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## Dharma Guardian 2026 Begins in Uttarakhand | Uttarakhand | 28 Feb 2026

### Why in News?

The **7th edition** of the annual joint military exercise '**Dharma Guardian**' between the **Indian Army** and the **Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF)** commenced in **February 2026** at **Chaubattia** in **Uttarakhand**.

### Key Points:

- **Bilateral Defence Cooperation:** *Dharma Guardian* is an annual military exercise between **India** and **Japan**, aimed at enhancing **interoperability and operational coordination** between the two forces.
  - The **Indian Army** contingent is drawn from the **Ladakh Scouts**, while the JGSDF is represented by troops from the **32nd Infantry Regiment**.
- **Focus Areas:** The exercise is designed to strengthen combined capabilities to conduct joint operations in **semi-urban environments**, enhance **tactical planning, synchronise drills**, and incorporate **modern technology** and **intelligence processes**.
- **Training Activities:** The participating forces will undertake a range of tactical activities, including the establishment of a **temporary operating base (TOB)**, development of **intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) grids**, setting up **mobile check posts**, conducting **cordon and search operations**, executing **heliborne operations**, and performing **house intervention drills**.
- **Strategic Significance:** The exercise strengthens defence ties between India and Japan, contributes to **regional security cooperation**, and **enhances mutual understanding, professionalism, and readiness** of both forces for **joint operational scenarios**.
- **Other India-Japan Military Exercises:** JIMEX (Japan-India Maritime Exercise), Veer Guardian (air exercise), Shinyuu Maitri (air exercise), Sahyog Kaijin (coast guard), Malabar (India, Japan, Australia, and the United States).

**Read More:** [Dharma Guardian 2025, ISR](#)

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