

MCQ Question · mcqquestion.com

India’s Defence Diplomacy: Raksha and the V4 Outreach

Free · Share

India’s Defence Diplomacy: Raksha and the V4 Outreach

Countries make friends in many ways. Some send diplomats. Some sign trade deals. And some send warships, trainers and weapons. That last kind is called defence diplomacy. In September 2026, India set out a 10-year plan for it, called Raksha. Weeks later, India also met a new group of European partners. This lesson explains both.

India’s new outreach, at a glance

Four facts that clear up most exam questions

01
Raksha

India’s 10-year defence diplomacy framework, released 3 September 2026.

02
₹38,424 crore

India’s record defence exports in 2025-26.

03
V4

Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

04
21 September 2026

First V4+India foreign ministers’ meeting, at the UN in New York.



Indian and US warships sail together during Exercise Malabar in 2012. Joint exercises like this are a big part of defence diplomacy. Photo: U.S. Navy, Wikimedia Commons, public domain.

Defence diplomacy Using the armed forces and defence ties to build friendships with other countries.
Net Security ProviderA country that helps keep a whole region safe, not just itself.
First Responder The first country to send help when a disaster strikes a neighbour.
HADRHumanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.

What is defence diplomacy?

Must Know
Diplomacy most often means talks between countries. Defence diplomacy uses the **military** for the same goal: making friends and keeping peace.

- Navies and armies hold **joint exercises** with friendly countries.
- Officers train at each other's colleges.
- Countries sell or share defence gear.
- Forces rush help to neighbours after storms and floods.
- Each of these builds **trust** between countries.

An old example: Malabar

- **Exercise Malabar** began in **1992** as an India-US naval exercise.
- **Japan** became a permanent partner in 2015.
- **Australia** rejoined in 2020. So all four Quad countries now take part.

> **Quick check 1.** Q1. True or False: Exercise Malabar began in 1992 as a naval exercise between India and the United States. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

What does Raksha promise?

Current Affairs

On **3 September 2026**, Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** released **Raksha**. It is India's roadmap for defence diplomacy over the **next 10 years** (The Hindu).

Raksha: a 10-year plan, three pillars



A short view of the pillars named in Raksha.

- **Partners:** deeper defence ties with friendly countries, one-to-one and in groups.
- **Exercises and training:** more joint exercises, training and capacity building.
- **Exports:** sell more **Made in India** defence goods. Be a partner others can trust to make defence goods.
- **The sea:** act as **Net Security Provider and First Responder** in the Indian Ocean.

> **Quick check 2.** Q2. True or False: Raksha is a five-year plan for India’s defence production. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Why sell weapons abroad?

Good to Know

When a country buys Indian weapons, it also needs Indian training, spare parts and support. So a sale builds a **long friendship**, not a one-time deal.

India's export numbers

- Defence exports hit a record **₹38,424 crore** in 2025-26 (The Federal).
- That was up nearly **63%** from ₹23,622 crore the year before.
- The government wants exports of **₹50,000 crore by 2029**.

A big example: BrahMos

- **BrahMos** is a cruise missile made jointly by India and Russia.
- The **Philippines** signed a deal for it in January 2022, worth about **US$375 million**.
- The first units reached the Philippines in **April 2024**.

> **Quick check 3.** Q3. True or False: India's defence exports in 2025-26 were about ₹38,424 crore, a record. *(True or False?)*
>
> See answer ↓

Who guards the Indian Ocean?

Must Know

India sits right in the middle of the Indian Ocean. Much of its trade and oil comes by sea. So keeping these waters safe matters a lot to India.

From SAGAR to MAHASAGAR

- In **March 2015**, PM Modi spoke of **SAGAR** in Mauritius. It stands for Security and Growth for All in the Region.
- In **March 2025**, again in Mauritius, he announced **MAHASAGAR** (IMPRI).
- MAHASAGAR stands for Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.
- It widens SAGAR into a vision for the whole **Global South**.

First Responder in action

- In November 2025, Cyclone Ditwah hit **Sri Lanka**.
- India launched **Operation Sagar Bandhu** to send rescue teams and relief.
- Quick help like this is what “First Responder” means.

> **Quick check 4.** Q4. True or False: SAGAR was first spoken of by PM Modi in Sri Lanka in 2015. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Think it through, before reading on. Why would a defence plan care about selling weapons, not just using them?

Show the explanation

A weapon sale ties two countries for years. The buyer needs training, spare parts and upgrades from the seller. So every sale opens a long relationship. It also helps Indian factories grow. Then India needs to buy less from abroad. That is why Raksha puts exports next to exercises and training.

Who are the V4?

Must Know

The **Visegrad Group**, or V4, is a group of four countries in Central Europe.

