Harimau Shakti-VI: India-Malaysia joint military exercise begins in Malaysia

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Prelims: bilateral military exercises, Harimau Shakti



मौलिक प्रतीकात्मक चित्र: pcsmantra.com

Why in news

The sixth edition of the India-Malaysia joint military exercise **HARIMAU SHAKTI** began at **Ipoh, Malaysia** on 19 November 2026 and runs till **30 November 2026**. Each side has fielded **120 personnel**. The exercise is held alternately in India and Malaysia.

Exercise outline

- **Aim**: joint rehearsal of sub-conventional operations under **Chapter VII** of the UN mandate, with emphasis on synergising responses during counter-terrorism operations.
- **Terrain**: coordinated operations in jungle and semi-urban terrain; joint planning, tactical coordination and employment of emerging technologies.
- **Phases**: cross-training and familiarisation, then joint tactical drills - a Joint Command Post and Surveillance Centre, counter-terrorism operations, raids, cordon-and-search and combat engineering drills.
- **Technology**: integrated employment of **Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)** for reconnaissance and surveillance, and **Counter-UAS** capabilities to detect and neutralise hostile drones.
- **Culmination**: a joint validation exercise on a simulated counter-terrorism scenario.

Significance

The exercise lets both armies exchange best practices in tactics, techniques and procedures, enhances interoperability and strengthens bilateral defence cooperation - contributing to regional peace and stability.

Prelims practice questions

Question 1: Consider the following statements:
Statement 1: Harimau Shakti is a bilateral military exercise between India and Malaysia
Statement 2: Its sixth edition is being held in India

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

▼ Answer and explanation

Answer: (a) The sixth edition is at Ipoh, Malaysia; the exercise alternates between the two countries.

Question 2: With reference to Harimau Shakti-VI (2026), choose the correct statement:

(a) It is a naval exercise

(b) It includes rehearsal of sub-conventional operations under Chapter VII of the UN mandate

(c) It is the first edition

(d) It involves no drone technology

▼ Answer and explanation

Answer: (b) It is an army exercise covering Chapter VII sub-conventional operations, counter-terrorism drills and UAS/C-UAS employment; it is the sixth edition.

FAQ

In short: the sixth edition of the India-Malaysia joint military exercise Harimau Shakti runs 19-30 November 2026 at Ipoh, Malaysia, with 120 personnel from each side.

Q: What does "Harimau" mean?

"Harimau" is Malay for tiger - the name reflects the bilateral partnership with Malaysia.

Q: Where is the exercise held?

Alternately in India and Malaysia; the 2026 edition is at Ipoh, Malaysia.

Q: What is the role of technology in this edition?

Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) are integrated for reconnaissance and surveillance, with special emphasis on Counter-UAS capabilities to neutralise hostile drones.

Sources

1. PIB/Ministry of Defence, Harimau Shakti-VI (19 November 2026): https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338498&lang=2&reg=48
2. Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, Malay dictionary: https://prpm.dbp.gov.my/Cari1?d=8652&keyword=harimau