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Exercise Harimau Shakti–VI 2026

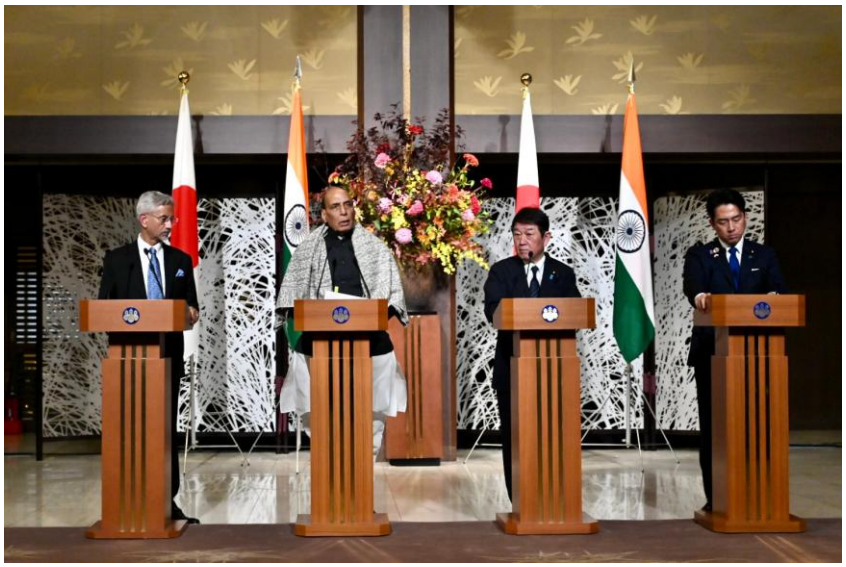
- The 6th edition of India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI commenced today at Ipoh, Malaysia. The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 19 to 30 November 2026.
- The contingent of both countries comprises of 120 personnel each. Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI is a bilateral military training event conducted alternately in India and Malaysia.
- The aim of the exercise is to jointly rehearse the conduct of sub-conventional operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations mandate, with particular emphasis on synergising responses during counter-terrorism operations.
- The exercise will focus on coordinated operations in jungle and semi-urban terrain, incorporating joint planning, tactical coordination and the employment of emerging technologies to enhance interoperability and operational effectiveness.
- The exercise will be conducted in progressive phases, beginning with cross-training and familiarisation with each other's operational procedures, followed by joint tactical drills.
- The exercise will culminate in a joint validation exercise involving a simulated Counter-Terrorism scenario, incorporating coordinated ground operations, integrated surveillance and employment of unmanned systems.
- Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI will provide an opportunity for both Armies to exchange best practices in tactics, techniques and procedures, while enhancing interoperability and mutual understanding.



Joint Statement : Fourth India-Japan 2+2 Meeting

- Rajnath Singh, MEA Dr S Jaishankar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr Motegi Toshimitsu and Minister of Defence of Japan Mr Koizumi Shinjiro held the fourth India-Japan 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo on November 19, 2026.
- The Ministers underscored the growing strategic convergence and trust between the two countries in an increasingly complex and uncertain international environment and stressed the importance of closer coordination under the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership in addressing present geopolitical, economic and security challenges.
- As leading democracies and major economies of the world, the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining and strengthening an international order which is free, open and based on the rule of law, respect for principles of national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and peaceful resolution of disputes without resorting to threat or use of force.
- The Ministers appreciated and committed to enhancing the synergy between the Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI) & Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions (MAHASAGAR) and the updated "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" that contributes to a peaceful, prosperous and resilient Indo-Pacific.

- The Ministers welcomed the growing defence and security partnership between both countries in line with the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation, adopted at the last Annual Summit in August 2025.
- The Ministers expressed their expectation for an early formulation of the UNICORN related arrangements, and the AoN by India by February 2027 and looked forward to further strengthening of defence industrial cooperation under the framework of "**Design with Japan, Make in India**".



MOU Between THE IAF And Central Sanskrit University

- IAF and Central Sanskrit University (CSU), New Delhi signed a MOU to facilitate access to structured learning and certification opportunities in Yoga for Agniveervayu.
- The MOU signing ceremony was held at Air Headquarters and was chaired by Air Officer-in-charge Personnel. The MOU was signed by Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Education), on behalf on the IAF, and Hon'ble Vice-chancellor, Central Sanskrit University, on behalf of CSU.
- This collaboration marks another significant step in the IAF's continued endeavours towards capacity building, skill enhancement and facilitating wider educational opportunities for Agniveervayu through collaborations with higher education institutions.



