India and Myanmar begin naval exercise IMNEX-26

Topics: Defence & Security · UPSC Prelims · TNPSC · SSC · Current Affairs



News

The 8th India–Myanmar Naval Exercise (IMNEX-26) began at Visakhapatnam on 10 Nov 2026 and runs till 14 Nov. India fielded INS Rana and INS Sumedha; Myanmar sent UMS King Sin Phyu Shin. The opening ceremony was held aboard INS Rana.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Edition	8th (IMNEX-26)
Venue	Visakhapatnam (Eastern Naval Command HQ)
Phases	Harbour phase (expert exchanges, cross-deck visits, sports); sea phase (coordinated operations, manoeuvres)
Vision	MAHASAGAR

Background

- MAHASAGAR = Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions; announced by the PM in Mauritius (March 2025), expanding SAGAR (2015) – Security And Growth for All in the Region. IMNEX began in 2018 at Visakhapatnam.

- India–Myanmar border: about 1,643 km, with Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram. India and Myanmar also run coordinated patrols (IMCOR).
- Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project: Kolkata → Sittwe port (sea) → Paletwa (Kaladan river) → Mizoram (road), a link to the North-East under the Act East Policy.

Tamil Nadu link: Many Tamil families lived in Burma in the colonial era; after the 1960s many returned, and Chennai's Burma Bazaar is linked to these repatriates. The last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar died in exile in Rangoon.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

The 8th India–Myanmar Naval Exercise (IMNEX-26) began at Visakhapatnam on 10 Nov 2026 and runs till 14 Nov. India fielded INS Rana and INS Sumedha; Myanmar sent UMS King Sin Phyu Shin.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Edition: 8th (IMNEX-26); Venue: Visakhapatnam (Eastern Naval Command HQ); Phases: Harbour phase (expert exchanges, cross-deck visits, sports); sea phase (coordinated operations, manoeuvres); Vision: MAHASAGAR.

What is the background to this news?

MAHASAGAR = Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions; announced by the PM in Mauritius (March 2025), expanding SAGAR (2015) – Security And Growth for All in the Region.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Where did the 8th India–Myanmar naval exercise IMNEX-26 begin?

A) Kochi

B) Chennai

C) Port Blair

D) Visakhapatnam

Answer: D – Explanation: IMNEX-26 runs 10–14 Nov 2026 at Visakhapatnam (Eastern Naval Command HQ) in a harbour phase and a sea phase.

2. Which Indian ships took part in IMNEX-26?

A) INS Vikrant and INS Chennai

B) INS Rana and INS Sumedha

C) INS Kolkata and INS Savitri

D) INS Arighaat and INS Sumitra

Answer: B – Explanation: India: INS Rana (Rajput-class destroyer) and INS Sumedha (offshore patrol vessel); Myanmar: UMS King Sin Phyu Shin. The opening was held aboard INS Rana.

3. In India's maritime vision "MAHASAGAR", what does "SAGAR" stand for?

A) Security And Growth Across Regions

B) Sea And Global Alliance for Resources

C) Strategic Action for Growth And Reach

D) Safety And Governance At Region

Answer: A – Explanation: MAHASAGAR = Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions, announced by the PM in Mauritius in March 2025, expanding the 2015 SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region) policy.

4. Which of these Indian States does NOT share a border with Myanmar?

A) Mizoram

B) Manipur

C) Assam

D) Nagaland

Answer: C – Explanation: Four States border Myanmar: Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram (about 1,643 km).

5. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project links Kolkata with which port in Myanmar?

A) Yangon

B) Myeik

C) Kyaukphyu

D) Sittwe

Answer: D – Explanation: Kolkata → Sittwe (sea) → Paletwa (Kaladan river) → Mizoram (road). Kyaukphyu is a China-backed port.

Sources: PIB – Ministry of Defence and Indian Navy (10–11 Nov 2026); ANI. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.