5TH EDITION OF INDIA-AUSTRALIA JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE AUSTRAHIND COMMENCES AT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

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The 5th edition of the India-Australia Joint Military Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026 commenced today at the Foreign Training Node, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

The exercise, being conducted from 19 October to 01 November 2026, will witness participation of approximately 120 personnel each from the Indian Army and Australian Army. The fourth edition was held at Irwin Barracks, Perth, Australia, from 13 to 26 October 2025.

The Indian Army contingent comprises troops from the Garhwal Rifles, along with personnel from other arms and services, while the Australian Army contingent comprises troops from 13 Brigade.

The exercise will be conducted on the theme “Joint Sub-Conventional Operations in Island and Coastal Environment under Chapter VII of the UN Mandate”. It is aimed at enhancing interoperability, jointmanship and operational coordination between the two armies while developing a common understanding of tactics, techniques and procedures for operations in island and coastal terrain.

During the exercise, troops of both armies will undertake joint planning, tactical drills and combat-oriented training in realistic operational conditions, including aerial and maritime dimension. The training will focus on coordinated operations in coastal and island environments, surveillance and reconnaissance, protection of vital installations and response to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief contingencies, besides exchange of professional experience and best practices. As a first, an observer delegation from New Zealand will also be participating in the exercise.

Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026 will further strengthen military-to-military cooperation, interoperability and mutual trust between India and Australia. It will reinforce their shared commitment towards peace, stability and security in the Indo-Pacific region.



Nishant/ Rinku

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