

EXERCISE DESERT HUNT 2025

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** conducted Exercise Desert Hunt 2025, an integrated Tri-Service Special Forces exercise, at **Air Force Station Jodhpur** from 24 to 28 February 2025.



- This exercise brought together elite Special Forces units from all three services — **Para (SF)** of the **Indian Army**, **Marine Commandos (MARCOS)** of the **Indian Navy**, and **Garud Commandos** of the **Indian Air Force**

BILATERAL NAVAL EXERCISE - VARUNA 2025

-The bilateral **naval exercise** VARUNA 2025 between the **Indian Navy and the French Navy** was conducted from 19 to 22 March 2025, highlighting the enduring strategic partnership between India and France.

- The exercise reflected the two nations' shared commitment to a **rules-based maritime order**, **regional stability**, and **cooperative security** in the **Indo-Pacific region**.



Air Defence Drills: Advanced air defence exercises featured **Rafale-M** aircraft of the French Navy and **MiG-29K** of the Indian Navy, simulating realistic aerial combat to strengthen air threat response capabilities.

Exercise VARUNA:

Initiated in **1993**, it was formally named "VARUNA" in **2001**.

EXERCISE BONGOSAGAR 25

- **INS RANVIR** PARTICIPATES IN EXERCISE BONGOSAGAR 25 AND **INDIAN NAVY - BANGLADESH NAVY CORPAT**

- The India–Bangladesh Naval Exercise Bongosagar 2025 and **Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)** were **conducted in the Bay of Bengal** during the second week of March 2025.



- The exercise included surface firing, tactical manoeuvres, underway replenishment, **Visit-Board-Search-Seizure (VBSS)**, cross boarding operations, and communication drills.
- First held in **2019**, it complements the **India–Bangladesh CORPAT**, which has been conducted since **2018**.

Static / Background Information

CORPAT (Coordinated Patrol):

- Conducted **biannually** between India and Bangladesh in the **northern Bay of Bengal**.

INS Ranvir:

- A **Rajput-class guided-missile destroyer** of the **Indian Navy**, commissioned in **1986**.
- Equipped for **multi-role operations**, including anti-surface, anti-air, and anti-submarine warfare.

BNS Abu Ubaidah:

- A **Type 053H3 frigate** of the **Bangladesh Navy**, capable of multi-dimensional operations in surface and air defence roles.

SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region):

- India's strategic maritime vision announced by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in **2015**

PASSEX (Passing Exercise)

- **The Indian Navy's stealth frigate INS Tarkash** carried out a PASSEX (Passing Exercise) with **the Royal New Zealand Navy's Anzac-class frigate HMNZS Te Kaha** on 04 April 2025 **in the Gulf of Aden**



- The exercise demonstrated the **growing maritime cooperation** between **India and New Zealand**, reinforcing India's role as a **reliable and preferred maritime security partner** in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.

Static / Background Information

INS Tarkash:

- o **A stealth frigate of the Talwar-class (Project 11356), built in Russia** for the Indian Navy.
- o **Commissioned in 2012**, the ship is equipped for multi-role operations, including anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine warfare.

HMNZS Te Kaha:

- o An Anzac-class frigate of the Royal New Zealand Navy, commissioned in 1997.
- o Designed for multinational maritime operations, including peacekeeping, **disaster relief, and security patrols**.

PASSEX (Passing Exercise):

- o Conducted when two or more naval ships from different countries operate together during transits or deployments.

CTF 150 (Combined Task Force 150):

- o A multinational task force under the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), focused on maritime security **operations in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, and Indian Ocean**.
- o **Aims to counter terrorism**, piracy, and illicit trafficking.

#EXERCISE DESERT FLAG-10

- Indian Air Force Participates in **Multinational Exercise** Desert Flag-10 **in UAE**
- A contingent of the Indian Air Force (IAF) has reached **Al Dhafra Air Base**, United Arab Emirates (UAE) to take part in the **10th edition of Exercise Desert Flag**, a premier multinational air combat exercise.



