



GS Paper 2-IR

India, Malaysia plan counter-terrorism exercises for 2026

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

At the 14th meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) Experts' Working Group on Counter-Terrorism (EWG on CT), held in New Delhi, co-chairs India and Malaysia announced plans for a table-top exercise in Malaysia in 2026 and a field train-

ties, exercises, meetings and workshops planned for the current cycle," the Defence Ministry said.

Two days earlier, the European Union (EU) hosted a technical workshop in New Delhi on preventing and countering violent extremism, held on the sidelines of the Raisina Dialogue. Organised in cooperation with the Embassy of the Netherlands, the workshop was inaugu-

KEY POINTS

- India and Malaysia announced counter-terrorism exercises in 2026 and 2027 as part of a 2024–2027 plan.
- The EU also hosted a workshop in New Delhi on countering violent extremism, focusing on collaboration and human rights.





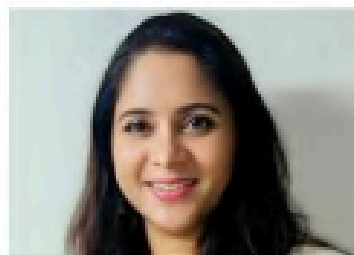
GS Paper 2-IR

Charting a route for IORA under India's chairship

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is an apex regional organisation that promotes open regionalism between the countries of Asia, Africa and Australia, connected via Indian Ocean waters. As the Indian leadership prepares to step up to chair IORA from November 2025 – it is now Vice-Chair – it can bring impetus to increased resilience in its governance structure. As IORA chair for the next two years, India will have three priorities: creating funding opportunities to enlarge IORA's budget; integrating technology for data management and policy analysis, and creating maritime-ready courses with academic and research institutions using collaborations.

The Indian Ocean Region and IORA

Geostrategically, the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is a subset of the Indo-Pacific, yet unique. The



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States, China and the European Union are IORA's dialogue partners, it is mainly driven by only middle and small powers and, therefore, requires a tour de force to become more relevant.

Issues faced by IORA

The Indian Ocean region is relatively free of the great power competition yet has its own set of challenges, including funding. IORA's annual budget is member-dependent. Barring Singapore, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and France, the member-states are developing Asian and African economies. The budget is indicated to be just a few million. Incidentally, the Indian Ocean Commission, which has only five IO countries, has a \$1.3 billion budget for the 2020-25 time frame. Thus, the funds generated fall short of achieving IORA's growing areas of engagement such as maritime safety and security, fisheries

governance. Accounting for data is laborious with a large margin of error, and quick and efficient policy analysis would be made easier with digitised record keeping.

Other suggestions for India

India's Security and Growth for All (SAGAR) vision complements IORA's objectives and must leverage its excellent relations with IORA member-states to develop workable solutions. IORA members, such as Australia, have made significant contributions to research in marine science and technology. France and Singapore, have their strength in marine-related technologies, and the UAE and Oman can contribute through investments in sectors where IORA seeks help. Traditional knowledge that exists in coastal and small island nations (Sri Lanka, Seychelles, Mauritius) should be



KEY POINTS

- India will chair the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) from November 2025, aiming to boost funding, integrate technology, and develop maritime courses. The region, crucial for global trade, faces challenges like poor development and security issues. India plans to leverage its "Security and Growth for All" vision to foster collaboration for sustainable solutions and a strong blue economy.





