

Yudh Abhyas

Yudh Abhyas is a joint military exercise, bilaterally occurring between India and the US. It started in 2002 and is undertaken by the armies of both countries to promote defence cooperation. The **latest edition** (17th edition) of the Yudh Abhyas Exercise is currently underway at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson in Alaska, USA.

The 16th edition of the Yudh Abhyas exercise took place between February 8 and February 21, 2021, at Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan.

Questions in the [IAS Exam](#) are sometimes asked from Joint Military exercises and this article will provide some relevant facts about Yudh Abhyas exercise.

Aspirants can read articles related to India and the US from the links mentioned in the table below:

[LEMOA 2016](#)

[India and the US military ties](#)

[2+2 Dialogue](#)



The [list of Indian Army Exercises](#) is mentioned in the linked article. Aspirants can read about Sampriti, Maitree, CORPAT etc. by visiting this page.

Facts about Yudh Abhyas Exercise for UPSC

The table below mentions the relevant facts about the bilateral exercise – Yudh Abhyas:

Major Facts about Yudh Abhyas

Yudh Abhyas is called as one of the largest joint running military training and defence corporation endeavours between India and the USA.

Yudh Abhyas 2021 is the 17th edition of this bilateral joint military exercise between India and the USA.

The exercise is hosted alternately by the two countries since 2004.

The training and exercises in Yudh Abhyas occur at Battalion level.

The joint planning of Yudh Abhyas takes place at Brigade level.

Organisation structure and Battle procedures are learnt by the troops of both the armies in Yudh Abhyas.

The exercise aims to mobilise cooperation in defence to meet the unforeseen security contingency of the future across the globe.

The following sights are visible in the Yudh Abhyas exercise:

- Military Training
- Cultural Exchanges
- Building of Joint Operational Skills
- Development of friendships
- Exchange of knowledge

The Yudh Abhyas exercise started off at platoon exchange level

The vision of Yudh Abhyas exercise is to promote peacekeeping. Also, these military training come helpful during foreign disaster relief operations – humanitarian and disaster relief.

Exercise Yudh Abhyas (2021 – 17th Edition)

Over 300 US Army soldiers and 350 soldiers of the 7 Madras infantry battalion group of the Indian Army are participating in the exercise. The 14-day training schedule includes activities on joint training in a counter-insurgency/counter-terrorism environment under a United Nations mandate. It is taking place in Alaska, USA.

List of Yudh Abhyas Exercises (Year-Wise)

Yudh Abhyas Exercises		
S.No/Edition	Year	Location
First	2002	India – Agra (Uttar Pradesh)
Second	2004	India – Vairengte (Mizoram)
Third	2005	India – Vairengte (Mizoram)
Fourth	2006	United States – Schofield Army Base barracks
Fifth	2007	India – Chaubatia (Uttarakhand)
Sixth	2008	United States – Honolulu
Seventh	2009	India – Babina (Uttar Pradesh)
Eighth	2010	United States – Joint Base Elmendorf–Richardson
Yudh Abhyas VII	2012	India – Jaisalmer (Rajasthan)
Yudh Abhyas VIII	2013	United States – Fort Bragg
Yudh Abhyas X	2014	India – Ranikhet (Uttarakhand)
Yudh Abhyas XI	2015	United States – Joint Base Lewis McChord
Yudh Abhyas XII	2016	India – Chaubattia (Uttarakhand)
Yudh Abhyas XIII	2017	United States – Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington
Yudh Abhyas XIV	2018	India – Chaubatia (Uttarakhand)
Yudh Abhyas XV	2019	United States – Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington
Yudh Abhyas XVI	2021	India – Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan
Yudh Abhyas XVII	2021	USA – Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska

India-US Defence Cooperation

Candidates should know some important points related to India-US defence cooperation:

1. India and the US participate in the following joint exercises apart from Yudh Abhyas:
 1. Cope-India (Air Force)
 2. Vajra Prahar (Special Forces)
2. A few multilateral exercises that India and the US participate in are:
 1. MALABAR
 2. RED FLAG
 3. RIMPAC
3. To acknowledge the connectivity between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, United States recently renamed its Pacific Command as the US Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM)
4. Maritime Cooperation in the western Indian Ocean is promoted between the Indian Navy and the US Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT).
5. Since 2008, India has purchased nearly US\$ 18 billion worth of arms from the US, including:
 1. C-17 and C-130J transport planes
 2. state-of-the-art P-8i maritime reconnaissance aircraft
 3. Harpoon missiles
 4. Apache and Chinook helicopters and
 5. M777 howitzers
6. India is focusing on the Make in India programme in defence manufacturing
7. India and USA have signed the following three agreements:
 1. General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA, 2002)
 2. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA, 2016) and
 3. Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA, 2018)