- The IAF is deploying **MiG-29** and **Jaguar aircraft** for the exercise, showcasing India's indigenous and legacy air combat platforms in a global arena.
- Participating air forces include those of **Australia, Bahrain, France, Germany, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Republic of Korea, Turkey, UAE, the United Kingdom, and the United States**, apart from India.

Static / Background Information

Exercise Desert Flag:

- A **multinational air exercise** **hosted annually** by the **UAE Air Force**.
- Focuses on air combat training, force integration, and multi-domain interoperability among participating nations.

Al Dhafra Air Base:

- Located **near Abu Dhabi**, it is one of the most important **airbases in the Gulf region**.
- Hosts air operations for multiple allied nations, **including the UAE, US, and France**.

Significance for India:

- **Strengthens air force-to-air force cooperation** with key strategic partners.
- Provides exposure to multinational operational environments and enhances combat readiness.
- Part of India's broader defence diplomacy and engagement strategy under the Act East and Neighbourhood First policies.

HADR Exercise

The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sharda arrived **at Maafilaafushi Atoll, Maldives**, to participate in a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise scheduled from 04 to 10 May 2025.



- This initiative reflects India's continued commitment to **regional cooperation** and its proactive role in **maritime security and disaster management** in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- To **enhance interoperability** between the **Indian Navy** and the **Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF)**.

Exercise Components

The HADR exercise focuses on multiple areas of cooperation including:

- o **Disaster response coordination** and **rapid deployment drills**.
- o **Search and rescue (SAR) operations** in maritime disaster scenarios.
- o **Medical assistance** and **logistical support** to affected regions.
- o **Joint drills and training sessions** to share best practices.
- o **Community engagement programmes** to strengthen local resilience.

Strategic Significance

- Strengthens India's **"Neighbourhood First"** policy and **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** doctrine.
- Aligns with India's broader maritime vision **MAHASAGAR** (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions).
- Demonstrates India's capability and readiness to act as a **first responder** in regional crises and natural disasters.

Static / Background Information

- **INS Sharda:** An offshore patrol vessel of the Indian Navy, primarily used for surveillance, patrolling, and HADR operations.
- **Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF):** The principal military body of the Maldives, responsible for national defence and disaster response.
- **HADR Exercises:** Aim to strengthen preparedness and coordination among regional partners for providing timely humanitarian aid in the aftermath of natural disasters like tsunamis, cyclones, or earthquakes.
- **MAHASAGAR Vision:** India's framework for regional maritime cooperation focusing on security, growth, and mutual development across the Indian Ocean Region.

Teesta Prahar

- The **Indian Army** conducted '**Teesta Prahar**', an **integrated field exercise**, on **8th and 9th May 2025** at the **Teesta Field Firing Range in North Bengal**.



Key Objectives

- To test **combat preparedness** and **jointness** among various arms of the Indian Army.
- To validate the **deployment of next-generation weapon systems, newly inducted platforms, and advanced battlefield technologies**.

Exercise Highlights

- Included participation from multiple arms:
- **Infantry, Artillery, Armoured Corps, Mechanised Infantry, Para Special Forces, Army Aviation, Engineers, and Signals.**
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Strategic Significance

- The region of **North Bengal** holds strategic importance due to its proximity to the **Siliguri Corridor (Chicken's Neck)** — a vital link connecting mainland India with the northeastern states.

Static / Background Information

- **Integrated Field Exercise:**
 - o A large-scale military drill involving coordination among different arms (Infantry, Artillery, Armour, etc.) to validate combat effectiveness and command control systems.
- **Teesta Field Firing Range (North Bengal):**
 - o A key training area under the **Eastern Command** of the Indian Army, used for **live firing, tactical exercises, and inter-arm coordination drills**.
- **Para Special Forces (SF):**
 - o Elite units trained for **special operations**, including direct action, counter-terrorism, reconnaissance, and unconventional warfare.
- **Jointness in the Armed Forces:**
 - o Refers to the **integration and coordinated functioning** of different branches of the military to achieve common operational objectives — a key aim under India's **Theaterisation and Integrated Battle Group (IBG)** reforms.

