

CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF, GENERAL UPENDRA DWIVEDI IS SET TO PROCEED ON VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

Posted On: 14 FEB 2026 6:05PM by PIB Delhi



The Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General Upendra Dwivedi is set to embark on an official visit to Australia from 16 to 19 February 2026. The visit is aimed at further strengthening India - Australia defence cooperation and reinforcing the growing convergence between the two nations.

As part of his visit, the COAS will hold wide-ranging interactions with senior leadership of the Australian Defence Forces, focussed on enhancing army-to-army engagements including training, joint exercises, professional exchanges and capacity building.

In Sydney, the COAS will engage with senior hierarchy of Forces Command (FORCOMD), Special Operations Command (SOCOMD) and 2nd Division. It is noteworthy that the troops of 2nd Division participate in the bilateral Army Exercise AUSTRAHIND, the next edition of which is scheduled to take place in India in 2026.

On arrival in Canberra, the day will begin with a ceremonial welcome and Guard of Honour, followed by interaction with Lieutenant General Simon Stuart, Chief of Australian Army. The Chief of Australian Army and General Upendra Dwivedi are alumni of the US Army War College Class of 2015 and share a strong professional bond. The meeting will be followed by a comprehensive round table discussion in Australian Defence Forces Headquarters, on the aspects of defence cooperation, modernisation and futuristic operations. The COAS will also interact with the Commander of Australian Defence College and address the officers at the Australian Command and Staff College.

In series of high-level meetings, the COAS will call-on Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Secretary of Department of Defence. Furthermore, he will visit Headquarters Joint Operations Command (HQJOC), where he will meet the Commander Joint Operations and will be briefed on operational dynamics of

Australian Defence Forces including integrated and multi domain operations.

The COAS will lay a wreath at the Australian War Memorial to pay homage to the fallen soldiers and honour the shared legacy of sacrifice and service. He will also meet the Indian Defence Veterans residing in Australia, underscoring the enduring bond between the Indian Armed Forces and its veterans.

The visit reaffirms the shared commitment of both nations to further enhancing defence cooperation and jointly contributing to peace, stability and security in the Indo-Pacific region.

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(Release ID: 2228155) Visitor Counter : 1036

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