GENERAL STUDIES III

Exercise SURYAKIRAN XX 2026: India–Nepal Defence UPSC

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Date: 26 November 2026
Platform: Civil Service Gurukul Research Wing
Reading Time: 5 Mins

The 20th edition of Exercise SURYAKIRAN, a bilateral military exercise between India and Nepal, commenced on 25 November 2026 at Saljhandi, Nepal. Scheduled until 8 December 2026, the exercise seeks to enhance military interoperability, counter-terrorism cooperation, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and mutual confidence. Civil Service Gurukul examines the exercise's strategic significance, India–Nepal defence relations, the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship, Neighbourhood First Policy, Himalayan security and bilateral challenges, along with UPSC Prelims MCQs and Mains model answers.

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26 November 2026 | Civil Service Gurukul Editorial Team | UPSC CSE 2027
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Excerpt / Brief Summary

India and Nepal commenced the twentieth edition of their bilateral military exercise SURYAKIRAN on 25 November 2026 at Saljhandi, Nepal.

The exercise seeks to strengthen cooperation between the two armies through professional exchanges, joint training, humanitarian assistance and disaster-response preparedness.

Beyond military cooperation, SURYAKIRAN reflects the importance of mutual confidence, Himalayan security, regional stability and India's neighbourhood diplomacy.

For UPSC aspirants, the development connects international relations with defence diplomacy, disaster management, border security and regional cooperation.

20th

Edition of Exercise SURYAKIRAN

India–Nepal

Bilateral Defence Partnership

25 Nov – 8 Dec

Scheduled Exercise Period 2026

UPSC Syllabus Relevance

Examination Stage	Relevant Topics
Prelims	Defence exercises, neighbouring countries, military institutions and Himalayan geography.
GS Paper I	Himalayan geography, earthquakes, floods and regional geographical linkages.
GS Paper II	India and its neighbourhood, bilateral relations, international cooperation and defence diplomacy.
GS Paper III	National security, border management, disaster management and defence cooperation.
GS Paper IV	International cooperation, humanitarian responsibility, mutual respect and ethical diplomacy.
Essay	Regional peace, international friendship, collective security and sustainable development.

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1. Why in the News?

The twentieth edition of Exercise SURYAKIRAN began on 25 November 2026 in Nepal, marking another important development in the long-standing military partnership between India and Nepal.

The scheduled two-week engagement brings together personnel from both countries for professional training and institutional cooperation.

The programme combines military preparedness with disaster-response and medical cooperation, reflecting the diverse security and humanitarian requirements of the Himalayan region.

The exercise is expected to contribute to mutual understanding between the participating armies. Its actual outcomes can be assessed after completion.

> **UPSC Current Affairs Insight:**
>
> Joint military exercises are instruments of defence diplomacy. They create opportunities for professional cooperation without necessarily establishing a formal military alliance.

2. Important Facts About Exercise SURYAKIRAN XX

Particulars	Details
Exercise Name	Exercise SURYAKIRAN XX
Edition	20th Edition
Participating Countries	India and Nepal
Participating Forces	Indian Army and Nepali Army
Nature	Bilateral joint military exercise
Frequency	Annual
Joint Training Initiated	2011
Host Country	Nepal
Venue	Saljhandi, Rupandehi district
Commencement Date	25 November 2026
Scheduled Completion	8 December 2026
Indian Representation	Kumaon Regiment
Nepali Representation	Shiwawla Dal Battalion
Indian Personnel	334
Nepali Personnel	334
Total Participating Personnel	668
Broad Focus	Military cooperation, interoperability, counterterrorism, counter-insurgency, disaster response and medical training.

Prelims Exam Trigger:

SURYAKIRAN — India and Nepal — Bilateral Army Exercise — Conducted alternately in the two countries.

3. Major Objectives of Exercise SURYAKIRAN XX

A. Military Interoperability

Develop the capacity of the participating armies to cooperate effectively when undertaking mutually agreed activities.

B. Professional Knowledge Exchange

Encourage learning from the institutional experience, training practices and professional capabilities of both armies.

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C. Counterterrorism Cooperation

Improve shared understanding of security challenges and strengthen cooperation within the agreed exercise framework.

D. Disaster Management

Support preparedness for natural disasters and improve coordination during humanitarian emergencies.