EXERCISE KHAAN QUEST

CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW

- THE INDIAN ARMY CONTINGENT HAS ARRIVED **IN ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA** TO PARTICIPATE IN THE **MULTINATIONAL MILITARY EXERCISE KHAAN QUEST 2025**, SCHEDULED FROM **14TH TO 28TH JUNE 2025**.



- THE EXERCISE AIMS TO ENHANCE **PEACEKEEPING CAPABILITIES** AND **INTEROPERABILITY** AMONG PARTICIPATING NATIONS UNDER THE FRAMEWORK OF THE **UNITED NATIONS CHARTER (CHAPTER VII)**.

BACKGROUND OF THE EXERCISE

- **ORIGIN:** EXERCISE KHAAN QUEST BEGAN IN 2003 AS A BILATERAL EXERCISE BETWEEN THE USA AND MONGOLIAN ARMED FORCES.
- **EVOLUTION:** SINCE 2006, IT HAS EVOLVED INTO A MULTINATIONAL PEACEKEEPING EXERCISE.
- **Current Edition:** The 2025 edition marks the **22nd iteration** of the exercise.
- **Last Edition:** Held in **Mongolia** from **27th July to 9th August 2024**.

Indian Contingent Details

- The Indian contingent comprises **40 personnel**, primarily from a **Battalion of the Kumaon Regiment**, along with soldiers from other Arms and Services.
- The team includes **one woman officer and two women soldiers**, reflecting India's commitment to gender inclusion in military operations.

Aim and Objectives

- To **prepare Indian Armed Forces** for peacekeeping missions in **multinational operational environments**.
- To **enhance interoperability** and **operational readiness** for **Peace Support Operations (PSO)** under UN mandates

Key Tactical Drills and Focus Areas

- Establishment of **Static and Mobile Check Points**
- **Cordon and Search Operations**
- **Patrolling and Civilian Evacuation** from hostile areas
- **Counter Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED)** drills
- **Combat First Aid and Casualty Evacuation**
- Emphasis on **high physical fitness** and **joint tactical coordination**

EXERCISE SHAKTI-VIII

ABOUT THE EXERCISE:

- **THE INDIAN ARMY** CONTINGENT HAS DEPARTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE **8TH EDITION** OF THE **BIENNIAL INDIA-FRANCE** JOINT **MILITARY EXERCISE SHAKTI**, SCHEDULED TO BE HELD **AT CAMP LARZAC, LA CAVALERIE, FRANCE**, FROM 18 JUNE 2025 TO 1 JULY 2025.



PARTICIPATING CONTINGENTS:

- THE INDIAN CONTINGENT **COMPRISES 90 PERSONNEL**, PRIMARILY FROM A **BATTALION OF THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR RIFLES**, ALONG WITH PERSONNEL FROM OTHER ARMS AND SERVICES.
- THE FRENCH CONTINGENT, **ALSO CONSISTING OF 90 PERSONNEL**, WILL BE REPRESENTED BY THE **13TH FOREIGN LEGION HALF-BRIGADE (13TH DBLE)**.

OBJECTIVE OF EXERCISE SHAKTI:

- TO STRENGTHEN MILITARY-TO-MILITARY COOPERATION AND STRATEGIC UNDERSTANDING.

STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE:

- IT CONTRIBUTES TO BROADER STRATEGIC COOPERATION IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION AND UNDERLINES SHARED VALUES **OF PEACE, SECURITY, AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION**.

