



17 – February 2023

DHARMA GUARDIAN

Why it's in News The fourth edition of the India-Japan joint military exercise “EX DHARMA GUARDIAN” is taking place in Camp Imazu in the Japanese region of Shiga from February 17 through March 2, 2023.

Topic Description: Notably, Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN, an annual training event with Japan, is important and significant in terms of the security challenges faced by both countries against the backdrop of the current global situation in the series of military training exercises conducted by India with various countries. This exercise's scope includes platoon-level joint training on jungle and semi-urban/urban terrain operations.

This year's exercise will bring together members of the Indian Army's Garhwal Rifles Regiment and an infantry regiment from the Middle Army of the Japan Ground Self-Defence Force (JGSDF) to exchange operational experiences and improve interoperability in planning and execution. On February 12, 2023, the Indian Army contingent arrived at the drill site and was welcomed with open arms.

Exercise Importance: The combined exercise will allow the two armies to exchange best practices in tactical operations under a UN mandate, as well as foster interoperability, goodwill, camaraderie, and friendship between the two forces. High levels of physical conditioning and the sharing of tactical drills will be the main training objectives. Participants will engage in a range of missions throughout the exercise, including collaborative

planning, joint tactical drills, the fundamentals of constructing integrated surveillance grids, and the use of aerial assets. The collaborative training session will help both forces get to know one another better, exchange diverse experiences, and improve situational awareness.

CONCERNING THE DHARMA GUARDIAN EXERCISE

- An annual gathering/bilateral military exercise is called Dhara
- From November 1 to November 14, 2018, the Counterinsurgency Warfare School at Vairengte (Mizoram), India, hosted the inaugural Dharma Guardian
- The 6/1 GORKHA RIFLES from the Indian Army Contingent took part in the first bilateral military exercise between India and
- Enhancing interoperability between the forces of the two countries is one of the key goals of the bilateral Dharma Guardian
- The Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force's 32 Infantry Regiment served as the country's representative (JGSDF)

The exercises include the following activities:

- Preparation for anti-terrorism activities
- Operation planning for counterterrorism
- The performance of several carefully designed tactical maneuvers
- According to the Indian Government, the purpose of this exercise is to eliminate risks that could or will be present in urban warfare

HISTORY OF INDIA-JAPAN DEFENSE COORDINATION

- 2008 saw the signing of the India-Japan Joint Declaration on Security
- The nations have established a two-way dialogue between their foreign and defense ministers (2+2).
- Other defense-related initiatives between India and Japan include:
Defense Ministers' Annual Dialogue
Defense Policy Discussion

Conversations between national security advisers and Staff conversations for each service

- The Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA), which would increase the strategic depth of bilateral security and defense cooperation, is now being negotiated between the two
- India and Japan want to collaborate on defense technologies and
- Together, the public and business sectors of both countries hope to improve defense technical
- There is a shared commitment to enhancing communication between the Japanese and Indian defense
- The start of collaborative research in the fields of robotics and unmanned ground vehicles (UGV) has been welcomed by India and

Other joint drills include

“Veer Guardian-2023.” From January 12 to 26, India and Japan conducted their first-ever bilateral aviation exercise as a result of their expanding defense ties and growing concerns over China’s military buildup in the Indo-Pacific. In Japan’s Hyakuri air base, the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japan

Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) participated in the exercise “Veer Guardian-2023.” The IAF announced on Saturday that four Su-30 MKI jets, two C-17 planes, and one IL-78 plane will be participating in the exercise.

CONCLUSION

Exercise Dharma Guardian” would strengthen the defense cooperation between the Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces and the Indian Army, advancing bilateral ties between the two countries.

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