

List of Joint Military Exercises of the Indian Army

In July 2023, the Nomadic Elephant exercise which is an India - Mongolia joint military exercise was conducted in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Similar to this, there are various other Indian army exercises, information of which is important for the [IAS Exam](#).

India is playing an enormous interest in establishing a relationship with various countries around the globe. Integration of military exercises is an unavoidable obligation for the contemporary combat zone. Joint military exercises are essential for the cooperation of countries apart from economic and diplomatic cooperation.

Cooperation in the military field in the Indian armed forces received a motivation post-Kargil. The most significant benefit of joint military exercises is 'strategic signalling'.

This is an important concept for many major government exams, including the [UPSC IAS exam](#).

Indian Military Exercises

The Indian military exercises can be segregated into 3 categories:

1. Domestic Exercise
2. Bilateral Exercise
3. Multilateral exercise

Domestic exercise - This exercise aims to improve internal engagements and these can be inter-services or intra-services depending on nature and their application.

List of domestic military exercises:

1. Gandiv Vijay (Army)
2. Paschim Lehar (Navy)
3. Vayu Shakti (Air Force)
4. Vijay Prahar (Army)

Bilateral exercise - These exercises are conducted between two countries.

The following table provides you with a list of important Indian bilateral military exercises.

Exercise Name	Participant Nations
Sampriti	India & Bangladesh
Mitra Shakti	India & Sri Lanka

SLINEX	India & Sri Lanka
Maitree Exercise	India & Thailand
Siam Bharat	India & Thailand
Vajra Prahar	India & US
Yudh Abhyas	India & US
Cope India	India & US
Nomadic Elephant	India & Mongolia
Garuda Shakti	India & Indonesia
IND-INDO CORPAT	India & Indonesia
Samudra Shakti	India & Indonesia
Shakti Exercise	India & France
Varuna Exercise	India & France
Garuda Exercise	India & France
Dharma Guardian	India & Japan
JIMEX	India & Japan
Surya Kiran	India & Nepal
Hand in Hand Exercise	India & China
SIMBEX	India & Singapore
AUSINDEX	India & Australia
Indo-Thai CORPAT	India & Thailand
AUSTRALIA HIND	India & Australia
IN-BN CORPAT	India & Bangladesh
Table Top	India & Bangladesh
Prabal Dostyk	India & Kazakhstan
Khanjar	India & Kyrgyzstan

Ekuverin	India & The Maldives
IMBEX	India & Myanmar
IMCOR	India & Myanmar
Al Nagah	India & Oman
Naseem Al Bahr	India & Oman
Eastern Bridge	India & Oman
Exercise Indra	India & Russia
Ajeva Warrior	India & UK
Konkan	India & UK
Indradhanush	India & UK
Eastern Bridge	India & Oman
Lamitiye	India & Seychelles
VINBAX	India & Vietnam

Multilateral exercise - These exercises are conducted by the military including more than one partner nation.

A list of major multilateral exercises conducted by the military is given below:

Multilateral exercise	No of Participating countries
RIMPAC	26
MALABAR	4
COBRA-GOLD	Asia - Pacific countries
Samvedna	South Asian Region Nations

Latest Important Military Exercises - 2023

The table given below mentions the latest editions of all the important military exercises of India with other nations. [CSE exam](#) aspirants must refer to the details discussed below:

Exercise name	Country participated with India	Latest Date/Year/Edition	Held at
Al Nagah-III	Oman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13th August 2012 4th Edition 	Mahajan Field Firing Range, Bikaner
Bold Kurukshetra	Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 - 13 March 2023 13th Edition 	Jodhpur Military Station
Ekuverin	Maldives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 - 24 June 2023 12th Edition 	Chaubatia, Uttarakhand
Garuda Shakti	Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 2022 8th Edition 	Karawang, Indonesia
Hand in Hand	China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th December 2019 8th Edition 	Umroi, Meghalaya
Indra	Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 2021 12th Edition 	Volgograd, Russia
Khanjar	Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 2023 10th Edition 	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
Lamitye	Seychelles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 2022 9th Edition 	Seychelles

