

Daily Current Affairs

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Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026

- The 5th edition of the India-Australia Joint Military Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026 commenced today at the Foreign Training Node, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- The exercise, being conducted from 19 October to 01 November 2026, will witness participation of approximately 120 personnel each from the Indian Army and Australian Army. The fourth edition was held at Irwin Barracks, Perth, Australia, from 13 to 26 October 2025.
- The Indian Army contingent comprises troops from the Garhwal Rifles, along with personnel from other arms and services, while the Australian Army contingent comprises troops from 13 Brigade.
- Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026 will further strengthen military-to-military cooperation, interoperability and mutual trust between India and Australia. It will reinforce their shared commitment towards peace, stability and security in the Indo-Pacific region.



SWAVLAMBAN 2026

- The Curtain Raiser Press Conference for the fifth edition of the Indian Navy's flagship Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Seminar, Swavlamban 2026, was conducted in New Delhi on 19 Oct 2026 under the chairmanship of VAdm Ajay Kochhar, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS).
- The annual NIIO Seminar Swavlamban is scheduled to be conducted on 26 and 27 Oct 2026 at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.
- Swavlamban 2026 will build upon the Indian Navy's continuing efforts to translate indigenous technological innovation into operational capabilities and strengthen the foundations of Aatmanirbharta.
- The seminar will bring together innovators, industry partners, Start-ups, MSMEs, academia, investors and the Defence Forces to explore collaborative solutions for emerging maritime security challenges.
- The exhibition at Swavlamban 2026 will include thematic areas, showcasing indigenous innovations that have emerged as success stories, covering niche technologies in Maritime Surveillance, Counter-UAS, Artificial Intelligence and Quantum, NBCD, Safety and Efficiency Enhancers.
- Swavlamban 2026 will also witness release of the Swavlamban 5.0 Document, the Compendium on Technology Imperatives, and the Naval Unified Systems, Ethernet and Tactical Utilisation (NAUSETU) Interface Standards.



India to Host First SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum

- India will host the first SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum by the end of 2026. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced the plan on 20 October 2026 at the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, and invited all member countries to participate.
- PM Narendra Modi proposed creating the forum at the SCO summit in Tianjin in 2025. Its stated aims include strengthening people-to-people ties and sharing the heritage of ancient civilisations, art, literature and traditions. The forum is designed as a platform for dialogue among SCO member countries.
- The initiative forms part of the organisation's broader programme of cooperation. India has been a full member of the SCO since 2017 and participates in its mechanisms. The 2026 announcement was made during the Council of Heads of Government meeting, attended by representatives of member states.
- The SCO is a Eurasian intergovernmental organisation established in 2001. Its membership includes India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran and Belarus. The organisation's two official languages are Chinese and Russian.
- Its permanent bodies include the Secretariat in Beijing and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) Executive Committee in Tashkent.
- The Council of Heads of Government (CHG) is an SCO mechanism responsible for promoting economic and other practical cooperation among member states. At its 25th meeting in Dushanbe on 20 October 2026, the heads of delegation adopted a joint communiqué that included the SCO budget for 2027 and the PMTEC Action Plan for 2026–2030.



India, US Share "Extraordinary Alignment" On Core Issues: Marco Rubio

- Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Tuesday said there is an "extraordinary alignment" between India and the US on the core issues that matter even though there can be disagreements on some others.
- Speaking at the 'Freedom 250' reception here during his two-day visit to India, Rubio cited the need to have a "free and open" Indo-Pacific where no nation can claim dominance or ownership on international shipping as among the core issues of alignment.
- "Of course there will be times and points of disagreement, but on the core issues that matter, the core issues that define the national interest of both India and the United States, the alignment between our countries is extraordinary, especially for two countries of this size," Rubio, who is on a second visit to the country in three months, said.
- US President Donald Trump feels US exports to India attract a lot higher duties than the Indian exports into his country leading to the tariff moves, while his administration has also got a law enacted to slap penal tariffs on countries importing Russian oil and on immigration, a slew of measures have been attempted to help local jobseekers in the US.
- On US Tariffs
- The US Secretary of State acknowledged that Washington's threat to target nations buying Russian energy with up to 100 per cent tariffs could affect bilateral ties with New Delhi but insisted the move was not to "harm India".

- Pointing to the waiver announced by President Trump last week, Rubio said, "None of these tariffs are meant to punish or harm India. They are part of a broader foreign policy that, unfortunately, involves a war going on between Russia and Ukraine that we would like to see come to an end."
- "And I'm sure you saw it in our media and our political system (that), when the President issued those waivers and did not impose the tariffs required under a law passed by our Congress, he got criticism for doing it. But one of the reasons why he didn't impose them is because he understands that it would have a very detrimental impact on a very important relationship with India," he added.
- On Visa Curbs
- When asked about the Trump administration's anti-immigrant rhetoric, which comes off as antagonistic towards Indians, the US leader said the measures were "not targeted" at any nation.
- "And this is not about India, this applies globally... We are trying to fix 20 years of neglect of an immigration system that was simply not being enforced, and that's not targeted at India."
- "I know that from your perspective here in India, it may seem targeted at India,(but) it's not. There is virtually no country on Earth that I visit where I don't get a complaint about some visa or process, because we are fixing it globally. Once it's fixed, it will be far more sustainable. I actually think it will be better for the people using those programmes and right and good for the United States," he added.



