IBSAMAR IX (2026): India–Brazil–South Africa maritime exercise, led by India

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News

IBSAMAR IX, the 9th trilateral exercise of the Indian, Brazilian and South African navies, began at South Africa's Simon's Town naval base on 12 Oct 2026. Hosted by South Africa, it is led by India. INS Tarkash (with a Chetak helicopter), Brazil's BNS Barroso and South African warships and a submarine are taking part. Theme: 'Stronger Together Towards a Shared Future in the Maritime Domain'.

Key facts

Edition	IBSAMAR IX (9th); began 12 Oct 2026
Venue	Simon's Town, Western Cape, South Africa (False Bay)
Lead	India – lead nation; South Africa – host
Indian ship	INS Tarkash – Talwar-class frigate (Yantar shipyard, Russia; commissioned 2012)
Drills	Surface, anti-air, anti-submarine warfare; VBSS boarding; anti-piracy; search and rescue

Background

- IBSAMAR – since 2008, usually every two years. IBSA Dialogue Forum – 'Brasilia Declaration', 6 June 2003. All three are members of BRICS and the G20.
- Geography: Simon's Town is near the Cape of Good Hope, where the Atlantic meets the Indian Ocean. In 1498 Vasco da Gama rounded this cape to reach Calicut.
- En route, INS Tarkash called at Victoria (Seychelles) and Mombasa (Kenya).

Tamil Nadu link: a large Tamil-origin community lives in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal (Durban) – including Navi Pillay, the 2026 Peace Nobel laureate. Thillaiyadi Valliammai took part in Gandhi's satyagraha in South Africa.

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