E. Medical Cooperation

Promote professional exchange concerning emergency medical assistance and humanitarian support.

F. Confidence-Building

Strengthen mutual understanding, professional relationships and institutional trust.

> **Strategic Significance:** Military cooperation is most sustainable when it addresses shared challenges, respects national sovereignty and contributes to regional peace.

4. Historical Background of India–Nepal Defence Relations

India and Nepal share historical, cultural and geographical connections that extend into their contemporary defence partnership.

The relationship includes military training, institutional visits, professional exchanges and humanitarian cooperation.

Important Historical Developments

Year	Development
1947	Tripartite arrangement involving India, Nepal and the United Kingdom concerning Gorkha military recruitment.
1950	Signing of the India–Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship.
1950 onwards	Tradition of conferring honorary General ranks upon the respective Army Chiefs.
2011	Commencement of the combined military training programme associated with SURYAKIRAN.
2015	India launched Operation Maitri following the Nepal earthquake.
2019	Fourteenth edition of SURYAKIRAN conducted in Nepal.
2023	Seventeenth edition conducted at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.
2025	Nineteenth edition of Exercise SURYAKIRAN.
2026	Twentieth edition commenced in Saljhandi, Nepal.

Historical Gorkha Military Connection

The service of Nepali Gorkhas in the Indian Army has historically represented an important people-to-people dimension of defence relations.

Contemporary recruitment arrangements involve policy discussions between the two countries and should not be assumed to remain unchanged merely because of their historical significance.

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5. Geographical Significance of Nepal

Nepal is a landlocked South Asian country situated between India and China. Its geographical position within the Himalayan region influences trade, connectivity, environmental cooperation and security relationships.

Geographical Feature	Details
Capital	Kathmandu
Region	South Asia
Geographical Nature	Landlocked country
Neighbouring Countries	India and China
Major Mountain System	Himalayas
Highest Peak	Mount Everest, sit[illegible] on the Nepal–China boundary.
Major River Systems	Kosh[illegible] and Karnali.
Southern Geographical Region	Te[illegible]i plains
Exercise Host District	Rupandehi
Province	Lumbini Province

Five Indian States Sharing a Border with Nepal

1. Uttarakhand.
2. Uttar Pradesh.
3. Bihar.
4. West Bengal.
5. Sikkim.

> **Prelims Trap:** Himachal Pradesh and Assam do not share an international boundary with Nepal.

6. India–Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1950

The Treaty of Peace and Friendship, signed on 31 July 1950, constitutes an important foundation of modern India–Nepal bilateral relations.

The agreement establishes principles of peaceful relations and includes reciprocal provisions concerning citizens and economic activities.

Major Features

- Recognition of mutual sovereignty and territorial integrity.

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- Commitment to peaceful and friendly bilateral relations.
- Consultation concerning relevant regional security issues.
- Reciprocal arrangements relating to residence, movement and economic participation.
- Foundation for continued bilateral cooperation.

Contemporary Relevance

India and Nepal have periodically discussed the relevance and operation of historical bilateral arrangements in changing political and strategic circumstances.

While the treaty remains an important historical framework, discussions concerning its interpretation or possible revision should be conducted through respectful bilateral engagement.

> **Mains Value Addition:** Historical treaties provide institutional continuity, but sustainable neighbourhood diplomacy must also respond to contemporary expectations of equality, sovereignty, and mutual benefit.

7. What Is Military Interoperability?

Military interoperability refers to the ability of different armed forces to work together effectively in agreed circumstances.

It includes compatibility in communication, coordination, institutional procedures and professional understanding.

Interoperability and Defence Diplomacy



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Military Exercise vs Defence Treaty vs Military Alliance

Concept	Meaning
Military Exercise	Organised training activity intended to improve professional capabilities and cooperation.
Defence Treaty	Formal international agreement establishing specified defence-related commitments.
Military Alliance	Cooperative security arrangement that may contain collective defence commitments.
Defence Diplomacy	Use of defence-related engagement to support peaceful foreign policy objectives.

Important Distinction: Participation in Exercise SURYAKIRAN does not itself create a military alliance or collective defence obligation between India and Nepal.

8. Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief refers to coordinated efforts to protect lives, provide emergency support and assist communities affected by natural or human-induced disasters.