The Visegrad Group (V4)

Poland Capital: Warsaw	**Czech Republic** Capital: Prague
Slovakia Capital: Bratislava	**Hungary** Capital: Budapest

Founded 1991 at Visegrád, Hungary · four members since 1993

All four joined the European Union in 2004

A simple chart, not a map. The group is named after the Hungarian castle town where it began.

- Its members are **Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia**.

- It began on **15 February 1991**, at a summit in Visegrád, a castle town in Hungary.
- At first it had three members. One was **Czechoslovakia**.
- Czechoslovakia split in **1993**. So the group became four.
- All four joined the **European Union** on 1 May 2004.
- They work as a team on defence, trade, culture and energy.

> **Quick check 5.** Q5. True or False: Austria is a member of the Visegrad Group. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

What did V4+India agree?

Current Affairs

On **21 September 2026**, India and the V4 held their **first foreign ministers' meeting**. It took place in New York, beside the **81st UN General Assembly** (The Hindu).

- External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** called it a "new historic occasion".
- The five foreign ministers will now **meet every year**.
- They agreed to start an **annual business forum**.
- They will **refresh defence cooperation**. India has old defence ties with all four.
- They will also work more on tech, research and learning.
- They also talked about space, connectivity, the Ukraine war and the Gulf.

Why it matters

- India's ties with the European Union are growing.

- The V4 have big industries and strong tech.
- Meeting them as a group gives India a new link to Europe.

> **Quick check 6.** Q6. True or False: The first V4+India foreign ministers' meeting was held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in 2026. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Remember this: Raksha = India's 10-year defence diplomacy framework, released by Rajnath Singh on 3 September 2026. Pillars: partners and exercises, defence exports, Indian Ocean security. Exports ₹38,424 crore in 2025-26; target ₹50,000 crore by 2029. SAGAR 2015 and MAHASAGAR 2025, both announced in Mauritius. V4 = Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia; founded 1991. First V4+India FM meeting: 21 September 2026, at UNGA81.

Exam Angle

How have exams tested this?

Quick Q&A

Who released the Raksha framework?

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on 3 September 2026.

How many years does Raksha cover?

Ten years.

Name the four V4 countries.

Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Where were SAGAR and MAHASAGAR announced?

In Mauritius, in 2015 and 2025.

Which country was BrahMos's first export buyer?

The Philippines.

Related Topics

India-Mauritius Relations

India-Singapore Relations

Sri Lanka's 2022 Economic Crisis and India's Role

S. Jaishankar: Diplomat, Author, and External Affairs Minister

Panchsheel: The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence

All International Relations Articles

MCQ on India's Defence Diplomacy

5 verified questions from this lesson.

More questions on defence ties, the Indian Ocean and new partners:

🎲 More International Relations Practice

Practice MCQs

1. Consider the following statements about 'Raksha', released in September 2026:

1. It was released by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

2. It is a five-year framework for India's defence diplomacy.

3. Promoting indigenous defence exports is one of its focus areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 3 only

B. 1 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

See answer ↓

2. Which one of the following countries is NOT a member of the Visegrad Group (V4)?

A. Hungary

B. Poland

C. Slovakia

D. Romania

See answer ↓

3. Arrange the following in chronological order:1. PM Modi first speaks of SAGAR in Mauritius2. Exercise Malabar begins as an India-US naval exercise3. The Visegrad Group is founded4. PM Modi announces the MAHASAGAR vision Select the correct answer using the code given below.

A. 2-3-1-4

B. 3-1-2-4

C. 2-3-4-1

D. 3-2-1-4

See answer ↓

4. Where was the first V4+India foreign ministers' meeting held in September 2026?

A. New Delhi, at the Raisina Dialogue

B. Brussels, at an EU summit

C. New York, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly

D. Warsaw, at a V4 summit

See answer ↓

5. Assertion (A): The Raksha framework stresses India's role as a Net Security Provider and First Responder in the Indian Ocean Region. Reason (R): India's SAGAR vision was first announced in Sri Lanka in 2015.

A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A

B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A

C. A is true, but R is false

D. A is false, but R is true

See answer ↓

6. 'Raksha', released by the Defence Ministry in September 2026, is best described as:

A. A health scheme for ex-servicemen

B. A new indigenous air-defence missile system

C. A joint military exercise with Sri Lanka

D. A 10-year framework for defence diplomacy and partnerships

See answer ↓

7. Which of the following countries is NOT a member of the Visegrad Group (V4)?

A. Austria

B. Poland

C. Hungary

D. Slovakia

See answer ↓

8. What was India's record defence export figure for 2025-26?

A. ₹50,000 crore

B. ₹23,622 crore

C. ₹38,424 crore

D. ₹21,083 crore

See answer ↓

9. Consider these two statements about India's Vision MAHASAGAR.

Statement 1: It was launched in March 2025.

Statement 2: It expands the earlier SAGAR doctrine to the wider Global South.

Which statement(s) is/are correct?

