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India-Thailand Joint Military Exercise MAITREE-XV 2026 Commences

18 August 2026 ·

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India-Thailand Joint Military Exercise MAITREE-XV 2026 Commences

18 August 2026 · 1 min read

✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

The **15th edition of Exercise MAITREE (MAITREE-XV)**, a joint India-Thailand military exercise instituted in **2006**, commenced on **August 18, 2026**, at **Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp, Surat Thani, Thailand**, running until **August 31**.

What the Exercise Covers

An **85-member Indian Army contingent**, led by troops from **9 Gorkha Rifles**, is participating alongside a **Royal Thai Army** contingent, focusing on joint **counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in jungle terrain**. The previous edition was held in **September 2025** at Umroi, Meghalaya.

Why This Matters

Jungle-terrain counter-insurgency exercises with Thailand build **interoperability** relevant to both countries' internal-security challenges and reflect India's sustained defence-diplomacy engagement with Southeast Asian neighbours under its Act East Policy.

UPSC Relevance

Bilateral defence exercises, their names, partner countries, edition numbers and venues, form a recurring Prelims fact category. A useful Mains angle connects this exercise to India's Act East Policy and its use of defence diplomacy to build joint counter-terror capability with ASEAN neighbours.

★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

EXERCISE MAITREE-XV, 2026:

Edition: 15th; instituted: 2006

Dates: August 18-31, 2026; venue: Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp, Surat Thani, Thailand

Indian Army contingent: 85 personnel, led by 9 Gorkha Rifles

Focus: joint counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism, jungle terrain

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

Previous edition: September 2025, Umroi, Meghalaya

Sources: *PIB, ANI, Indian Army*

Source: India-Thailand Joint Military Exercise MAITREE-XV 2026 Commences — Ujjyari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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