Defence Secretary Launches New DBIM-Compliant MoD and DoD Websites

- Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh launched the revamped websites of Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Department of Defence (DoD) on October 19, 2026. The modern, accessible and user-friendly platforms are fully compliant with the Digital Brand Identity Manual (DBIM) 3.0 and the Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (GIGW) 3.0.
- The websites provide seamless access to information on MoD policies, initiatives, activities, notifications, defence-related updates and other important resources for citizens, stakeholders and users. The content is available in 22 Indian official languages, ensuring wider outreach and improved accessibility. The website can be accessed at www.mod.gov.in.
- The initiative aligns with the Government's vision of Digital India and e-Governance, promoting transparency, efficiency, accessibility and citizen-centric delivery of information through a secure and modern digital platform.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

Q1. The fifth edition of Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026 is being conducted between India and which country?

- A) France
- B) Australia
- C) Japan
- D) United States

Correct Answer: B) Australia

2. Where is Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026 being conducted?

- A) Pune, Maharashtra
- B) Perth, Australia
- C) Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- D) Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Correct Answer: C) Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

3. SWAVLAMBAN 2026 is the flagship seminar of which organisation?

- A) Indian Air Force
- B) Indian Navy
- C) Defence Research and Development Organisation
- D) Indian Coast Guard

Correct Answer: B) Indian Navy

4. Where will SWAVLAMBAN 2026 be held?

- A) Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
- B) Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi
- C) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- D) Naval Dockyard, Mumbai

Correct Answer: B) Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi

5. Who proposed the creation of the SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum at the SCO Summit in Tianjin in 2025?

- A) Rajnath Singh
- B) Narendra Modi
- C) Amit Shah
- D) S. Jaishankar

Correct Answer: B) Narendra Modi

6. In which year was the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) established?

- A) 1995
- B) 1999
- C) 2001
- D) 2005

Correct Answer: C) 2001

7. Who is the current US Secretary of State mentioned in the report on India–US relations?

- A) Antony Blinken
- B) Marco Rubio
- C) Mike Pompeo
- D) John Kerry

Correct Answer: B) Marco Rubio

8. Which of the following was highlighted as a major area of strategic alignment between India and the United States?

- A) Exclusive control over international shipping
- B) A free and open Indo-Pacific
- C) Ending all bilateral trade
- D) Restricting maritime cooperation

Correct Answer: B) A free and open Indo-Pacific

9. The redesigned Ministry of Defence and Department of Defence websites comply with which standards?

- A) DBIM 3.0 and GIGW 3.0
- B) ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 only
- C) Digital India 1.0 and GIGW 1.0
- D) DBIM 2.0 and GIGW 2.0

Correct Answer: A) DBIM 3.0 and GIGW 3.0

10. In how many Indian official languages is content available on the redesigned Ministry of Defence and Department of Defence websites?

- A) 12
- B) 18
- C) 22
- D) 24

Correct Answer: C) 22

11. C-130J Super Hercules Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Transport Aircraft

ANSWER: D

12. "Secure Application for Internet (SAI)" Has Been Developed By

- A.** IAF
- B.** Indian Army
- C.** ICG
- D.** NSG

ANSWER: B

13. Joint Exercises B/w The India And Nepal Is Called:

- A. Surya Kiran
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: A

14. Hq Of Mazagaon Dockyard Limited Is In

- A. New Delhi
- B. Mumbai
- C. Chennai
- D. Kolkata

ANSWER: B

15. "Battle Ready for 21st Century" Book Is Written By

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. Geetanjali Shree's
- C. Richa Mishra
- D. Lt Gen AK Singh and Brig. Narendra Kumar

ANSWER: D

16. Where Is The Hq Of The Eastern Command of The Indian Navy?

- A. Kochi
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Pune
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: B

17. Joint Exercises B/w The India And USA Is Called:

- A. Surya Kiran
- B. Vajra Prahar
- C. Yudha Abhyas
- D. Both B & C

ANSWER: D

18. In IAF Flights are sub-divisions of squadrons, commanded by a__.

- A. Squadron Leader
- B. Flying Officer
- C. Air Marshal
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

19. DRDO Lakshya Is A

- A. Fighter Jet

- B. Ship
- C. Tank
- D. UAV

ANSWER: D

20. Exercise Samudra Shakti Conducted B/w Indonesia &

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

ANSWER: A