The Himalayan region is exposed to earthquakes, landslides, floods, avalanches and glacial lake outburst floods.

India–Nepal cooperation can strengthen disaster preparedness and improve the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance when requested by affected authorities.

Major Areas of HADR Cooperation

- Search and rescue preparedness.
- Emergency medical assistance.
- Humanitarian logistics.
- Disaster-related communication.
- Relief material coordination.
- Emergency evacuation support.
- Post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation.

Why Are the Himalayas Vulnerable to Earthquakes?

The Himalayas developed through the convergence and collision of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates.

Continuing tectonic movement creates seismic stress, contributing to earthquake hazards across the Himalayan region.

Geography Connection: The Himalayas are young fold mountains associated with continental plate convergence.

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9. Operation Maitri and the Nepal Earthquake of 2015

Following the devastating earthquake that struck Nepal in April 2015, India launched Operation Maitri to provide emergency humanitarian assistance.

The operation demonstrated the significance of regional solidarity, emergency preparedness and international disaster cooperation.

Major Contributions

- Search and rescue assistance.
- Emergency medical support.
- Transportation of essential relief supplies.
- Assistance in evacuation activities.
- Support for affected communities.

Operation Maitri vs Exercise SURYAKIRAN

Parameter	Operation Maitri	Exercise SURYAKIRAN
Nature	Disaster relief operation	Bilateral military exercise
Context	Nepal earthquake, 2015	Regular joint military cooperation
Primary Objective	Humanitarian assistance and emergency response	Professional training and military interoperability
Frequency	Event-specific operation	Recurring exercise

GS Paper III Value Addition: Disaster preparedness through institutional training can improve the effectiveness of actual humanitarian response when emergencies occur.

10. India–Nepal Open Border and Border Management

India and Nepal share a distinctive open-border arrangement that facilitates movement, family relationships, employment, trade and cultural interaction.

The arrangement represents an important asset for bilateral relations while creating responsibilities concerning legitimate security management.

Border Management Institutions

Institution	Country	Broad Responsibility
Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)	India	Border guarding responsibilities along India's borders with Nepal and Bhutan.

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Institution	Country	Broad Responsibility
Armed Police Force (APF)	Nepal	Security and border-related responsibilities within Nepal.
Indian Army	India	Military defence and agreed bilateral military cooperation.
Nepali Army	Nepal	National defence and agreed bilateral military cooperation.

Effective border governance requires coordination against illicit activities while preserving lawful movement and the welfare of border communities.

> **Prelims Distinction:** SSB is associated with the India–Nepal and India–Bhutan borders, whereas ITBP has responsibilities along the India–China frontier.

11. Exercise SURYAKIRAN and India's Neighbourhood First Policy

India's Neighbourhood First Policy emphasises constructive engagement with neighbouring countries through connectivity, development partnerships, trade, security cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.

Nepal occupies an important position in this approach because of its geographical proximity, historical relationships and shared developmental opportunities.

Major Pillars of Neighbourhood Cooperation

- Mutual respect and sovereign equality.
- Regional peace and stability.
- Economic and infrastructure connectivity.
- Humanitarian cooperation.
- Trade and investment partnerships.
- Energy and water-resource cooperation.
- Cultural and educational exchanges.

Exercise SURYAKIRAN contributes to the defence dimension of neighbourhood engagement. It should be understood alongside economic, diplomatic and social cooperation rather than as a substitute for them.

12. Broader Dimensions of India–Nepal Relations

Area of Cooperation	Strategic Significance
Defence Cooperation	Professional exchanges, institutional trust and joint military training.
Trade and Transit	Facilitates commercial connectivity and access to international markets.
Hydropower	Creates opportunities for electricity generation and cross-border energy trade.

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Area of Cooperation	Strategic Significance
Water Resources	Supports cooperation concerning rivers, irrigation and flood management.
Rail and Road Connectivity	Improves transportation, commerce and people-to-people engagement.
Disaster Management	Strengthens preparedness and humanitarian response.
Tourism	Promotes religious, cultural and economic exchanges.
Education	Supports academic collaboration and human-resource development.
Environmental Cooperation	Addresses shared Himalayan ecological and climate-related challenges.

Integrated Approach: Long-term national security depends not only on defence preparedness but also on stable neighbourhood relations, economic opportunities and human development.

