



INDIA-JAPAN JOINT EXERCISE 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' COMMENCES IN CHAUBATTIA, UTTARAKHAND

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The 7th edition of the annual Joint Military Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) commenced today at the Foreign Training Node, Chaubattia in Uttarakhand. The exercise will be conducted from 24 February to 9 March 2026.

This edition brings together a 120-member contingent from each side, with the JGSDF represented by troops from the 32nd Infantry Regiment and the Indian Army contingent drawn from the Ladakh Scouts. The exercise is held alternately in India and Japan and remains a key pillar of defence cooperation between the two nations.

The aim of Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' is to strengthen military collaboration and enhance combined capabilities to undertake joint operations in a semi-urban environment. Over the next two weeks, participating troops will focus on achieving high levels of physical fitness, refining joint planning processes and synchronising tactical drills. The Joint Exercise is anchored in employment of modern technology, enhancing interoperability and contemporary operational aspects.

Key tactical activities during the exercise include:

- Establishing a Temporary Operating Base
- Developing an Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) grid
- Setting up Mobile Vehicle Check Posts
- Conducting Cordon and Search Operations in hostile environment
- Executing Heliborne Operations
- Undertaking House Intervention Drills



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