

# FIFTH EDITION OF JAPAN-INDIA BILATERAL MARITIME EXERCISE 'JIMEX'

Relevant for: International Relations | Topic: India - Japan

The 5th edition of the bilateral maritime exercise **JIMEX**, between Japan and India, was conducted in the Arabian Sea from 06 – 08 October 2021. The exercise saw the ships and aircraft of Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (**JMSDF**) and Indian Navy (**IN**) engaging in a high tempo of operations focused on air, surface and sub-surface dimensions of maritime operations as well as the air domain.

The **IN**, under the command of RAdm Ajay Kochhar, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet, is participating with **indigenous** Guided Missile Destroyer, INS Kochi (with Sea King MK 42B helicopter) and the Guided Missile Frigate INS Teg (with SAR capable Chetak helicopter). The **IN** is also fielding a P8I, a shore-based maritime reconnaissance aircraft, and MiG 29K fighters. The **JMSDF** is led by RAdm Ikeuchizuru, Commander, Escort Flotilla Three comprising of the Izumo Class Helicopter Carrier Kaga and the Guided Missile Destroyer Murasame. Both ships are participating with integral SH60K helicopters.

Setting the operational tempo from the start, the units **exercised War at Sea scenario** with P8I (**IN**) providing maritime reconnaissance support to both navies. The units practiced **Replenishment at Sea approaches** and undertook **fuel rig connect-up between Kaga and Kochi**. The exercise also involved complex **Over the Horizon Targeting** exercises and **surface gun shoots** on an expendable target. An **advanced coordinated anti-submarine exercise** involving an underwater target deployed by **JMSDF** saw surface units and **IN's** P8I aircraft exercising with **seamless coordination**. Flag Officers of the two forces also met on the Flight Decks of **Kochi** and **Kaga** during flying operations, in keeping with the true spirit of military friendship.

The Air Domain operations included advanced anti-aircraft firing exercises on Expendable Aerial Target launched from the deck of INS Kochi and ship controlled Beyond Visual Range (BVR) combat drills by **IN's** MiG 29K fighters. The exercise involved a high tempo of flying operations with MiG 29K fighters coming in for multiple simulated air strike on surface units, shepherded by the **IN's** Maritime Patrol Aircraft, Dornier. The inclement weather could do little to hold back **IN** and **JMSDF** helicopters from undertaking **cross-deck landings**, showcasing a **high level of interoperability**.

The precision, coordination and the high level of interoperability reflected not only the high standards of professionalism and preparedness the two navies maintain to counter threats at sea, but also the high level of trust and understanding that they have built over the years. The complex maritime exercises undertaken will enable the two navies to further strengthen their already wide-ranging strategic partnership and, when required, to jointly safeguard their maritime interests and ensure peace, security and stability in the region.





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