THE HINDU



GS Paper 1-Places

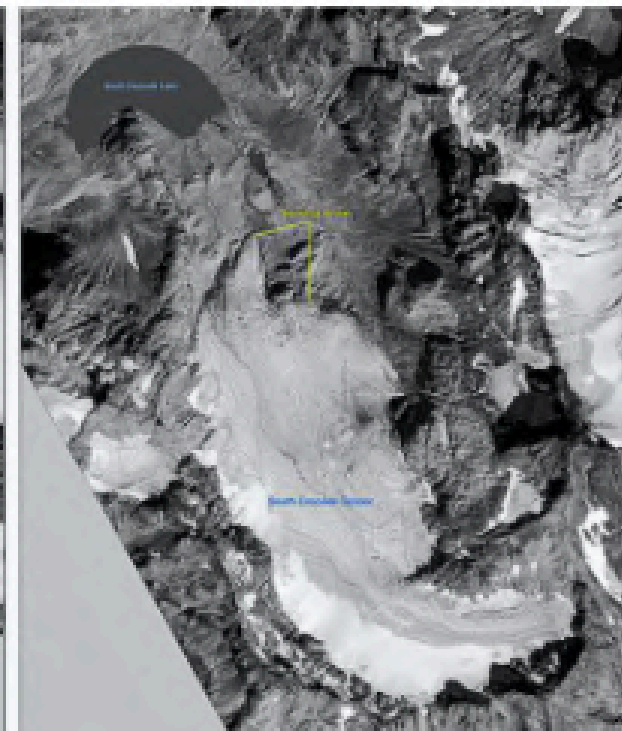
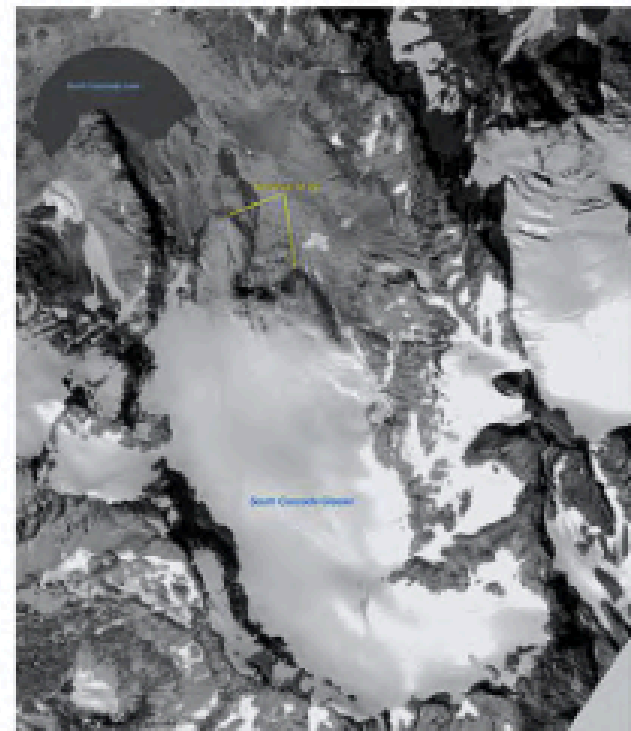
In U.S. Northwest, South Cascade is where glacier science developed

Agence France-Presse

LOS ANGELES

For nearly 70 years scientists have been probing, measuring, drilling and generally getting to know South Cascade Glacier in the U.S. Northwest, developing and honing skills now used worldwide.

Generations of glaciologists have studied the slow-



timately into Puget Sound.

The size of the basin – more than 2 square miles – along with its straightforward geometry made it ideal to study for scientists wanting to know how these dynamic bodies are faring in the changing world.

A glacier is a perennial accumulation of snow and ice that is always on the



KEY POINTS

- South Cascade Glacier in Washington state has been studied for nearly 70 years, offering crucial insights into glaciology and climate change. Named "glacier of the year" by the WMO, it is located in the Cascade Range and is influenced by a maritime climate with heavy precipitation.



GS 2-Governance

INCIDENT OF FIRE AT RESIDENCE OF JUSTICE YASHWANT VARMA

Collegium favours transfer of Delhi HC judge after report of cash at his home

HC CJ sends report; Dhankhar says if it's a politician, targeted immediately

Justice Varma stays away from court, police & fire service silent on incident

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
& ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND**
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

THE SUPREME Court Collegium has proposed the transfer of Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma to the Allahabad High Court, his parent High Court, following a report about cash at his New Delhi residence where a fire broke out on March 14.