13. Major Challenges in India–Nepal Relations

Despite longstanding cooperation, bilateral relations face several issues requiring sensitive and constructive diplomatic engagement.

Challenge	Implication
Boundary Disagreements	Differences concerning areas such as Kalapani, Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura and Susta require diplomatic resolution.
Treaty-Related Concerns	Differing views about historical bilateral arrangements may require continued consultation.
Economic Asymmetry	Differences in economic size and capabilities may create concerns regarding dependence and reciprocity.
Water-Resource Management	River-sharing, flooding and infrastructure development require equitable coordination.
Geopolitical Competition	Changing regional relationships may influence the strategic choices of both countries.
Border Security	Authorities must address illicit activities without unnecessarily restricting legitimate movement.
Military Recruitment Issues	Changing recruitment policies may require bilateral discussion.
Disaster Vulnerability	Shared exposure to Himalayan disasters requires stronger regional preparedness.
Public Perceptions	Misinformation and political disagreements may undermine mutual trust.

Balanced Mains Perspective: Nepal's foreign policy choices must be understood in the context of its sovereignty and national interests. India's neighbourhood engagement should prioritise mutual confidence and beneficial partnerships rather than viewing Nepal exclusively through geopolitical competition.

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14. Important Indian Bilateral Military Exercises for UPSC

UPSC frequently tests the association between military exercises and participating countries.

Military Exercise	Partner Country
Surya Kiran	Nepal
Yudh Abhyas	United States
Vajra Prahar	United States
Shakti	France
Dharma Guardian	Japan
Mitra Shakti	Sri Lanka
Sampriti	Bangladesh
Nomadic Elephant	Mongolia
Garuda Shakti	Indonesia
Maitree	Thailand
Austra Hind	Australia
Ekuverin	Maldives
Ajeya Warrior	United Kingdom
Khanjar	Kyrgyzstan
Dustlik	Uzbekistan

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Important Exam Distinction:

Exercise SURYAKIRAN is conducted with Nepal, while Exercise Dharma Guardian is conducted with Japan. Operation Maitri was India's humanitarian response to the 2015 Nepal earthquake, whereas Exercise Maitree is associated with Thailand.

15. Way Forward: Strengthening India–Nepal Strategic Partnership

A. Institutionalise Professional Defence Exchanges

Continue mutually agreed training programmes, professional visits and institutional dialogue.

B. Strengthen Disaster Management Cooperation

Expand collaboration in humanitarian preparedness, mountain rescue, emergency medical assistance and disaster recovery.

C. Improve Border Governance

Promote effective coordination between authorised institutions while protecting legitimate cross-border movement.

D. Resolve Disagreements Through Dialogue

Address outstanding boundary and treaty-related issues through peaceful diplomatic mechanisms.

E. Expand Economic Connectivity

Strengthen mutually beneficial trade, transport, energy and investment partnerships.

F. Promote Environmental Cooperation

Develop coordinated approaches to Himalayan conservation, flood management, climate adaptation and natural disaster risks.

G. Respect Sovereignty and National Priorities

Ensure that bilateral partnerships reflect mutual consent and respect for each country's independent policy choices.

H. Evaluate Cooperation Outcomes

Assess joint programmes through professional learning, institutional coordination, disaster preparedness and implementation of mutually agreed objectives.

Comprehensive Partnership Framework:

Defence Cooperation + Diplomatic Trust + Economic Connectivity + Humanitarian Assistance + Sovereign Equality = Sustainable Neighbourhood Partnership.

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16. UPSC Prelims 2027 – Quick Revision

- SURYAKIRAN is an India–Nepal bilateral Army exercise.
- The combined training programme began in 2011.
- The exercise is conducted alternately in India and Nepal.
- The twentieth edition began on 25 November 2026.
- The host location is Saljhandi in Nepal.
- The Indian Army is represented by the Kumaon Regiment.
- The Nepali Army is represented by Shri Jawla Dal Battalion.
- HADR stands for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.
- Operation Maitri was launched after the Nepal earthquake in 2015.
- The India–Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship was signed in 1950.
- Nepal is a landlocked Himalayan country.

