



JIMEX 20 Maritime Exercise

Why in News

The **4th edition of India - Japan Maritime bilateral exercise JIMEX** will be held in the North Arabian Sea from 26th - 28th September 2020.



Key Points //

▪ About JIMEX Exercise:

- JIMEX series of exercises **commenced in January 2012** with special focus on maritime security cooperation.
- It is **conducted biennially** between the Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).
- The **last edition of JIMEX** was conducted in October 2018 off Visakhapatnam, India.

▪ JIMEX 20:

- Multi-faceted tactical exercises involving weapon firings, cross deck helicopter operations and complex surface, anti-submarine and air warfare drills will consolidate coordination developed by the two navies.
- Indigenously built stealth destroyer **Chennai**, Teg Class stealth frigate **Tarkash** and Fleet Tanker **Deepak** will represent the Indian Navy.
- **P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft** will also participate in the exercise.

▪ Significance:

- The exercise is taking place in the **backdrop of [growing concerns over China's military muscle flexing in the Indian Ocean Region](#)** as well as in the Indo-Pacific.
- It will be the **first military exercise after the two countries signed** a landmark agreement (**[Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement - ACSA](#)**), that will allow their militaries to access each other's bases for logistics support.
- **India has [significantly expanded its deployment in the Indian Ocean Region](#)** with a plethora of warships and submarines following the **[border row with China](#)**. The maritime space around the **Malacca Strait** is critical for China's supply chain through sea routes.

- Recently, **Indian and Australian navies** conducted a **passage exercise** in the eastern Indian Ocean Region (IOR). A passage exercise is normally undertaken whenever an opportunity arises, in contrast to pre-planned maritime drills.
- In July 2020, the **Indian Navy carried out a military exercise with a USA Navy carrier strike group** led by the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier **USS Nimitz** off the coast of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
 - The USS Nimitz is the world's largest warship.
 - **Nimitz Carrier Strike Group** is currently deployed to the Indian Ocean in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

▪ **Other Military Exercises between India and Japan:**

- Annual joint land military exercise named '**Dharma Guardian**'.
- Joint Air Force exercise '**Shinyuu Maitri**'.
- Trilateral Maritime **Exercise Malabar** with the USA.

Source: PIB

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