STATIC PORTION

EXERCISE SHAKTI

- **TYPE:** **BILATERAL** ARMY EXERCISE BETWEEN INDIA AND FRANCE.
- **FREQUENCY:** **BIENNIAL** (EVERY TWO YEARS).
- **OBJECTIVE:** ENHANCING INTEROPERABILITY IN COUNTER-TERRORISM AND SUB-CONVENTIONAL OPERATIONS.
- **FIRST EDITION:** 2011, HELD IN INDIA.
- **PREVIOUS EDITION (SHAKTI-VII):** CONDUCTED IN 2023 **AT UMROI, MEGHALAYA (INDIA)**.

INDIA-FRANCE DEFENCE COOPERATION:

INCLUDES REGULAR JOINT EXERCISES:

- GARUDA (AIR FORCE)
- VARUNA (NAVY)
- SHAKTI (ARMY)

12th SLINEX-25

- Indian Naval Ships **INS Rana (Guided Missile Destroyer)** and **INS Jyoti (Fleet Tanker)** have reached **Colombo, Sri Lanka**, to participate in the **12th edition** of the Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise (SLINEX-25).

Exercise Structure

- The 2025 edition will be conducted in **two phases**:

I - Harbour Phase (14-16 August 2025):

- Venue: **Colombo**
- Activities include **professional interactions, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE), sharing of best practices, cultural and social engagements, yoga sessions, and sports events.**
- Aims to deepen **people-to-people and naval ties.**

II - Sea Phase (17-18 August 2025):

- Focus on **joint maritime operations and combat drills.**
- Exercises include **gunnery firing, communication protocols, navigation and seamanship evolutions, Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) operations, and replenishment at sea.**

Participating Units

- **India:** INS Rana and INS Jyoti.
- **Sri Lanka:** **SLNS Gajabahu** and **SLNS Vijayabahu**, both **Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessels.**
- Special Forces from both navies will also participate, enhancing **tactical coordination** in maritime security operations.

STATIC PART/ Background Information

- The previous edition (SLINEX-24) was conducted at Visakhapatnam, India, from 17 to 20 December 2024

- Type: Bilateral Naval Exercise
- **Inception: 2005**
- Frequency: Annual
- Objective: Strengthen maritime security cooperation and enhance operational coordination.
- Components: Harbour phase (interaction and planning) and Sea phase (operational exercises).
- Alignment: Supports India's maritime outreach policy under MAHASAGAR and Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) initiatives.

INS Rana (D52)

- Class: Rajput-class Guided Missile Destroyer

INS Jyoti (A58)

- Type: Fleet Replenishment Tanker

MAITREE - XIV

- The **14th edition of the India-Thailand Joint Military Exercise** 'Maitree – XIV' commenced with a grand opening ceremony at the Joint Training Node (JTN), **Umroi, Meghalaya**, on 2 September 2025. The exercise is scheduled from 1st to 14th September 2025.



Objective:

- To enhance cooperation, interoperability, and mutual understanding between the Indian Army and the Royal Thai Army.
- Joint training in **counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations** in varied terrains.
- To **strengthen military-to-military exchanges** and reinforce bilateral defence ties between India and Thailand.

Participating Units:

- **Indian Army Contingent:** 120 personnel from a **Battalion of the Madras Regiment**.
- **Royal Thai Army Contingent:** 53 personnel from the **1st Infantry Battalion, 14th Infantry Brigade**.

Background:

- **Exercise Maitree** was **instituted in 2006** as part of India's broader effort to promote regional defence cooperation under the **Act East Policy**.
- The **13th edition** was held at **Fort Vachiraprahan, Tak Province, Thailand**.
- **Frequency:** Annual, held alternatively in India and Thailand

Chapter VII of the UN Charter:

- Authorizes the **UN Security Council** to take enforcement action to maintain or restore **international peace and security**, including military measures.

Joint Training Node (JTN), Umroi:

- Located in **Meghalaya**, serves as a **centre for bilateral and multilateral military training exercises**.

Madras Regiment:

- One of the **oldest infantry regiments** of the Indian Army, established in **1758**.

EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS 2025

- An **Indian Army contingent** has departed for **Fort Wainwright, Alaska (USA)** to participate in the **21st edition of the India-USA Joint Military Exercise 'Yudh Abhyas 2025'**, scheduled from **1st to 14th September 2025**.



