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# India's Military Bilateral & Multilateral Exercises in 2019

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**A Compendium**



**Vivekananda  
International  
Foundation**

**India's Military  
Bilateral & Multilateral  
Exercises in 2019**

A Compendium



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## Contents

<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>BILATERAL EXERCISES</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Australia</b> .....	<b>9</b>
AUSINDEX, Vishakhapatnam, India .....	9
<b>Bangladesh</b> .....	<b>10</b>
SAMPRITI VIII, Tangail, Bangladesh .....	10
<b>China</b> .....	<b>12</b>
HAND IN HAND 2019, Foreign Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya, India.....	12
GARUDA VI, Mont de Marsan, France.....	13
SHAKTI, Foreign Training Node, Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan, India .	15
VARUNA 19.1 & 19.2, Goa & Djibouti.....	15
<b>Indonesia</b> .....	<b>17</b>
IND-INDO CORPAT, Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India .....	17
SAMUDRA SHAKTI, Bay of Bengal, India.....	18
<b>Japan</b> .....	<b>19</b>
DHARMA GUARDIAN 2019, Vairengte, Mizoram, India.....	19
<b>Kazakhstan</b> .....	<b>20</b>
KAZIND 2019, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, India.....	20
<b>Maldives</b> .....	<b>22</b>
EKUVERIN, Pune, India.....	22
<b>Mongolia</b> .....	<b>23</b>
NOMADIC ELEPHANT XIV, Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh, India .....	23
<b>Myanmar</b> .....	<b>24</b>
IMBEX, Chandimandir, India.....	24
IMCOR, Bay of Bengal, India.....	25
<b>Nepal</b> .....	<b>26</b>
SURYA KIRAN XIV, Rupandehi, Nepal.....	26

<b>Oman</b> .....	<b>27</b>
AL NAGAH, Jabel Al Akhdhar, Oman.....	27
EASTERN BRIDGE V, Masirah, Oman.....	28
<b>Russia</b> .....	<b>29</b>
INDRA, Babina, Goa & Pune (simultaneously), India .....	29
<b>Singapore</b> .....	<b>31</b>
BOLD KURUKSHETRA, Babina, India.....	31
SIMBEX, South China Sea.....	32
JOINT MILITARY TRAINING X EDITION 2019, Kalaikunda, India .....	34
<b>Sri Lanka</b> .....	<b>35</b>
MITRA SHAKTI VI, Diyatalawa, Badulla, Sri Lanka.....	35
MITRA SHAKTI VII, Pune, India .....	36
SLINEX, Vishakapatnam, India.....	37
<b>Thailand</b> .....	<b>38</b>
MAITREE 2019, Umroi, Meghalaya, India.....	38
<b>United Kingdom</b> .....	<b>39</b>
KONKAN, English Channel, UK .....	39
<b>USA</b> .....	<b>41</b>
TIGER TRIUMPH, Andhra Pradesh Coast, India.....	41
VAJRA PRAHAR, Joint Base Lewis McChord, Seattle, Washington, USA, .....	42
YUDH ABHYAS, Joint Base Lewis McChord, Seattle, Washington, USA,.....	43
<b>Uzbekistan</b> .....	<b>44</b>
DUSTLIK 2019, Chirchiq Training Area, Uzbekistan .....	44
<b>Vietnam</b> .....	<b>45</b>
VINBAX, Hanoi, Vietnam .....	45

<b>MULTILATERAL EXERCISES.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>AFRICA INDIA FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE (AFINDEX) .....</b>	<b>46</b>
Pune, India.....	46
<b>COBRA GOLD .....</b>	<b>48</b>
Thailand.....	48
<b>MALABAR .....</b>	<b>49</b>
Japanese Coast.....	49
<b>SINGAPORE INDIA THAILAND MARITIME EX (SITMEX) ..</b>	<b>50</b>
Andaman Sea and Port Blair.....	50
<b>TSENTR.....</b>	<b>51</b>
Donguz Training Ranges, Orenburg, Russia.....	51



# Foreword

The Indian armed forces form an important component in projecting the Government of India's foreign policy on the world stage. India has always projected and cultivated a well-rounded relationship with its neighbours as well as with countries beyond the region, increasingly the armed forces of India have and will in the future contribute to this holistic out reach. The diversity, depth of the interactions, increasing frequency, reinvigorating older associations and partnering with new nations was the highlight of the military diplomacy policy of the government in 2019. All the three services either individually or collectively carried forward India's standing as a peaceful and responsible nation. The exercises by India's armed forces underscore the shared interests by enhancing understanding, cooperation and interoperability both bilaterally and multilaterally. The exercises provide the military in India and the partner countries with an opportunity to expand cooperation in training, capacity building, understanding and imbibing current technologies, showcasing military hardware and software, building relationships and incorporating best practices. The booklet is a compendium of all the major exercises undertaken by the Indian armed forces and would provide scholars and analysts with base line information to further build on their intended topics in their military-diplomatic fields.

