India–US tri-service HADR exercise 'Tiger Triumph 2026' (5th edition) opens at Visakhapatnam

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News

The opening ceremony of 'Tiger Triumph 2026', the bilateral India–US tri-service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) amphibious exercise, was held at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, on 2 Nov 2026. It is the 5th edition of the series begun in 2019; this time it is a Tabletop Exercise (TTX) at the Maritime Warfare Centre. It aims at joint planning, coordination and interoperability for large-scale disaster response. Along with the Indian Navy, Army, Air Force and tri-service special forces, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is taking part for the first time; the US side has Air Force, Army, Marine Corps and Navy personnel plus space, cyber, medical and explosive-ordnance-disposal specialists. Rear Adm. Vishal Bishnoi, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, and Rear Adm. Joaquin Martinez de Pinillos, Vice Commander, US Pacific Fleet, spoke at the opening.

Key facts

Exercise	Tiger Triumph 2026 – 5th edition; India–US tri-service HADR amphibious exercise
Opening	2 Nov 2026 – Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (end date not announced)
Format	Tabletop Exercise (TTX) – Maritime Warfare Centre, Visakhapatnam; NDRF takes part for the first time

Past editions	2019 (first), 2022 (tabletop), 2024, 2025 – sea phase at Kakinada (2019, 2024, 2025)
2025 edition	Apr 2025; INS Jalashwa, Gharial, Mumbai; US ships Comstock, Ralph Johnson

Background

- History: the first Tiger Triumph (13–21 Nov 2019) was India's first tri-service exercise with the US – harbour phase at Visakhapatnam, sea phase at Kakinada, with INS Jalashwa, Airavat, Sandhayak and USS Germantown.
- Other India–US exercises: Yudh Abhyas (armies), Vajra Prahar (special forces), Cope India (air forces), Malabar (navies; now with Japan and Australia).
- Defence: INS Jalashwa – the former USS Trenton – an amphibious Landing Platform Dock commissioned into the Indian Navy on 22 June 2007; home port Visakhapatnam.
- Geography: Kakinada is a port city in the Godavari delta region on the Andhra coast; the Coringa mangroves lie close by.

Tamil Nadu link: disaster relief, the core of this exercise, is a direct lesson for Tamil Nadu – in the 26 Dec 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Nagapattinam was Tamil Nadu's worst-hit district (about 6,065 deaths). India then enacted the Disaster Management Act, 2005; the 4th Battalion of the NDRF formed under it is at Arakkonam (Ranipet district).

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