Participating Units:

- **Indian Side:** Personnel from a **battalion of the Madras Regiment**.
- **US Side:** Soldiers from the **1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment "Bobcats"**, part of the **Arctic Wolves Brigade Combat Team, 11th Airborne Division, USA**.

Exercise Focus Areas:

- Rehearsal of **tactical drills** across diverse terrains and conditions.
- Key operations include:
 - **Heliborne operations**
 - **Employment of surveillance and unmanned aerial systems (UAS)**
 - **Rock craft and mountain warfare training**
 - **Casualty evacuation and combat medical aid**
 - **Integrated use of Artillery, Aviation, and Electronic Warfare systems**

STATIC PART

1. Exercise Yudh Abhyas:

- **Type:** Annual **bilateral military exercise** between the **Indian Army** and **US Army**.
- **Started in:** 2004 under the framework of **India-US Defence Cooperation**.

2. United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO):

- India is among the **largest troop contributors** to UN peacekeeping missions globally.
- Exercises like **Yudh Abhyas** enhance India's ability to participate in **multinational humanitarian and security operations**.

India–Greece Naval Exercise

- **INS Trikand**, a stealth frigate of the Indian Navy, arrived **at Salamis Bay, Greece**, on 13 September 2025, as part of its ongoing deployment to the **Mediterranean Sea**.

- The visit marks the conduct of the **first-ever bilateral maritime exercise between India and Greece**, underscoring the growing defence and maritime cooperation between the two nations.



During its stay at **Salamis Bay**, INS Trikand will participate in various **bilateral engagements**, including:

- **Interactions with senior Greek military officials**
- **Planning discussions and cross-deck visits**
- **Cultural exchanges to promote people-to-people connections**

Static / Background Information

INS Trikand:

- A **Talwar-class stealth frigate** of the Indian Navy, **commissioned in 2013**.

4th AUSTRAHIND

The **4th edition of Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2025** between **the Indian Army and the Australian Army** commenced today in Australia, marking another milestone in the growing India–Australia defence partnership



Objectives of Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2025

1. Operational Collaboration:

- To train troops in **joint planning and execution of tactical operations** in varied terrains under realistic battlefield conditions.
- To strengthen interoperability through combined training on **counter-terrorism, area domination, and reconnaissance missions**.

2. Enhancing Defence Diplomacy:

- To institutionalise defence ties as a critical pillar of the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** signed in 2020.

3. Regional and Strategic Significance:

- Supports the broader agenda of **Quad security cooperation**, which emphasises maritime safety, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief.

High-Level Defence Engagements

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held productive talks last week with **Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese** and **Defence Minister Richard Marles**, focusing on **expanding defence industry cooperation**, joint research in emerging defence technologies, and coordinated maritime operations.

Static / Background Information

- The **first edition** was held in 2022 in **Rajasthan, India**.

India, South Korea launch first-ever bilateral naval exercise

The **first-ever bilateral naval exercise** between **India and South Korea** commenced at the **Busan Naval Base** in **South Korea**.



Indian Participation – INS Sahyadri:

- **INS Sahyadri**, an **indigenously designed and built Shivalik-class stealth frigate**, represents India in the exercise.
- The ship, **commissioned in 2012**, is part of the **Eastern Fleet** under the **Eastern Naval Command**, based in **Visakhapatnam**.

Phases of the Exercise:

- The exercise consists of **two phases** – **Harbour Phase** and **Sea Phase**.
 - **Harbour Phase:** Involves **cross-deck visits, professional exchanges, best practice sharing, sports activities, and cross-training** between personnel.
 - **Sea Phase:** Features **complex maritime manoeuvres and joint operational exercises** between **INS Sahyadri and ROKS Gyeongnam**, focusing on **tactical coordination and synergy**.

The collaboration aligns with India's **Act East Policy** and **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)**, as well as South Korea's **New Southern Policy**.