Dr Arvind Gupta  
Director, VIF





# BILATERAL EXERCISES

## Australia

### AUSINDEX, Vishakhapatnam, India

Naval Exercise, 2-14 April 2019

**Scope:** The third edition of AUSINDEX, an acronym for Australia India Exercise commenced with the arrival of HMAS Canberra (L02), a Landing Helicopter Dock, HMAS New Castle (06) and HMAS Paramatta (154), both frigates; HMAS Collins, a conventional submarine and HMAS Success (OR 304), a Durance-class multi-product replenishment oiler at Visakhapatnam on 02 April 19. The aim of the exercise was, *“To strengthen and enhance mutual cooperation and interoperability between the IN and RAN, providing opportunities for interaction and exchange of professional views between the personnel of the two navies”*. The third edition involved exercises in all three dimensions with a focus on ASW. The number of units being fielded by both navies in the bilateral exercise was the highest till date. The increased scale of participation signifies the importance attached to the exercise by both countries while the enhanced complexity is indicative of the interoperability between the two navies.

**Comments:** AUSINDEX is a sign of strengthening of the bilateral and defence cooperation between the two countries as envisaged in the Framework for Security Cooperation (FSC) announced by the Australian and Indian Prime Ministers in 2014. The maiden edition of the exercise was held in September 2015 at Visakhapatnam. Australia hosted the second edition of the exercise off Fremantle in June 2017, wherein ships of the Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy (IN) exercised with the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) ships and submarines. Building on a long history of cooperation – including the shared experiences in the trenches of World War I in Gallipoli and along the Western Front – Australia and India have a positive defence relationship, underpinned by the 2006 Memorandum of Defence Cooperation and 2009 Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation. However, post the 2014 bilateral FSC, the cooperation on defence and security matters between the two countries has gained significant momentum thus, witnessing conscious and focused enhancements. The complexity of the biennial maritime exercise over the past four years has steadily increased. Overall, the exercise underscores India’s vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and shared objectives of the two countries towards ensuring a stable good order in the maritime domain and solidarity with friendly and harmonious countries.

## **Bangladesh**

### **SAMPRITI VIII, Tangail, Bangladesh**

Army Exercise, 2-15 Mar 2019

**Scope:** Exercise Sampriti-VIII, a joint Indo-Bangladesh military exercise which witnessed participation of a company group of 9th Battalion the Rajputana Rifles from the Indian Army and

a Company of 36 East Bengal Battalion, Bangladesh Army was held at Tangail, Bangladesh. The commanders and staff officers of both sides were exercised to work in close coordination to receive and collate intelligence and to issue suitable operational orders to the joint field training components who executed these orders on ground in simulated realistic situations. The joint training culminated in a validation exercise conducted at the Bangabandu Senanibas Cantonment, Tangail in which subunits of both armies executed the plans. The validation exercise was reviewed by senior officers from both sides. Besides training, both contingents also participated in a number of activities including friendly volleyball and basketball matches. A magnificent parade and the customary exchange of mementos marked the successful completion of the Indo-Bangladesh joint exercise.

**Comments: The exercise was the 8th edition in the Sampriti series, which started in 2009. Exercise Sampriti strengthens and broadens interoperability and cooperation between the Indian and Bangladesh Armies. It is the fourth Indo-Bangladesh exercise at Tangail, Bangladesh and compliments number of other exchanges and exercises between the two forces.**



@adgpi 14 Mar 2019

## **China**

### **HAND IN HAND 2019, Foreign Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya, India**

Army Exercise, 7-20 December 2019

**Scope:** The 8th India-China joint training exercise 'HAND-IN-HAND 2019' with the theme Counter Terrorism under United Nations mandate was conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya from 07 to 20 December 2019. The Chinese contingent from the Tibet Military Command comprising of 130 personnel and the Indian Contingent of one Infantry company participated in the 14 day long training exercise. The exercise was planned at the company level with respective Battalion Headquarters controlling the training. The aim of the exercise is to practice joint planning and conduct of counter terrorist operations in semi urban terrain. The exercise schedule focused upon training on various lectures and drills associated with counter terrorist handling, firing with each other's weapons, special heliborne operations and case studies of various operations carried out in counter terrorist environment. Two tactical exercises were scheduled during the training; one on counter terrorism scenario and the other on Humanitarian and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations. Colonel Hu Chunguan from Tibet Military Command and Colonel K J Singh of the Indian Army were the respective contingent commanders.

**Comments:** The joint India-China military exercise began in 2007, but remained shelved for five years until it was resumed in 2013. Previous iterations were held in Yunnan, Belgaum, Sichuan and Pune.



@adgpi 7 Dec 2019



@delhidefence 12 Dec 2019

## France

### **GARUDA VI, Mont de Marsan, France**

Air Force Exercise, 1-12 July 2019

**Scope:** Ex Garuda 2019, a bilateral Indo-French large force employment warfare exercise, hosted by French Air Force (FAF) from 01 to 12 Jul 19 at Mont-de-Marsan France, was successfully completed with the IAF contingent landing back in India on 19 Jul 19. Indian Air Force contingent comprised of 120 air-warriors and four Su-30 MKI along with an IL-78 Flight Refueling aircraft, which participated during the exercise. A C-17 strategic lift aircraft provided the logistic support to the contingent during the induction and de-induction phase. The Indian Air Force Su-30 MKI operated in a simulated operational war fighting scenario along with French Air Force's multirole Rafale aircraft. This will enhance understanding of interoperability during mutual operations between the two Air Forces and provide an opportunity to learn from each other's best practices. The contingent departed for the exercise from India on 25 Jun 19 with an objective of operating in the International environment at Mont-de-Marsan, France. Objectives for the exercise were to foster closer relationship between India and France so as to promote interoperability through exchange of knowledge and experience. The exercise ensured that the participating forces were exposed to an operational environment in an international scenario.