Maitree	Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 16th September 2019 ● 14th Edition 	Umroi, Meghalaya
Mitra Shakti	Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● October 2021 ● 8th Edition 	Ampara, Sri Lanka
Multi-national FTX/Exercise Force Eighteen	18 ASEAN Plus countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2nd March 2016 	Pune, India
Nomadic Elephant	Mongolia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● July 2023 ● 15th Edition 	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
KAZIND (Prabal Dostyk)	Kazakhstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● December 2022 ● 6th Edition 	Umroi, Meghalaya
Sampriti	Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 2022 ● 10th Edition 	Jashore Military Station, Bangladesh
Surya Kiran XIV	Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● December 2022 ● 16th Edition 	Saljhandi, Nepal
Yudh Abhyas	United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● October 2022 ● 18th Edition 	Auli, Uttarakhand

Facts About Indian Army for UPSC

The table below gives a few important and interesting facts about the Indian Army for the UPSC Exam:

Indian Army
There are approximately 1.4 million personnel in the Indian Army

The largest standing volunteer army in the world is the Indian Army with 1,129,900 Active personnel and 960,000 Reserves

There are recruiting zones in the country for the purpose of recruitment in the Indian Army

The headquarters of the Indian Army is in New Delhi

- The first headquarters of the Indian Army – Red Fort, Delhi
- Today – Portions of South Block along with a gigantic, architecturally modern Sena Bhavan adjacent

In India, the command headquarters is known as Field Army with a General Officer Commanding-in-Chief presiding over matters in the rank of a (three-star) Lieutenant General.

The head of the Indian Army staff is called the Chief of Army Staff (COAS.)

- The current Army Chief is General Manoj Pande
- Before that, General Mukund Naravane was the Indian Army Chief

Indian Army also has a Vice Chief and two Deputy Chiefs of Army Staff

In the Indian Army, the corps are the field force. They are of two types – Holding Corps and Strike Corps

Largely, the topic, India Army Exercises, is covered under bilateral relations of India, and also under the security section of the [IAS Syllabus](#) of GS 2 and GS 3 respectively. Hence, aspirants should remember the names of these exercises while writing any answer that involves either of these sections.

Frequently Asked Questions about Joint Military Exercises of the Indian Army

Q. Why are Joint Military exercises between armies important?

A military exercise involving two or more nations is a measure to test the performance of the armed forces without engaging in the battlefield. These are useful in the case of joint military operations be it in war or in operations other than war such as disaster relief, and humanitarian aid.

Q. What is Vajra Prahar?

Vajra Prahar' is a Special Forces joint training exercise conducted alternately in India and the US to share the best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics as also to improve interoperability between the Special Forces of both nations.

Q. What is the name of the joint military exercise of India & France?

France and India have built on their longstanding air force cooperation through the tactical bilateral exercise, Garuda, held alternately in France and India, as well as other joint exercises.

Q. What is Yudh Abhyas?

The 18th 'Yudh Abhyas,' a joint military exercise between India and the United States, was held in October 2022. The joint military exercise between India and the United States took place in Auli in Uttarakhand.

Q. What is EX SAMPRITI - X?

As part of the ongoing India-Bangladesh bilateral defence cooperation, a joint military training exercise Ex SAMPRITI-X is being conducted at Jashore Military Station in Bangladesh from 05 June to 16 June 2022.

Q. What is the name of military exercise between India and Japan?

Ex Dharma Guardian - 2022 is a joint military exercise between India and Japan, is being conducted at the Foreign Training Node in Belagavi. The annual training event for the exercise is being held in India since 2018.

LAMITIYE - 2022 is a joint military exercise between India and which country?

The 9th Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2022 between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) is being conducted at Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA), Seychelles from 22 March to 31 March 22.