Samudra Shakti – 2025

The Indian Navy is conducting **the 5th edition** of the bilateral maritime exercise '**Samudra Shakti – 2025**' with the **Indonesian Navy** from **14–17 October 2025** at **Visakhapatnam**, under the aegis of the **Eastern Naval Command (ENC)**.



Participating Units:

- **Indian Navy:** *INS Kavaratti* – an Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Corvette of the Eastern Fleet.
- **Indonesian Navy:** *KRI John Lie* – a Corvette equipped with an integral helicopter, which arrived at Visakhapatnam to a ceremonial welcome.

STATIC PART

- **Exercise Name:** *Samudra Shakti*
- **Nature:** Bilateral Maritime Exercise between India and Indonesia.
- **First Edition:** 2018
- **Host in 2025:** India (Visakhapatnam)

Maritime Exercise JAIMEX 2025

INS Sahyadri, an indigenously built **Shivalik-class** guided missile stealth frigate, participated in the **Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JAIMEX-25)** from **October 16–18, 2025**, followed by a **Harbour Phase at Yokosuka, Japan** on **October 21**, marking another milestone in strengthening Indo-Japanese maritime cooperation.



- **JAIMEX-25** is a **bilateral naval exercise** between the **Indian Navy** and the **Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF)**.

- The 2025 edition involved complex **anti-submarine warfare (ASW)**, **missile defence drills**, and **flying operations** aimed at enhancing tactical interoperability.

Participating Units:

- **India:** *INS Sahyadri*
- **Japan:** JMSDF ships **Asahi**, **Oumi**, and **submarine Jinryu**
- The exercise included **underway replenishment operations**, reinforcing **logistics coordination** between the two navies.

Indigenous Capability:

- *INS Sahyadri*, commissioned in **2012**, is a symbol of India's indigenous shipbuilding under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.
- Built by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)**, it belongs to the **Shivalik-class**, India's first class of **stealth multi-role frigates**.

Exercise Trishul

Sir Creek to Karachi: 'Exercise Trishul' Begins — First Major Tri-Service Wargame Since Operation Sindoor



- The Government of India **has launched a major tri-services military exercise**, titled 'Exercise Trishul', marking the first such coordinated defence display since the conclusion of *Operation Sindoor*.
- The wargame will be conducted from October 30 to November 10, covering the western sector of India, and involves the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force (IAF).
- A **Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)** has been issued to alert civil aviation authorities regarding the ongoing military operations.

Operational Highlights:

1. The exercise aims to test and validate the lessons learned from Operation Sindoor through joint, multi-domain combat scenarios.
2. It will include offensive manoeuvres across creek and desert regions, amphibious landings off the Saurashtra coast, and combined air-land-sea drills.
3. The Indian Air Force will deploy its frontline platforms — including **Rafales, Su-30MKIs, RPAs, UAVs, IL-78 refuellers, and AEW&C aircraft** — to simulate real-world aerial and surveillance operations.

VAYU SAMANVAY-II

The Indian Army successfully conducted a large-scale Drone and Counter-Drone Exercise named '**VAYU SAMANVAY-II**' from 28-29 October 2025 in the forward areas of the Desert Sector, under the Southern Command.



Objective:

- To validate the Army's preparedness for next-generation warfare by integrating aerial and ground assets.
- To test fusion of multi-domain command & control centres in a realistic, electronic warfare, and contested operational environment.

Exercise Highlights:

- Conducted under Southern Command in desert terrain providing ideal conditions for aerial testing.
- Emphasized joint interoperability between various arms of the Indian Army.
- Encouraged coordination and technology-enabled operations in sensitive frontier regions.

Southern Command Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra.

EXERCISE MALABAR 2025

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sahyadri is participating in **Exercise Malabar-2025**, being **held at Guam** in the **Northern Pacific**.



- The exercise reinforces India's strategic partnership with other participating navies and demonstrates its commitment to ensuring **regional maritime security**.

