



**High Commission of India  
Windhoek**

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**Press Release**

**India-Funded Advanced Networking Laboratory Inaugurated at School of Signals, Okahandja on Monday, 23 March 2026**

The Government of India under its continuous development partnership initiatives with the Government of Namibia and its support in capacity building & skill development for the Namibians, established "Advanced Network Laboratory" at the School of Signals, Osona Military Base, (Namibian Defence Force). This is a part of Defence Diplomacy Fund Projects of the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.

The Advanced Network Lab was inaugurated by Hon'ble Dr. Charles Mubita, Deputy Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs of Namibia in the gracious presence of Hon'ble Jenelly Matundu, Dy. Minister of International Relations & Trade and Air Marshal Martin Pinehas, Chief of the Defence Force; H.E. Mr. Rahul Shrivastava, High Commissioner of India to Namibia; and witnessed by the Distinguished Guests, Senior Government Officers of the Ministries and Namibian Defence Force.

The state-of-the-art Advanced Network Lab is equipped with the PCs, Smart boards, Projectors & related IT equipment, furniture and installation with latest technological configuration. In addition to the networking laboratory, five classrooms at the institution were upgraded with smart boards, projectors, and speaker systems as part of the project. The project cost was NAD 1 million. Implementation of the project was coordinated by Col. Rajiv Lohani, Military Advisor (Defence Works) and Col Gagandeep Malhotra, Military Advisor (Information & Communication Technology) with support from the High Commission of India and School of Signals.

Speaking on this occasion, H.E. Rahul Shrivastava, High Commissioner of India emphasised the central role of training in strengthening defence cooperation between the two nations. He noted that approximately 80 Namibian Defence Force personnel travel to India annually for specialised courses under the ITEC programme, and described the laboratory as a natural extension of India's broader commitment to capacity building in Namibia. "Training is the foundation of any capable defence force, and India is proud to be a partner in that journey".

Speaking at the event, Hon'ble Charles Mubita described the facility as a reflection of the strong and growing defence ties between Namibia and India. He noted that the project was a concrete demonstration of India's commitment to building the capabilities of the Namibian Defence Force, and urged both nations to continue exploring new avenues of cooperation. "This is not just an investment in equipment — it is an investment in the men and women who serve this country in uniform," he said, adding that the Government remained committed to the modernisation of the NDF's training infrastructure.

Hon'ble Jenelly Matundu lauded the role of the Government of India in development partnership initiatives and noted that the partnership continues to contribute to national development. The two nations share a deep historical bond forged in a struggle for independence rooted in shared democratic values and strengthened by mutual commitment to peace, security and sustainable development. This cooperation encompasses capacity building; technology exchange and joint efforts in maritime & cyber security of which are the key areas in safeguarding our sovereignty and promoting mutual prosperity.

Air Marshal Pinehas commended the Indian Military Advisors and the Directorate of ICT for their role in delivering the project, noting that the Indian teams had integrated seamlessly into the NDF and had taken a keen interest in its overall development. He highlighted the comprehensive nature of the project, which includes furniture, UPS systems, and lifetime software licences, describing it as a benchmark for future cooperation. The CDF also acknowledged the ITEC programme under which Namibian personnel receive specialised training in India, and expressed hope that opportunities for senior officers would be expanded in the years ahead.

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