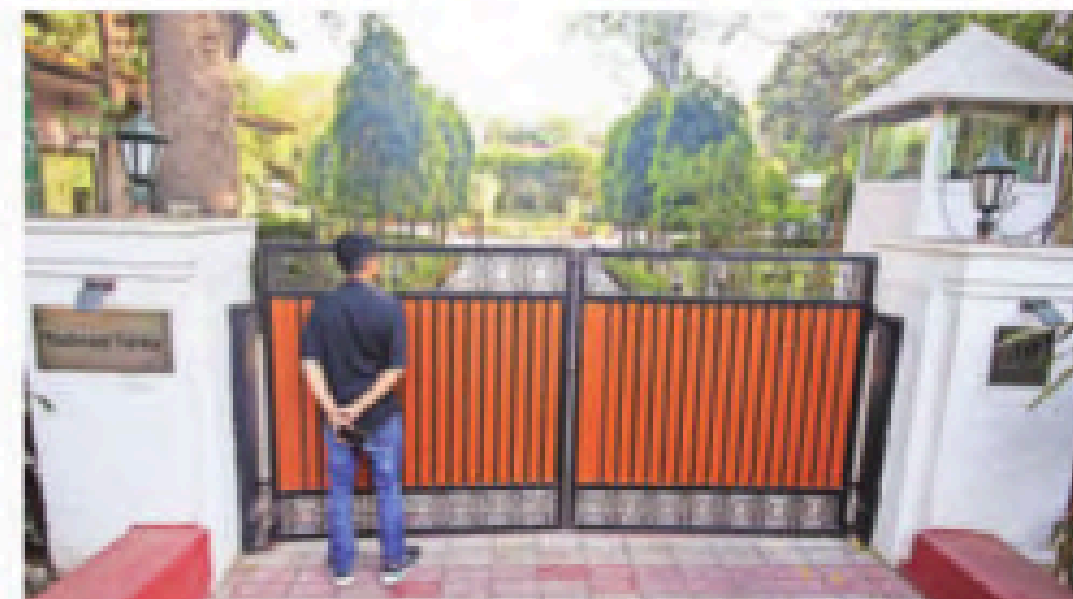


Justice
Yashwant
Varma

Varma, who is the second senior most Judge in the Delhi High Court and a member of the Collegium, to his parent High Court i.e. the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad, where

**SOHINIGHOSH, ALOK
SINGH & AJAY SINHA
KARPURAM**
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

DELHI HIGH Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma, the subject of an in-house inquiry by the High Court following a report about cash at his New Delhi residence where a fire broke out on March 14, did not attend court Friday.



KEY POINTS

- The Supreme Court collegium transferred Justice Yashwant Varma back to the Allahabad High Court after cash was found at his residence. The collegium, which appoints and transfers judges, is not constitutionally mandated but has evolved through court rulings. It consists of the CJI and seniormost judges. The system faces criticism for lack of transparency. The NJAC, proposed in 2000 to replace the collegium, was passed by Parliament in 2014 but struck down by the Supreme Court in 2015. Summarise very short





GS Paper 2-IR

India & Mongolia Reaffirm Commitment To Strengthen Strategic Partnership





KEY POINTS

- India and Mongolia have reaffirmed their Strategic Partnership, reviewing bilateral ties and cooperation in areas like development, education, and defence. They agreed to mark the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations and upgrade Foreign Office Constitutions to Secretary-level.





GS Paper 1-Geography

Indonesia's Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki Volcano Erupts



AKASHVANI

NEWS

KEY POINTS

- Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki in Indonesia erupted three times, with increased seismic activity in the past week.
- Indonesia, an archipelago with 120 active volcanoes, is part of the "Ring of Fire" known for frequent seismic events.

