# India–Canada naval exercise: INS Sahyadri and HMCS Regina

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## News

The Indian Navy's indigenous guided-missile stealth frigate INS Sahyadri took part in a bilateral naval engagement with HMCS Regina of the Royal Canadian Navy on 15 November 2026, the Indian Navy said in a post on X (reported on 18 Nov). It included a Passage Exercise (PASSEX), cross-deck helicopter landings, vertical replenishment, coordinated ship handling, communication drills and joint flight operations. The sea area where it took place has not been officially stated. On 4 November 2026 the inaugural India–Canada Defence Dialogue was held in New Delhi, co-chaired by Amit Telang, Joint Secretary (International Cooperation), Ministry of Defence, and Scott Millar, Assistant Deputy Minister (Policy), Canada's Department of National Defence; capacity building, military-technical exchanges and defence-industrial cooperation were discussed. Before this, Sahyadri took part in Exercise MALABAR 2026 from Yokosuka, Japan, and in JAIMEX-26 with Japan.

## Key facts for the exam

| Point | Details |
|---|---|
| **Indian ship** | INS Sahyadri – guided-missile stealth frigate |
| **Canadian ship** | HMCS Regina – Royal Canadian Navy |
| **Date** | 15 November 2026 |
| **Drills** | PASSEX, cross-deck landings, VERTREP, joint flight ops |

| Point | Details |
|---|---|
| **Backdrop** | Inaugural India–Canada Defence Dialogue (Nov 2026) |
| **Co-chairs** | Amit Telang (India), Scott Millar (Canada) |
| **Sahyadri's earlier drills** | MALABAR 2026, JAIMEX-26 |

## Background

- Canada: the world's second-largest country by area; capital Ottawa. It touches three oceans – the Pacific to the west, the Arctic to the north and the Atlantic to the east – and shares a long land border with the United States to the south. A parliamentary democracy, it is a member of the Commonwealth, G7 and NATO.
- India–Canada ties: in 1914 the ship 'Komagata Maru', carrying Indian migrants, was refused entry at Vancouver and sent back; firing followed at Budge Budge near Kolkata – a notable episode of the freedom struggle. Canada today has a large Indian-origin community. After a few years of strain, ties are being rebuilt through high-level meetings and the new Defence Dialogue.
- Naval terms: PASSEX – a short exercise held when ships of two navies meet or pass each other at sea, to improve interoperability. VERTREP – transfer of stores between ships by helicopter; sailing alongside to pass fuel or stores by hose or line is 'replenishment at sea' (RAS). Sahyadri is an indigenous Shivalik-class (Project 17) frigate; India's maritime vision is 'MAHASAGAR'.

**Tamil Nadu link:** Canada has a large Tamil community – mostly of Sri Lankan Tamil origin, concentrated in the Greater Toronto Area. In 2016 Canada's House of Commons unanimously passed Motion M-24 recognising January – the month of Thai Pongal – as 'Tamil Heritage Month'.

## Frequently asked questions

**What is this news about?**

The Indian Navy's indigenous guided-missile stealth frigate INS Sahyadri took part in a bilateral naval engagement with HMCS Regina of the Royal Canadian Navy on 15 November 2026, the Indian Navy said in a post on X (reported on 18 Nov).

**What are the key facts to remember for the exam?**

Indian ship: INS Sahyadri – guided-missile stealth frigate; Canadian ship: HMCS Regina – Royal Canadian Navy; Date: 15 November 2026; Drills: PASSEX, cross-deck landings, VERTREP, joint flight ops.

**What is the background to this news?**

Canada: the world's second-largest country by area; capital Ottawa. It touches three oceans – the Pacific to the west, the Arctic to the north and the Atlantic to the east – and shares a long land border with the United States to the south.

## Practice questions (with answers)

**1. In naval usage, what does 'PASSEX', conducted by Sahyadri and Regina, stand for?**

**A) Passage Exercise**

**B)** Passive Sonar Exercise

**C)** Patrol Search Exercise

**D)** Pacific Sea Exercise

**Answer: A** – Explanation: Passage Exercise – a short drill held when ships of two navies meet at sea, to build interoperability.

**2. Canada's coastline touches three oceans. Which ocean does NOT border Canada?**

**A)** Arctic

**B)** Atlantic

**C)** Pacific

**D) Indian Ocean**

**Answer: D** – Explanation: The Indian Ocean. Canada has the Pacific (west), Arctic (north) and Atlantic (east); it is the world's 2nd-largest country.

**3. In 1914 the ship 'Komagata Maru', carrying Indian migrants, was refused entry at which Canadian port?**

**A)** Halifax

**B) Vancouver**

**C)** Montreal

**D)** Quebec City

**Answer: B** – Explanation: Vancouver. The ship was sent back, and passengers were fired upon at Budge Budge near Kolkata.

**4. 'Vertical replenishment' (VERTREP) between warships means transferring stores by what?**

**A)** Submarine

**B)** Hose, alongside

**C) Helicopter**

**D)** Small boats

**Answer: C** – Explanation: Helicopter. Passing fuel or stores by hose or line while sailing alongside is 'replenishment at sea' (RAS).

**5. Canada's Parliament recognises which month as 'Tamil Heritage Month'?**

**A) January**

**B)** April

**C)** October

**D)** December

**Answer: A** – Explanation: January – the month of Thai Pongal; the House of Commons unanimously passed Motion M-24 in 2016. Canada has a large Tamil community.

**Sources:** Indian Navy (post on X, 18 Nov 2026); DD News (4 Nov 2026); The Hans India (JAIMEX); News On AIR; House of Commons of Canada. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.