India–Republic of Korea naval exercise: INS Sahyadri arrives at Busan

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News

Indian Navy stealth frigate INS Sahyadri arrived at Busan Naval Harbour on 26 Oct 2026 for the India–Republic of Korea (South Korea) Navy bilateral exercise (IN–RoKN). The harbour phase has professional interactions, cross-deck visits, cross-training and sports; the ship's Commanding Officer will call on senior RoKN officials. In the sea phase, the ship will carry out coordinated maritime drills with ROKS Munmu the Great. Before this, the ship took part in INDRA 2026 at Vladivostok, Russia (13–18 Oct) and left on 20 Oct.

Key facts

Arrival	26 Oct 2026 – Busan Naval Harbour, South Korea
Exercise	IN–RoKN bilateral exercise – harbour phase + sea phase
Indian ship	INS Sahyadri – Shivalik-class (Project-17) stealth frigate; commissioned 2012; Eastern Fleet, Visakhapatnam
Korean ship	ROKS Munmu the Great (destroyer)
First edition	Oct 2025 – Busan; INS Sahyadri + ROKS Gyeongnam

Earlier drill	INDRA 2026 (India–Russia), Vladivostok, 13–18 Oct

Background

- India–South Korea ties: full diplomatic relations in 1973; the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in force from 1 Jan 2010; upgraded to a 'Special Strategic Partnership' during PM Modi's Seoul visit in May 2015.
- History: in 1929 Rabindranath Tagore praised Korea as 'The Lamp of the East'. In the Korean War (1950–53) India sent the 60th Parachute Field Ambulance; after the 1953 armistice, Lt Gen. K.S. Thimayya chaired the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission (NNRC) for prisoners of war, and Maj. Gen. S.P.P. Thorat led the Custodian Force (India).
- Geography: Busan, at the south-eastern tip of the Korean peninsula, is South Korea's largest port and second-largest city. The Korea Strait (with Tsushima island in the middle) separates Korea from Japan. The Yellow Sea lies to the west of the peninsula and the Sea of Japan (East Sea) to the east.
- Policy: 'Look East' policy – 1991, PM P.V. Narasimha Rao; upgraded to 'Act East' in 2014; Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) in 2019. Eastern Fleet ships are regularly deployed to the South China Sea and the Pacific.

Tamil Nadu link: this news has no direct Tamil Nadu link. But Tamil Nadu is a key base for South Korean firms – Hyundai Motor India's car plant at Irungattukottai (near Sriperumbudur) and Samsung's electronics plant at Sriperumbudur.

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