SG Defence Secures Pinaka MK-I Rocket Nozzle Manufacturing Contract

- Panchkula-based SG Defence Private Limited has secured an order to manufacture nozzles for the indigenous Pinaka MK-I rocket system, marking another milestone in the company's growing presence within India's defence manufacturing sector.
- The contract strengthens SG Defence's role in the domestic defence industrial base and aligns with the broader national objective of achieving greater self-reliance in critical military technologies and production capabilities.
- The company described the development as "a new order, a new responsibility, and another milestone in our manufacturing journey". It noted that the opportunity would allow it to contribute directly to an indigenous defence program while further enhancing its expertise in specialised component manufacturing.
- Rocket nozzles are among the most critical components of any rocket propulsion system. They regulate and direct the flow of high-temperature exhaust gases, making them essential to overall performance, flight stability and operational reliability.
- The Pinaka weapon system, developed by the DRDO has become one of India's most important artillery assets. Designed as a multi-barrel rocket launcher

system for the Indian Army, Pinaka provides rapid-fire battlefield support and can deliver a salvo of rockets within seconds.

- The Pinaka MK-I variant has an operational range of approximately **37.5 kilometres**, while enhanced and newer variants have significantly extended reach.

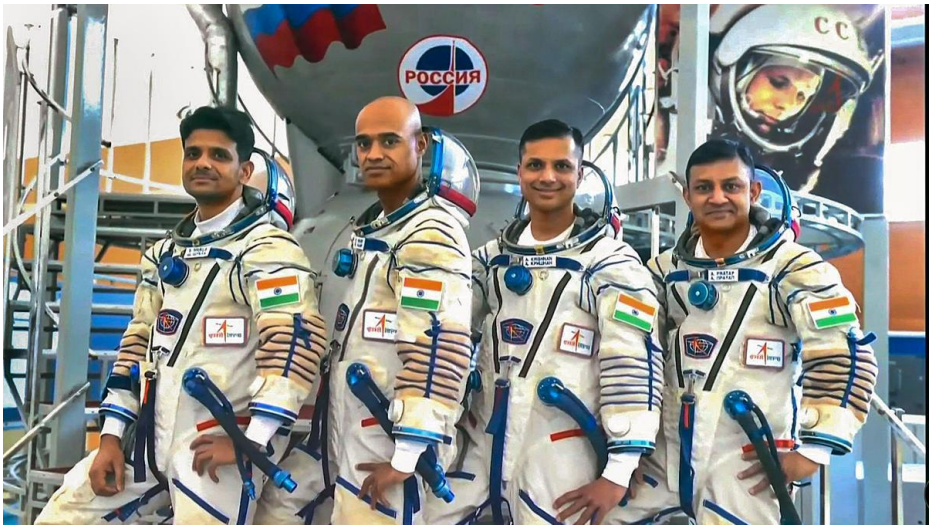


ISRO Reveals Four Gaganyaan Astronaut Candidates Training

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has formally revealed the four astronaut candidates currently undergoing training for the Gaganyaan mission, marking a significant milestone in India's ambitions for human spaceflight.
- The team comprises Group Captain Shubanshu Shukla, Group Captain Prashanth Balakrishnan Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, and Wing Commander Angad Prathap. Their selection represents a major step forward for India's space aspirations and places a new generation of Indian Gagannauts firmly on the global spaceflight stage.
- All four candidates come from backgrounds as highly trained Indian Air Force test pilots. ISRO selected personnel with extensive experience in demanding flight operations because they are accustomed to managing extreme and rapidly changing conditions, including high-speed manoeuvres, sudden pressure variations, and other high-stress scenarios.
- The agency also valued their ability to work closely with engineers while evaluating advanced aerospace systems. Such experience is considered essential

for crewed space missions, where technical expertise, discipline, and the ability to respond effectively under pressure are critical.

- The Gaganyaan project is designed to demonstrate India's indigenous human spaceflight capability by sending a crew into low-Earth orbit and returning them safely to Earth.
- The mission is expected to be a landmark achievement for the country's space sector and a key step towards more advanced crewed exploration activities in the future.
- The announcement of the astronaut candidates highlights the progress India has made in developing the technologies, infrastructure, and human expertise needed for sustained participation in human space exploration.