- **INS Sahyadri**, an indigenously designed and built **Guided Missile Stealth Frigate**, represents India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative in the defence sector.

The exercise consists of **two main phases**:

1. **Harbour Phase:** Includes operational planning, communication alignment, familiarisation visits, and sports interactions among the naval forces.
2. **Sea Phase:** Focuses on joint fleet operations, anti-submarine warfare, gunnery drills, and flying operations, showcasing advanced multilateral naval coordination.

Static Part / Background

- **Exercise Malabar** is an annual multilateral naval exercise that began as a **bilateral** exercise between **India and the United States in 1992**.
- **Over time, it has expanded to include Japan and Australia, forming the Quad countries.**
- The exercise aims to ensure freedom of **navigation, maritime domain awareness, and security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region**.
- **Guam is a U.S. territory located in the Western Pacific** and holds strategic importance for regional maritime operations.
- **INS Sahyadri (F49)** is part of the **Shivalik-class frigates**, equipped with state-of-the-art stealth features and advanced weapon systems for multi-role operations.

MITRA SHAKTI XI – 2025

The **11th edition of the India-Sri Lanka** Joint Military Exercise “**Mitra Shakti-2025**” commenced on 10 November 2025 at the **Foreign Training Node, Belagavi, Karnataka.**



The exercise reflects the **growing defence cooperation and mutual trust** between India and Sri Lanka, particularly in the field of **counter-terrorism and peacekeeping operations** under the **UN mandate**.

Participating Contingents:

- **India: 170 personnel**, primarily from the **RAJPUT Regiment**, with participation from **20 Indian Air Force personnel**.
- **Sri Lanka: 135 personnel**, primarily from **the GAJABA Regiment**, along with **10 Sri Lankan Air Force personnel**.

Exercise Focus:

- The exercise aims to **rehearse Sub-Conventional Operations** under **Chapter VII of the UN Charter**, which deals with **peacekeeping and peace enforcement**.
- Focus on **joint counter-terrorism operations**, coordination in **urban and rural warfare**, and **interoperability** enhancement.

Strategic Importance:

- Strengthens **bilateral military cooperation** and **mutual learning** between the two armies.

Topic : Military Exercise [March'25 to Nov'25]

- Enhances **interoperability** in peacekeeping missions under the **United Nations framework**.
- Contributes to **regional stability** and aligns with India's **Neighbourhood First** and **Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)** initiatives.

Static / Background Information

• Exercise Mitra Shakti:

- A **bilateral military exercise** between the **Indian Army** and the **Sri Lankan Army**, initiated in **2013**.
- Conducted **alternatively in India and Sri Lanka**.
- Focuses on **joint counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations** in semi-urban and rural environments.

Chapter VII of the UN Charter:

- Pertains to **Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression**.
- Provides the **legal basis** for **UN peacekeeping operations** and allows for enforcement measures, including the use of force, to maintain or restore international peace and security.

RAJPUT Regiment (India):

- One of the oldest infantry regiments of the Indian Army, known for its **bravery and discipline**.
- Has a distinguished record in both **pre- and post-independence** military operations.

GAJABA Regiment (Sri Lanka):

- An elite infantry regiment of the **Sri Lanka Army**, recognized for its **counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations** during the Sri Lankan civil conflict.

GARUDA-2025

AN **INDIAN AIR FORCE (IAF)** CONTINGENT HAS REACHED THE **MONT-DE-MARSAN AIR BASE, FRANCE** TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GARUDA-2025 BILATERAL AIR EXERCISE.



Operational Objectives

- The IAF stated that Garuda-2025 will highlight the **professionalism and operational capabilities** of both air forces.
- The drill aims to improve **interoperability** through combined missions and coordinated air operations.

Key Platforms Participating

- **Su-30 MKI** aircraft of the Indian Air Force will operate jointly with **Rafale fighters** of the French Air and Space Force.
- The exercise will simulate combat scenarios to enable **exchange of best practices** and enhance tactical coordination.

