Hon'ble Cabinet Secretary for Defence of Kenya for gracing the occasion and for her constant support in our common endeavour of enhancing bilateral defence cooperation. The presence of the Head of Department of Defence Production of India H.E Sanjeev Kumar amongst us today is an indicator of the importance attached by the Government of India to such initiatives. I acknowledge the presence of senior KDF leadership and other KDF personnel for their participation in the event. And last but not the least, I thank representatives of FICCI and all Indian companies who have travelled all the way from India to make this event a reality.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

2. India and Kenya share an excellent bilateral relationship that is growing rapidly in many domains. Whether you talk of trade and investments, agriculture and health-care, technology and capacity-building, education and tourism or culture and people to people ties, our multifaceted ties are expanding in all such domains. The visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India H.E Narendra Modi to Kenya in 2016 and the visit of Hon'ble President of Kenya H.E William Ruto to India in 2023 has given strategic direction to our relations.

3. Today, Defence cooperation between India and Kenya stands as one of the prominent pillars of our bilateral cooperation. Let me recount some recent developments in this field. The enunciation of BAHARI maritime vision has added depth to our maritime cooperation. The regular port calls by Indian naval and Coast Guard ships at Kenyan ports reflects our shared confidence. The humanitarian assistance delivered through the Indian military aircrafts and naval ships during the Covid pandemic and the floods in 2024 are examples of our shared solidarity. Over 100 Kenyan candidates join different defence-related training programmes in India annually adding to the robust cooperation in capacity-building. In essence, India is ready and willing to upscale its defence partnership with Kenya in line with priorities of the Kenyan Defence Force. And this defence Exhibition and Seminar today is symbolic of that intention.

Esteemed dignitaries,

3. India's journey towards achieving self-reliance in Defence has been recent and one characterized by innovation and entrepreneurship to realize the vision of an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', i.e a 'Self-Reliant India'. Today, the Indian Defence Industry is rolling out state-of-art systems, advanced technologies and world class equipment, which range from aircraft to naval vessels, from electronic warfare systems to cyber security solutions, and from small arms to large caliber precision long range artillery systems, to name a few. Many of these are indigenously developed or in collaboration with a foreign partner through joint co-design, development and production. I am sure Secretary (Defence Production) will highlight India's journey in defence production, its philosophy, milestones and the growth in Indian defence exports in recent times.

4. The fact that we are hosting a third Defence exhibition in Kenya within a period of four years, underscores the value we attribute to our Kenyan partners. This event today, in fact stands dedicated to fostering collaboration and cooperation between our two great countries and is therefore themed as "Defence Collaboration for the resilient future". While it provides a platform for the Indian indigenous Defence industry to showcase its

growing capacities and technologically advanced weapon systems and equipment, it also provides an opportunity for the Kenyan Defence Forces to explore feasible, affordable and modern solutions, for infusion into their war fighting systems. I am confident that both sides will take advantage of this event today.

5. I once again thank the Cabinet Secretary for Defence for her kind presence today and agreeing to inaugurate this event with our visiting dignitary from India, the Secretary of Defence Production. I will fail in my duty if I do not underline the strong support received from the Department of Defence Production of India for organizing today's event and the hard work put in by my Defence Attache during the last few weeks in putting this event together.

Thank you.

**Asante ni Sana!**

**Jai Hind.**