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India-Japan Air Chiefs Fly Tejas During Veer Guardian Exercise

The air chiefs of India and Japan flew in indigenous Tejas fighter aircraft during the joint air exercise Veer Guardian 2026 in Jodhpur.

Veer Guardian is a bilateral air combat exercise conducted between the Indian Air Force and the Japan Air Self-Defense Force to enhance interoperability.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal **Amar Preet Singh** and JASDF Chief of Staff General **Takehiro Morita** flew together in a Tejas fighter formation.
- The joint fighter sortie took place at the Air Force Station in **Jodhpur**, Rajasthan, during the **Veer Guardian 2026** joint air exercise.
- The flight highlighted deepening defense cooperation and growing international trust in India's indigenous **Light Combat Aircraft** Tejas.
- The joint mission showcased high operational interoperability between the **Indian Air Force** and the Japan Air Self-Defense Force.
- The sortie demonstrated the advanced **avionics**, maneuverability, and multi-role combat flight capabilities of the Tejas platform.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas was designed by the **Aeronautical Development Agency** (ADA) and manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited** (HAL).

The LCA program was officially christened 'Tejas' (meaning radiance) by Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** in **2003**.

Exercise Veer Guardian between India and Japan was first held in **January 2023** at **Hyakuri Air Base** in Japan.

Exercise **Dharma Guardian** is the annual bilateral military land exercise conducted between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force since **2018**.

Exercise **JIMEX** is the bilateral naval exercise conducted between the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, initiated in **2012**.

Exercise Malabar is a multilateral naval exercise involving the four **Quad** nations: India, the United States, Japan, and Australia.

India and Japan conduct a **2+2 Ministerial Dialogue** involving their respective Defence Ministers and External Affairs Ministers.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Veer Guardian is the bilateral joint air combat exercise between the Indian Air Force and JASDF.

Syllabus Relevance: Directly tested in Unit 1 (Science & Tech) and Unit 2 (Current Events: Defense Exercises and India-Japan Bilateral Relations).

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