- Five Indian States share a border with Nepal.
- SSB guards India's borders with Nepal and Bhutan.
- Koshi, Gandaki and Karnali are major river systems of Nepal.
- Rupandehi district lies in Lumbini Province.
- A joint military exercise is not equivalent to a defence treaty or military alliance.

17. UPSC Prelims Practice MCQs

Question 1

With reference to Exercise SURYAKIRAN, consider the following statements:

1. It is a bilateral military exercise between India and Nepal.
2. It is conducted alternately in India and Nepal.
3. It is exclusively a naval exercise.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Reveal Correct Answer and Explanation

Correct Answer: B – 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. SURYAKIRAN is a recurring bilateral exercise involving the Indian and Nepali armies.

Statement 3 is incorrect because it is an Army exercise rather than an exclusively naval exercise.

Question 2

Consider the following pairs:

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Exercise	Partner Country
1. Surya Kiran	Nepal
2. Dharma Guardian	Japan
3. Mitra Shakti	France
4. Nomadic Elephant	Mongolia

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

A. Only one

B. Only two

C. Only three

D. All four

Reveal Correct Answer and Explanation

Correct Answer: C – Only three

Pairs 1, 2 and 4 are correctly matched.

Pair 3 is incorrect because Mitra Shakti is conducted with Sri Lanka. Exercise Shakti is associated with France.

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Question 3

Which of the following Indian States share an international boundary with Nepal?

1. Uttarakhand
2. Himachal Pradesh
3. Uttar Pradesh
4. Bihar
5. West Bengal
6. Sikkim

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

B. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

C. 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only

D. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

Reveal Correct Answer and Explanation

Correct Answer: C – 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only

Nepal shares an international boundary with Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim.

Himachal Pradesh does not share a border with Nepal.

Question 4

Operation Maitri, sometimes mentioned in the context of India–Nepal relations, was associated with:

A. A bilateral naval exercise.

B. Humanitarian assistance following the 2015 Nepal earthquake.

C. Establishment of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

D. Construction of a joint space research station.

Reveal Correct Answer and Explanation

Correct Answer: B

Operation Maitri was India's humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operation following the devastating earthquake in Nepal in April 2015.

Question 5

Consider the following statements regarding India–Nepal relations:

1. The Treaty of Peace and Friendship was signed in 1950.
2. Sashastra Seema Bal has border guarding responsibilities along the India–Nepal border.
3. Participation in a joint military exercise automatically creates a collective defence treaty.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

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Reveal Correct Answer and Explanation

Correct Answer: A – 1 and 2 only

The India–Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship was signed in 1950, and SSB performs border guarding responsibilities along the India–Nepal border.

A joint military exercise does not automatically establish a legally binding collective defence treaty.

18. UPSC Mains Answer Writing Practice

GS Paper II – International Relations

Question: Discuss the strategic and developmental significance of India–Nepal defence cooperation in the context of Exercise SURYAKIRAN XX and India's Neighbourhood First Policy.

Marks: 15 | **Word Limit:** 250 Words

Reveal Model Answer

Introduction

India and Nepal share historical, geographical, cultural and institutional relationships supported by longstanding defence cooperation. Exercise SURYAKIRAN XX represents an important instrument of military diplomacy aimed at enhancing mutual confidence and professional coordination.

Body

India–Nepal defence cooperation has several dimensions of strategic and developmental significance:

- **Military interoperability:** Joint training supports institutional understanding and professional cooperation.
- **Border management:** Coordinated engagement can contribute to addressing shared security challenges.
- **Disaster preparedness:** Humanitarian cooperation is particularly important in the earthquake-prone Himalayan region.
- **Defence diplomacy:** Regular professional exchanges can strengthen confidence and reduce misunderstandings.
- **Neighbourhood stability:** Constructive bilateral relations contribute to regional peace and development.
- **Human security:** Disaster-response cooperation and sustainable border development support community welfare.

However, bilateral relations also face challenges concerning boundary disagreements, historical treaty arrangements, economic asymmetry and changing geopolitical relationships.

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India must pursue defence cooperation alongside mutually beneficial trade, energy partnerships, infrastructure connectivity and respectful diplomatic engagement.

Nepal's sovereignty and independent policy choices should remain central considerations in the relationship.

Conclusion

Exercise SURYAKIRAN demonstrates the potential of defence diplomacy to support broader neighbourhood cooperation. A sustainable India–Nepal partnership must integrate military confidence-building with economic development, humanitarian assistance, sovereign equality and shared commitments to regional peace.

