India–Japan naval exercise JAIMEX-26: INS Sahyadri, JS Ise take part

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News

The Indian Navy's indigenous guided-missile stealth frigate INS Sahyadri took part in the India–Japan maritime exercise 'JAIMEX-26' with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) ship JS Ise on 13–14 November 2026. Earlier called 'JIMEX', the exercise has been held under the name 'JAIMEX' since 2025. PIB (17 November) said it included tactical manoeuvres, communication drills and cross-deck landings. The JMSDF said the exercise enhanced its tactical capabilities and cooperation with the Indian Navy. Before this, INS Sahyadri left Japan's Yokosuka naval base on 12 November after Exercise MALABAR 2026, with the navies of India, Japan, the United States and Australia. PIB said the exercise reflected the two countries' shared commitment to a safe and stable Indo-Pacific.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Exercise	JAIMEX-26 (formerly JIMEX) – India–Japan maritime exercise
Dates	13–14 Nov 2026
Ships	INS Sahyadri; JS Ise (JMSDF helicopter destroyer)
Activities	Tactical manoeuvres, communication drills, cross-deck landings

Point	Details
Before this	MALABAR 2026 (India, Japan, USA, Australia); left Yokosuka 12 Nov
INS Sahyadri	Shivalik-class (Project 17) stealth frigate; built by Mazagon Dock; commissioned 2012
Other India–Japan drills	Dharma Guardian (army), Shinyuu Maitri, Veer Guardian (air force), Sahyog Kaijin (coast guard)
Policy	Act East Policy; a safe and stable Indo-Pacific (PIB)

Background

- Defence: the India–Japan maritime exercise began in 2012. MALABAR began in 1992 as an India–US bilateral drill; Japan became a permanent member in 2015 and Australia has joined since 2020 – all four are Quad members. The two countries' armies hold 'Dharma Guardian', their air forces 'Shinyuu Maitri' and 'Veer Guardian', and their coast guards 'Sahyog Kaijin'.
- Polity and world history: Article 9 of Japan's post-war Constitution, in force since 1947, renounces war; hence Japan's navy is called the Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF). India–Japan ties were raised to a 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership' in 2014.
- Technology: INS Sahyadri (F49) is the third of the Shivalik-class (Project 17) stealth frigates built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai, and was commissioned in 2012. The class is India's first indigenous stealth frigate design; the name refers to the Sahyadri range of the Western Ghats. Yokosuka is a major naval base at the mouth of Tokyo Bay, Japan.

Tamil Nadu link: Phase I of Chennai Metro Rail was built largely with loans from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); the Hosur–Krishnagiri Hogenakkal drinking-water and fluorosis-mitigation project was also JICA-aided. Many Japanese automobile and electronics firms operate in the Oragadam–Sriperumbudur belt near Chennai. Chennai hosts a naval area headquarters under the Eastern Naval Command.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Exercise: JAIMEX-26 (formerly JIMEX) – India–Japan maritime exercise; Dates: 13–14 Nov 2026; Ships: INS Sahyadri; JS Ise (JMSDF helicopter destroyer); Activities: Tactical manoeuvres, communication drills, cross-deck landings.

What is the background to this news?

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Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which Article of Japan's Constitution renounces war, the reason its navy is called a 'Self-Defense Force'?

A) Article 1

B) Article 9

C) Article 21

D) Article 96

Answer: B – Explanation: Article 9 (1947 Constitution). Article 1 makes the Emperor the symbol of the State; Article 96 sets the amendment procedure.

2. MALABAR, which Sahyadri joined before JAIMEX, began in 1992 as a bilateral exercise of India and which country?

A) United States

B) Japan

C) Australia

D) France

Answer: A – Explanation: United States. Japan became permanent in 2015; Australia joined from 2020. India's drill with France is 'Varuna'.

3. What is the name of the joint exercise between the armies of India and Japan?

A) Dharma Guardian

B) Shinyuu Maitri

C) Veer Guardian

D) Sahyog Kaijin

Answer: A – Explanation: Dharma Guardian (since 2018). Shinyuu Maitri and Veer Guardian are air-force drills; Sahyog Kaijin is for coast guards.

4. Phase I of Chennai Metro Rail was built largely with loans from which agency?

A) World Bank

B) Asian Development Bank

C) JICA (Japan)

D) KfW (Germany)

Answer: C – Explanation: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Japan is among India's largest bilateral development financiers.

5. Japan's Yokosuka naval base, from where INS Sahyadri sailed before JAIMEX-26, lies at the mouth of which bay?

A) Tokyo Bay

B) Ise Bay

C) Osaka Bay

D) Suruga Bay

Answer: A – Explanation: Tokyo Bay – Yokosuka, on the Miura Peninsula, is a major Japanese naval base; Sahyadri sailed from there on 12 Nov after MALABAR 2026. Ise Bay is near Nagoya and Osaka Bay in the Kansai region.

Sources: PIB – Ministry of Defence, Release ID 2337361 (17 Nov 2026) – pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2337361; All India Radio – newsonair.gov.in/ins-sahyadri-joins-navies-of-four-nations-for-malabar-2026/ (5 Nov 2026); The Tribune (ANI) – tribuneindia.com/news/world/ins-sahyadri-japans-js-ise-participate-in-joint-maritime-exercise-jaimex26; Indian Navy and PIB (INS Sahyadri); CMRL – chennaimetrorail.org (JICA funding). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.