Exercise Sahayata Setu 2026

- The Indian Air Force, under the aegis of Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) and Headquarters Southwestern Air Command (HQ SWAC), successfully conducted the multinational Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise Sahayata Setu 2026 at Air Force Station Jamnagar from 17 to 19 November 2026. The exercise was undertaken in coordination with participating national agencies and Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs).
- The exercise culminated with a Multi-Agency Capability Demonstration (MACD), showcasing coordinated disaster response capabilities, followed by interactions with delegates from participating Friendly Foreign Countries.
- General N S Raja Subramani, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, Chief of Defence Staff graced the occasion as the Chief Guest accompanied by esteemed dignitaries including Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, PVSM, AVSM, VM, VSM, Chief of Air

Staff, Shri Arjun Modhwadia, Minister of Forest & Environment, Govt of Gujarat, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, South Western Air Command and other senior military and civil dignitaries, media personnel and school children.

- Exercise Sahayata Setu 2026 adopted a multi-faceted approach to enhance collective preparedness and foster mutual learning. The seminar facilitated knowledge sharing and exchange of expertise; the Tabletop Exercise (TTX) provided a collaborative platform for decision-making and response planning in simulated disaster scenarios; the static display enabled technical familiarisation with equipment and capabilities; while the Multi Agency Capability Demonstration (MACD) offered a practical demonstration of selected operational capabilities and inter-agency coordination across land, air and maritime domains. Together, the MACD provided a comprehensive platform for strengthening cooperation, enhancing understanding and building collective response capacity.
- The exercise also witnessed a meeting of the QUAD HADR Working Group, reaffirming the shared commitment of participating nations towards advancing coordinated disaster response mechanisms and strengthening regional capacity building under the QUAD HADR partnership.
- Speaking to the media, CDS emphasised that Disaster Relief required a coordinated "whole - of - nation" approach. He also highlighted that India acts as a dependable first responder in the Indo - Pacific and IOR, guided by its "Neighborhood First" policy and the vision of 'Mahasagar.'



REVIEW QUESTIONS

Q1. The 6th edition of Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI 2026 is being conducted between which two countries?

A) India and Indonesia
B) India and Malaysia
C) India and Thailand
D) India and Singapore

Answer: B) India and Malaysia

Q2. Where is Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI–VI 2026 being conducted?

A) Kuala Lumpur
B) New Delhi

C) Ipoh
D) Johor Bahru

Answer: C) Ipoh

Q3. The fourth India–Japan 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting was held in which city?

A) New Delhi
B) Osaka
C) Tokyo
D) Kyoto

Answer: C) Tokyo

Q4. Which framework was highlighted for strengthening India–Japan defence industrial cooperation?

A) Make in India, Buy in Japan
B) Design with Japan, Make in India
C) Atmanirbhar Japan, Make in India
D) Design in India, Export to Japan

Answer: B) Design with Japan, Make in India

Q5. The Indian Air Force signed an MoU with Central Sanskrit University to provide which facility to Agniveervayu personnel?

A) Technical training
B) Language certification
C) Yoga learning and certification
D) Aviation engineering courses

Answer: C) Yoga learning and certification

Q6. SG Defence Private Limited secured a manufacturing contract for which component of the Pinaka weapon system?

A) Rocket guidance system
B) Rocket nozzles
C) Launch vehicle engines
D) Radar systems

Answer: B) Rocket nozzles

Q7. What is the approximate operational range of the Pinaka MK-I rocket system?

A) 25 km
B) 30 km
C) 37.5 km
D) 50 km

Answer: C) 37.5 km

Q8. Which of the following is NOT among the four Gaganyaan astronaut candidates named in the supplied material?

A) Group Captain Shubanshu Shukla
B) Group Captain Ajit Krishnan
C) Wing Commander Angad Prathap
D) Group Captain Abhinandan Varthaman

Answer: D) Group Captain Abhinandan Varthaman

Q9. Exercise SAHAYATA SETU 2026 was conducted at which location?

A) Air Force Station Jamnagar
B) Air Force Station Pune
C) Air Force Station Jodhpur
D) Air Force Station Hindon

Answer: A) Air Force Station Jamnagar

Q10. Which working group meeting was also held during Exercise SAHAYATA SETU 2026?

A) ASEAN Defence Working Group
B) QUAD HADR Working Group
C) BRICS Security Working Group
D) SCO Counter-Terrorism Working Group

Answer: B) QUAD HADR Working Group