



General Knowledge | Military Exercises of India



Military Exercises of India

Military Exercises are planned training operations conducted by the Indian Armed Forces independently or jointly with friendly foreign nations. These exercises enhance combat readiness, operational coordination, interoperability, strategic partnerships, and preparedness for modern security challenges. They cover areas such as *counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), peacekeeping operations, cyber warfare, drone operations, and conventional warfare.*

Why Are Military Exercises Important?

Objectives

- Improve combat readiness and operational efficiency.
- Strengthen defence cooperation and strategic partnerships.
- Enhance interoperability among armed forces.
- Exchange military tactics, technology, and best practices.
- Prepare for counter-terrorism and peacekeeping operations.
- Train for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR).
- Develop capabilities in cyber warfare, drone warfare, and grey-zone conflicts.



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Major Military Exercises Conducted by the Indian Army

Country	Exercise
Australia	AUSTRA HIND
Bangladesh	SAMPRITI
China	HAND IN HAND
France	SHAKTI
Indonesia	GARUDA SHAKTI
Kazakhstan	PRABAL DOSTYK
Kyrgyzstan	KHANJAR
Maldives	EKUVERIN
Mongolia	NOMADIC ELEPHANT
Myanmar	IMBEX
Nepal	SURYA KIRAN
Oman	AL NAGAH
Russia	INDRA
Seychelles	LAMITIYE
Sri Lanka	MITRA SHAKTI
Thailand	MAITREE
United Kingdom	AJEYA WARRIOR
United States	YUDH ABHYAS
United States	VAJRA PRAHAR

Major Military Exercises Conducted by the Indian Navy

Exercise	Participating Countries
MALABAR	India, USA, Japan, Australia
VARUNA	India, France
LA PEROUSE	India, Australia, USA, France, Japan, UK
SEA DRAGON	India, USA, Japan, Canada, South Korea
KONKAN	India, UK
AUSINDEX	India, Australia
SIMBEX	India, Singapore
SLINEX	India, Sri Lanka
SAMUDRA SHAKTI	India, Indonesia
AL-MOHED AL-HINDI	India, Saudi Arabia
INDRA NAVY	India, Russia
NASEEM-AL-BAHR	India, Oman
IBSAMAR	India, Brazil, South Africa
IN-BN CORPAT	India, Bangladesh
INDO-THAI CORPAT	India, Thailand



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Major Military Exercises Conducted by the Indian Air Force

Exercise	Country/Participants
VEER GUARDIAN	India – Japan
PASSEX	India – France
DESERT FLAG	Multinational
COBRA WARRIOR	Multinational
COPE INDIA	India – USA
ORION	Multinational
INIOCHOS	India – Greece
BRIGHT STAR	India – Egypt

Important Integrated Tri-Service Exercises

Exercise	Description
TROPEX	Indian Navy-led Theatre Level Operational Exercise
TIGER TRIUMPH	India–USA Tri-Service Exercise
INDRA	India–Russia Tri-Service Exercise
Ex Kranti Mahotsav	Multi-Role Helicopter Operations
Ex Chakra Drishti	Fighter Aircraft, AEW&C and RPA Operations

Important Humanitarian & Evacuation Operations

Operation	Year	Purpose
Operation Rahat	2013	Uttarakhand Flood Rescue
Operation Maitri	2015	Nepal Earthquake Relief
Operation Samudra Setu	2020	COVID Evacuation Mission
Mission SAGAR	2020–22	Assistance to Indian Ocean Countries
Operation Devi Shakti	2021	Afghanistan Evacuation
Operation Ganga	2022	Ukraine Evacuation
Operation Dost	2023	Türkiye-Syria Earthquake Relief
Operation Kaveri	2023	Sudan Evacuation
Operation Brahma	2025	Myanmar Earthquake Relief

Most Important Exercise-Country Pairs

Exercise	Country
YUDH ABHYAS	USA
VAJRA PRAHAR	USA
SHAKTI	France
SURYA KIRAN	Nepal
HAND IN HAND	China
GARUDA SHAKTI	Indonesia
EKUVERIN	Maldives



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MITRA SHAKTI	Sri Lanka
MAITREE	Thailand
AUSTRA HIND	Australia
KHANJAR	Kyrgyzstan
SAMPRITI	Bangladesh
INDRA	Russia
AJEYA WARRIOR	United Kingdom

Memory Tricks

USA

"USA practices War and Thunder"

- YUDH ABHYAS
- VAJRA PRAHAR

France

France gives SHAKTI

- SHAKTI
- VARUNA
- GARUDA

Nepal

Sun rises in Nepal

- SURYA KIRAN

Maldives

Friends in Maldives

- EKUVERIN (means Friends)

Sri Lanka

Friendly Sri Lanka

- MITRA SHAKTI
(Mitra = Friend)

Exam-Trap Points

1. MALABAR → India, USA, Japan, Australia (Quad Naval Exercise)
2. SHAKTI → Army Exercise with France
3. VARUNA → Naval Exercise with France
4. GARUDA → Air Exercise with France
5. INDRA → India–Russia Tri-Service Exercise
6. YUDH ABHYAS → India–USA Army Exercise
7. VAJRA PRAHAR → India–USA Special Forces Exercise
8. HAND IN HAND → India–China Exercise

Revision

USA

- YUDH ABHYAS



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- VAJRA PRAHAR
- COPE INDIA
- MALABAR
- TIGER TRIUMPH

France

- SHAKTI
- VARUNA
- GARUDA

Russia

- INDRA
- INDRA NAVY

Nepal

- SURYA KIRAN

China

- HAND IN HAND

Australia

- AUSTRALIA HIND
- AUSINDEX

Sri Lanka

- MITRA SHAKTI
- SLINEX

Thailand

- MAITREE

Maldives

- EKUVERIN

Sample PYQs

1. Exercise "Yudh Abhyas" is conducted between India and:

- (a) Russia
- (b) France
- (c) USA
- (d) UK

2. The 15th edition of the India–USA Joint Special Forces Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR 2024 was conducted at which of the following locations?

- (a) Fort Bragg, North Carolina, USA
- (b) Orchard Combat Training Centre, Idaho, USA
- (c) Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, USA
- (d) Camp Pendleton, California, USA