A. Only Statement 1 is correct

B. Only Statement 2 is correct

C. Neither statement is correct

D. Both statements are correct

See answer ↓

10. In what year did India and Mauritius establish diplomatic relations?

A. 1948

B. 1957

C. 1968

D. 1975

See answer ↓

11. Roughly what share of Mauritius's population is of Indian origin?

A. Around 30%

B. Over 90%

C. Around 50%

D. Nearly 70%

See answer ↓

12. The India-Mauritius CECPA, signed on 22 February 2021, was significant for which reason?

A. It was Mauritius's first FTA with any country

B. It was India's first trade agreement with any African country

C. It replaced an older 1968 trade treaty

D. It was India's largest-ever FTA by trade volume

See answer ↓

13. PM Modi first announced India's SAGAR vision (Security and Growth for All in the Region) during a 2015 visit to which country?

A. Maldives

B. Sri Lanka

C. Seychelles

D. Mauritius

See answer ↓

14. During PM Modi's March 2025 visit to Mauritius, what did India commit to building as a gift from "the Mother of Democracy"?

A. Mauritius's new Parliament building

B. A new international airport

C. A new national stadium

D. A new naval base

See answer ↓

15. 'MALABAR' is a naval exercise that originated between India and?

A. Singapore

B. USA

C. Britain

D. China

See answer ↓

16. Which country became BrahMos's first export customer, in a $375 million deal signed January 2022?

A. Vietnam

B. The Philippines

C. Sri Lanka

D. Indonesia

See answer ↓

17. What makes SIMBEX, the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise, distinctive among India's naval exercises?

A. It involves the largest number of participating countries of any Indian exercise

B. It is India's newest bilateral naval exercise, started in 2020

C. It is the only naval exercise India conducts in the Indian Ocean

D. It is the longest continuous bilateral naval exercise India runs with any single country

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **A.** Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Rajnath Singh released Raksha on 3 September 2026. It covers the next 10 years, not five. Defence exports under Make in India are a major focus. ↑ Q1
2. **D.** The V4 members are Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Romania is not a member. ↑ Q2
3. **D.** The Visegrad Group began in February 1991. Malabar began in 1992. SAGAR came in March 2015, and MAHASAGAR in March 2025. ↑ Q3
4. **C.** The meeting was held on 21 September 2026 in New York, beside the 81st UN General Assembly. The ministers agreed to meet every year. ↑ Q4
5. **C.** A is true: maritime security is a Raksha pillar. R is false: PM Modi first spoke of SAGAR in Mauritius, in March 2015. ↑ Q5
6. **D.** Raksha is a 10-year framework for India's defence diplomacy and global partnerships. Rajnath Singh released it on 3 September 2026. It also covers defence exports and Indian Ocean security. ↑ Q6
7. **A.** Austria is not a member. The V4 is Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. It held its first meeting with India in September 2026. ↑ Q7
8. **C.** Exports hit ₹38,424 crore in 2025-26. ₹50,000 crore is the target for 2029. ↑ Q8
9. **D.** Vision MAHASAGAR was launched in March 2025. It expands India's earlier SAGAR doctrine into a broader Global South framework. ↑ Q9
10. **A.** India and Mauritius established diplomatic relations in 1948, a full 20 years before Mauritius itself became independent, in 1968. ↑ Q10
11. **D.** Nearly 70% of Mauritius's population traces its roots to India, mostly to indentured labourers the British brought to work sugar plantations from 1834 onwards. No other country outside India has a higher share of people of Indian origin. ↑ Q11
12. **B.** The Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) was India's first trade agreement with any African country. It followed nearly 15 years of negotiations. ↑ Q12

13. **D.** PM Modi first announced SAGAR during a 2015 visit to Mauritius, which remains central to the vision. India is separately helping develop Mauritius's Agalega Island with an airstrip and jetty, to support maritime surveillance across the Western Indian Ocean. ↑ Q13
14. **A.** India announced it would build Mauritius's new Parliament building, calling it a gift from "the Mother of Democracy." The same visit saw 8 MoUs signed and the launch of Vision MAHASAGAR. ↑ Q14
15. **B.** MALABAR began as a bilateral India-USA naval exercise (later expanded to include Japan and Australia). ↑ Q15
16. **B.** The Philippines became BrahMos's first export customer, in a $375 million deal for three shore-based anti-ship batteries. ↑ Q16
17. **D.** SIMBEX has run since 1994, and is the longest continuous bilateral naval exercise India conducts with any single country. Its 32nd edition ran in July-August 2025. ↑ Q17

Quick-check answers

1. **True.** ↑ 1
2. **False.** ↑ 2
3. **True.** ↑ 3
4. **False.** ↑ 4
5. **False.** ↑ 5
6. **True.** ↑ 6

Curated by Arsalan Zuberi · mcqquestion.com

Scan to read online

https://mcqquestion.com/articles/intlrel0171-india-defence-diplomacy-raksha-v4/