



CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF, GENERAL UPENDRA DWIVEDI CONCLUDES VISIT TO UAE AND SRI LANKA, STRENGTHENING DEFENCE COOPERATION

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The Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General Upendra Dwivedi, has successfully concluded his official visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Sri Lanka from 05 to 08 January 2026, reinforcing India's commitment to deepening defence cooperation, enhancing military-to-military engagement and strengthening strategic partnerships with friendly nations in West Asia and the Indian Ocean Region.

Visit to the United Arab Emirates

During his visit to the UAE from 05 to 06 January 2026, the COAS held wide-ranging discussions with senior leadership of the UAE Armed Forces, including the Commander of the UAE Land Forces, focusing on strengthening defence cooperation, enhancing interoperability and expanding avenues for joint training and professional military exchanges.

General Dwivedi received detailed briefings on the organisational structure, roles and operational capabilities of the UAE Land Forces and visited key military establishments, where he interacted with officers and troops. These engagements provided an opportunity to exchange best practices and explore collaboration in areas of mutual interest.

The COAS addressed officers at the UAE National Defence College, underscoring the importance of strategic dialogue, leadership development and shared perspectives on regional and global security challenges.

The visit also included interactions with the Indian Ambassador to the UAE, Dr Deepak Mittal, during which issues pertaining to defence diplomacy and cooperation were discussed.

Visit to Sri Lanka

From 07 to 08 January 2026, the COAS visited Sri Lanka, where he held substantive discussions with senior military and civil leadership, including the Commander of the Sri Lanka Army, Deputy Minister of Defence and the Defence Secretary, focusing on training cooperation, capacity building, defence education and regional security dynamics.

Reflecting India's enduring commitment to defence capacity building, the COAS addressed officers at the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) and interacted with officers and trainees at the Army War College, Buttala. During his visit to the Army War College, General Dwivedi laid the foundation stone of a Sports Complex and formally handed over Ambulance Vans. In addition, he handed over 20 Mahindra Scorpio vehicles and simulators to the Sri Lanka Army, further strengthening operational capability and training infrastructure.

The COAS paid homage at the IPKF War Memorial, honouring the supreme sacrifice of Indian soldiers and reaffirming the shared history and deep people-to-people bonds between India and Sri Lanka. He also interacted with the Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Shri Santosh Jha.

Outcomes and Takeaways

The visit significantly advanced defence and military-to-military cooperation with both the UAE and Sri Lanka through enhanced strategic dialogue, expanded professional military education exchanges, and tangible capacity-building initiatives. It reinforced mutual trust, strengthened interoperability and underscored India's role as a reliable and trusted defence partner.

The successful engagements reaffirm India's commitment to fostering peace, stability and cooperative security in the Indian Ocean Region and West Asia, while deepening longstanding defence partnerships with friendly nations.



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