Army announces 20th India–Nepal joint military exercise 'Suryakiran'

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News

The Indian Army has announced on 'X' that the 20th edition of the India–Nepal joint military exercise 'Suryakiran' is 'coming soon'. The Army said the exercise reflects the 'enduring bond' between the two neighbours. Dates and venue of the 20th edition have not yet been officially announced. The 19th edition was held at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, from 25 November to 8 December 2025, with 334 personnel from each side – mainly the Assam Regiment for India and the Devi Datta Regiment for Nepal. Under a UN Charter Chapter VII mission setting, it covered jungle warfare, counter-terrorism in mountains and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), along with drones, AI-enabled surveillance and other new technologies. During the exercise the two Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) jointly planted a 'Tree of Friendship'.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Exercise	Suryakiran – India–Nepal joint army exercise (annual)
20th edition	Announced by Indian Army on 'X'; dates, venue not yet given
19th edition	25 Nov – 8 Dec 2025, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand
Troops (19th)	334 each; Assam Regiment / Devi Datta Regiment

Point	Details
Focus	UN Chapter VII setting; jungle warfare, mountain CT, HADR
Technology	ISR drones, AI surveillance, unmanned vehicles
DGMOs	Lt Gen Manish Luthra (India), Anup Jung Thapa (Nepal)
Tradition	Army chiefs get reciprocal honorary General rank – for 70+ years

Background

- Ties: India and Nepal share an open border of about 1,750 km. The 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship lets citizens of each country live and work in the other. Five Indian States – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim – border Nepal.
- Military ties: For over seven decades each country has conferred the honorary rank of General of its army on the other's Army chief; Nepal's President conferred it on Gen Upendra Dwivedi in November 2024. Recruitment of Nepali soldiers into the Indian Army's Gorkha regiments rests on the 1947 Britain–India–Nepal Tripartite Agreement.
- Geography: Pithoragarh district, venue of the 19th edition, borders Nepal and Tibet (China). The Lipulekh Pass on the Kailash–Mansarovar route is in this district; the Kali (Mahakali/Sarda) river forms the India–Nepal boundary there.
- Disaster aid: After the April 2015 Nepal earthquake India carried out rescue and relief under 'Operation Maitri'. UN peacekeeping: India and Nepal are among the major troop contributors to UN peacekeeping. Rehearsing joint operations under a UN mandate is therefore a key aim of the exercise.

Tamil Nadu link: There is no direct Tamil Nadu link to this exercise. The Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) at Wellington, Nilgiris district, trains officers from friendly foreign countries along with Indian officers; such training strengthens ties with neighbouring armies.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Exercise: Suryakiran – India–Nepal joint army exercise (annual); 20th edition: Announced by Indian Army on 'X'; dates, venue not yet given; 19th edition: 25 Nov – 8 Dec 2025, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand; Troops (19th): 334 each; Assam Regiment / Devi Datta Regiment.

What is the background to this news?

Ties: India and Nepal share an open border of about 1,750 km. The 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship lets citizens of each country live and work in the other.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which unique tradition has continued for over seven decades between the Indian and Nepali armies?

A) Chiefs as hon. Generals

B) A common uniform

C) A joint command HQ

D) One military academy

Answer: A – Explanation: Each country confers the honorary rank of General on the other's Army chief; Gen Upendra Dwivedi received it in 2024.

2. Recruitment of Nepali Gorkhas into the Indian Army rests on a 1947 agreement among India, Nepal and which country?

A) China

B) United States

C) Bhutan

D) United Kingdom

Answer: D – Explanation: The UK – the 1947 Tripartite Agreement; at Independence the Gorkha regiments were divided between India and Britain.

3. Disaster relief is part of Suryakiran. What was India's rescue and relief operation after the 2015 Nepal earthquake?

A) Operation Rahat

B) Operation Maitri

C) Operation Dost

D) Operation Kaveri

Answer: B – Explanation: Operation Maitri (April 2015). Rahat – Yemen (2015); Dost – Turkey and Syria (2023); Kaveri – Sudan (2023).

4. The Lipulekh Pass, on the Kailash–Mansarovar pilgrimage route, lies in which district of Uttarakhand?

A) Chamoli

B) Pithoragarh

C) Uttarkashi

D) Almora

Answer: B – Explanation: Pithoragarh – it borders Nepal and Tibet; the Kali river is the boundary here. Suryakiran XIX was also held here.

5. Which of these Indian States does NOT share a border with Nepal?

A) Sikkim

B) Bihar

C) Himachal Pradesh

D) West Bengal

Answer: C – Explanation: Himachal Pradesh. Nepal borders Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim.