

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Exercise 'Dharma Guardian'

- The 7th edition of the annual Joint Military Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) commenced today at the Foreign Training Node, Chaubattia in Uttarakhand. The exercise will be conducted from 24 February to 9 March 2026.
- This edition brings together a 120-member contingent from each side, with the JGSDF represented by troops from the 32nd Infantry Regiment and the Indian Army contingent drawn from the Ladakh Scouts. The exercise is held alternately in India and Japan and remains a key pillar of defence cooperation between the two nations.
- The aim of Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' is to strengthen military collaboration and enhance combined capabilities to undertake joint operations in a semi-urban environment.
- **Key tactical activities during the exercise include:**
 - Establishing a Temporary Operating Base
 - Developing an Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) grid
 - Setting up Mobile Vehicle Check Posts
 - Conducting Cordon and Search Operations in hostile environment
 - Executing Heliborne Operations
 - Undertaking House Intervention Drills



Exercise Agni Varsha

- The Indian Army, under the aegis of Headquarters Southern Command, conducted Exercise Agni Varsha at the Pokhran Field Firing Ranges to validate operational preparedness and integrated combat capabilities in the Desert Sector.
- The exercise focused on coordinated employment of combined arms, precision long-range fires and network-enabled command and control in a realistic battlefield setting.
- The Integrated Fire and Manoeuvre Exercise showcased the combat effectiveness of mechanised forces operating in synergy across multiple domains.
- Foreign defence journalists from twenty-five countries witnessed the demonstration, gaining first-hand insight into the speed, precision and decisive firepower of the Indian Army's Combined Arms Forces in the Thar Desert.
- The Integrated Manoeuvre Force comprised Main Battle Tanks (T-90), Infantry Combat Vehicles, K-9 Vajra, Sharang and Bofors artillery systems, rocket platforms, indigenous ALH Weapon System Integrated helicopters, Apache attack helicopters and a range of surveillance and strike drones, the release noted.



Exercise Kharga Shakti 2026

- The Army's 'Exercise Kharga Shakti 2026', concluded on the western front here showcasing operational preparedness, an official statement said.
- According to the statement, the exercise tested the corps under varied and challenging battlefield conditions and assessed its ability to combine mobility, firepower and technology into effective combat power.
- Ashni (Fire) Platoons, Divyastra Battery and Shaktibaan Regiments played a key role by carrying out coordinated deployment, surveillance and precision fire tasks, the Indian Army's statement added.
- The exercise also highlighted the corps' growing capability to operate in a technology-driven battlefield with the help of advanced sensors, secure communication networks and modern protection systems, enabling faster decision-making, it said.



10th India-Israel Joint Working Group Meeting

- The 10th meeting of the India-Israel Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism (CT) was held in New Delhi.
- As per the release, Joint Secretary (Counter Terrorism) in the Ministry of External Affairs of India, Vinod Bahade, and Head of Bureau, Strategic Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel, Nadav Eschar, led their respective delegations.
- The meeting underscored the importance of bilateral cooperation in countering terrorism, reflecting the spirit and breadth of the India-Israel Strategic Partnership. Both sides unequivocally and strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism and reaffirmed the principle of zero tolerance towards terrorism.
- Both sides emphasised that confronting terrorism requires concerted action in a sustained and comprehensive manner. Against this backdrop, the two sides renewed their commitment to strengthening multilateral cooperation in the field of countering terrorism, including in the UN, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and other multilateral platforms.



Inbound Aerospace Commits ₹100 Crores

- Inbound Aerospace, a burgeoning player in India's aerospace sector, has inked a pivotal memorandum of understanding to set up a cutting-edge manufacturing facility in Chennai. This ambitious venture carries an investment of ₹100 crores and targets the production of recoverable and reusable spacecraft systems along with their critical subsystems.
- The move underscores the rapid expansion of private sector involvement in India's space and aerospace ecosystem, aligning with national goals for self-reliance under initiatives like Make in India.
- Located in the bustling industrial hub of Chennai, Tamil Nadu, the facility promises to bolster the region's stature as a key aerospace manufacturing centre. Tamil Nadu already hosts major players such as HAL and several DRDO-linked units, making it an ideal locale for advanced aerospace projects.
- Employment generation stands out as a significant outcome of this project. The facility anticipates creating over 40 direct high-skilled jobs, with the initial phase alone promising 60 positions.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' 2026 was conducted between India and which country?

- A. United States
- B. Israel
- C. Japan
- D. France

ANSWER: C

2. The 7th edition of Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' was held at which location in India?

- A. Pokhran Field Firing Ranges
- B. Chaubattia, Uttarakhand
- C. Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- D. Leh, Ladakh

ANSWER: B

3. Exercise Agni Varsha was conducted to validate India's preparedness primarily in which sector?

- A. Mountain Warfare Sector
- B. Desert Sector
- C. Coastal Defence Sector
- D. Jungle Warfare Sector

ANSWER: B

4. Which of the following platforms was part of the Integrated Manoeuvre Force during Exercise Agni Varsha?

- A. Rafale Fighter Jets
- B. INS Vikrant
- C. T-90 Main Battle Tanks
- D. Tejas Mk-2

ANSWER: C

5. The 10th India–Israel Joint Working Group Meeting focused primarily on cooperation in which area?

- A. Climate Change
- B. Maritime Security
- C. Counter Terrorism
- D. Space Technology

ANSWER: C

6. Inbound Aerospace's new manufacturing facility in Chennai will primarily focus on the production of:

- A. Fighter Aircraft Engines
- B. Submarine Propulsion Systems
- C. Reusable Spacecraft Systems
- D. Ballistic Missile Components

ANSWER: C

7. Udarshakti Is A Bilateral Exercise Which Is Held Between India And Which Other Country?

- A. Malaysia
- B. Singapore
- C. Russia
- D. Japan

ANSWER: A

8. What Is The Name Of The Submarine Which Has been Decommissioned From The Indian Navy?

- A.** INS Rajput
- B.** INS Nishank
- C.** INS Sindhudhvaj
- D.** INS Ranjit

ANSWER: C

9. Heron MK II Is A

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. UAV
- D. Fighter Jet

ANSWER: C

10. Chabahar Port Is Located In

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. Iran

ANSWER: D

11. SCO Member Countries Contribute About ___Of Global GDP.

- A. 30%
- B. 40%
- C. 50%
- D. 60%

ANSWER: A

12. Pratap Chandra Lal Was A Former Chief Of

- A. IAF
- B. Indian Army
- C. Indian Navy
- D. BSF

ANSWER: A

13. Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission Is A Space Agency Of

- A. USA
- B. Pakistan
- C. China
- D. Bhutan

ANSWER: B

14. RS-28 Sarmat "Satan 2" is a

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. Missile
- D. Fighter Jet

ANSWER: C

15. BELMOPAN Is The Capital Of

- A. BELIZE
- B. BENIN
- C. BHUTAN
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

16. "The Living Mountain" Book Is Written By

- A. JK Rowling
- B. Aakash Ranison
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. Amitav Ghosh

ANSWER: D

17. Joint Exercises B/w India And Sri Lanka Is Called:

- A. Ashoka
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. MITRA SHAKTI

ANSWER: D

18. India Purchased Sig Sauer assault rifles from

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

19. India Purchased Romeo 64 Helicopter from

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. Russia

ANSWER: A

20. Which Is Not The Member Of BIMSTEC?

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Bhutan
- C. India
- D. Pakistan

ANSWER: D