GS Paper III – Disaster Management

Question: Examine the role of bilateral military cooperation in strengthening disaster preparedness in the Himalayan region.

Marks: 10 | **Word Limit:** 150 Words

Reveal Suggested Answer

The Himalayan region is highly vulnerable to earthquakes, landslides, floods and other natural hazards. Cross-border cooperation is essential because disasters may affect communities and infrastructure across national boundaries.

Bilateral military training can strengthen humanitarian logistics, communication, emergency medical coordination and search-and-rescue preparedness.

Exercise SURYAKIRAN provides a platform for India and Nepal to develop professional cooperation in disaster-response activities. Operation Maitri following the 2015 Nepal earthquake illustrates the practical importance of humanitarian assistance.

However, military support must complement civilian disaster-management authorities and respect the sovereignty of affected countries.

India and Nepal should strengthen disaster-related information sharing, community preparedness, institutional training and coordinated humanitarian planning.

Such cooperation can improve regional resilience, protect vulnerable communities and reinforce mutual trust.

19. Important Essay Topics for UPSC

- Peaceful neighbourhoods are the foundation of national security.
- International cooperation is essential for disaster resilience.
- Defence diplomacy as an instrument of regional peace.
- Geographical proximity must translate into mutual prosperity.

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- National security extends beyond military strength.
- Mutual respect is the foundation of sustainable international partnerships.

20. Frequently Asked Questions

What is Exercise SURYAKIRAN?

It is a bilateral joint military exercise involving the Indian Army and Nepali Army.

Which edition of Exercise SURYAKIRAN is being conducted in November 2026?

The twentieth edition, known as SURYAKIRAN XX.

Where is Exercise SURYAKIRAN XX being conducted?

At the Nepal Army Battle School in Saljhandi, Rupandehi district, Nepal.

What are the dates of Exercise SURYAKIRAN XX?

It commenced on 25 November 2026 and is scheduled to conclude on 8 December 2026.

When did the India–Nepal combined military training programme begin?

The programme began in 2011.

Which Indian Army regiment is participating in SURYAKIRAN XX?

The Kumaon Regiment.

How many Indian and Nepali personnel are participating?

The announced contingent strength is 334 personnel from each country.

What is military interoperability?

It is the ability of different armed forces to cooperate effectively in agreed activities through professional coordination and compatible institutional practices.

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What is HADR?

HADR stands for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.

What was Operation Maitri?

It was India's humanitarian assistance operation following the Nepal earthquake in 2015.

When was the India–Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship signed?

31 July 1950.

Which Indian force guards the India–Nepal border?

Sashastra Seema Bal performs border guarding responsibilities on the Indian side.

How many Indian States share a border with Nepal?

Five: Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim.

Does Exercise SURYAKIRAN establish a military alliance?

No. A bilateral military exercise does not itself create a collective defence treaty or military alliance.

Why is Exercise SURYAKIRAN important for UPSC 2027?

It connects defence exercises, international relations, Himalayan geography, disaster management, border security and India's Neighbourhood First Policy.

21. Conclusion

Exercise SURYAKIRAN XX represents the continuing importance of India–Nepal defence cooperation within the wider framework of bilateral relations.

Joint professional training, humanitarian cooperation and disaster preparedness can contribute to mutual confidence and institutional resilience.

However, sustainable neighbourhood diplomacy requires more than military engagement. India and Nepal must continue to strengthen economic connectivity, environmental cooperation, cultural exchanges and peaceful diplomatic mechanisms.

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The future of the partnership should be guided by sovereign equality, mutual benefit, regional stability and the shared welfare of citizens.

Civil Service Gurukul – Final Takeaway

Exercise SURYAKIRAN illustrates how defence diplomacy can connect national security with humanitarian responsibility, mutual trust and sustainable neighbourhood development.

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Editorial Note: This article has been independently prepared for educational purposes and UPSC Civil Services Examination preparation. Exercise details reflect the Ministry of Defence announcement available as of 26 November 2026. The announced completion date is scheduled and does not establish that the exercise has already concluded. Strategic analysis and policy recommendations constitute educational interpretation. Practice MCQs and model answers are original exercises and are not official UPSC examination questions.

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