Garuda VI was planned in two phases. In these phases, both IAF and FAF flew missions involving Large Force Engagement (LFE) air combat exercises in near realistic environment and exchanged best practices towards enhancing our operational capability. IAF undertook operations both by day and by night. During the exercise, IAF maintenance crew ensured 100% serviceability of all assets, thus ensuring that all missions were flown on all days as planned.

**Comments: This is one of the biggest air exercises planned between the two Air Forces. Participation in an International air exercise assumes importance in view of the continued engagement of the IAF with friendly foreign countries. Over the last decade, IAF has been actively participating in operational exercises hosted by various countries, wherein collaborative engagements have been undertaken with the best air forces in the world. It was a unique, fascinating and timeless learning at the exercise for the IAF contingent. The Operational lessons learnt by IAF during the exercise will assist the IAF in adding more teeth to its overall war waging capabilities and assist us in better jointmanship with the friendly forces.**



@IAF\_MCC 15 Jul 2019

## **SHAKTI, Foreign Training Node, Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan, India**

Army Exercise, 31 October to 13 November 2019

**Scope:** As part of Exercise SHAKTI – 2019, French Army troops arrived in India on 26 October 2019 for training with Indian Troops. The bilateral training exercise was conducted at the Foreign Training Node of the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan. A contingent of the Sikh Regiment of Sapta Shakti Command represented the Indian Army in this exercise. The French Army delegation was represented by troops of 21st Marine Infantry Regiment of 6th Armoured Brigade. The bilateral exercise was conducted from 31 October 2019 to 13 November 2019. The joint exercise focused on Counter Terrorism operations in the backdrop of a semi-desert terrain under United Nations Mandate. The training focused primarily on high degree of physical fitness, sharing of drill at tactical level and learning of best practices from each other. The exercise culminated in a 36 hrs long validation exercise which will involve neutralization of terrorists in a village hideout.

**Comments:** Series of ‘Exercise SHAKTI’ between India and France commenced in year 2011. This is a biennial exercise and is conducted alternately in India and France. The exercise aims at enhancing understanding, cooperation and interoperability between the two Armies.

## **VARUNA 19.1 & 19.2, Goa & Djibouti**

Naval Exercise, 1-10 May 2019 (19.1 Goa), 22-25 May 2019 (19.2 Djibouti)

**Scope:** The 17th edition included the participation of the French Navy’s aircraft carrier FNS Charles de Gaulle, two destroyers, FNS Forbin and FNS Provence, the frigate FNS Latouche-Treville, the



tanker FNS Marne and a nuclear submarine. From the Indian side, the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, destroyer INS Mumbai, the Teg-class frigate, INS Tarkash, the Shishumar- class submarine, INS Shankul, and the Deepak-class fleet tanker, INS Deepak participated in this exercise. The exercise was conducted in two phases. The harbour phase at Goa included cross-visits, professional interactions and discussions and sports events. The sea phase comprised of various exercises across the spectrum of maritime operations. The second part, Varuna 19.2, was held at the end of May in Djibouti. *“The second phase of the Indo-French naval exercise, christened as Varuna 19.2, which was held from May 22nd to 25th, brought together a French nuclear attack submarine, currently deployed in the Indian Ocean, and an Indian submarine,”* the French embassy said in a statement. *“Organised under the operational control of the French Joint Forces Commander in the Indian Ocean (ALINDIEN), this exercise was an opportunity to reinforce our capabilities for joint action in a critical and strategic field while demonstrating the high level of interoperability achieved,”* it added.

**Comments: The bilateral naval exercise initiated in 1983 and christened as ‘Varuna’ in 2001, forming a vital part of the Indo-French strategic partnership. Having grown in scope and complexity over the years, this exercise exemplifies the strong relations between the two nations, in line with the Joint Strategic Vision of India-French Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region signed by President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the former’s state visit to India in march 2018. The Varuna exercise aims at developing interoperability between the two navies and fostering mutual cooperation by learning from each other’s best practices to conduct joint operations. The exercise underscores the shared interests and commitment of both nations in promoting maritime security.**



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## Indonesia

### IND-INDO CORPAT, Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India

Naval Exercise, 19 March - 4 April 2019

**Scope:** Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Sultan Thaha Syaifuddin and Maritime Patrol Aircraft CN-235 led by Cmde Dafit Santoso arrived at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India for the 33rd edition of the India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) that was held from 19 Mar to 04 Apr 2019. The ship and aircraft from both the countries undertook patrolling on the respective sides of 236 nautical miles long International Maritime Boundary line. The patrolling was conducted in three phases from 22-31 March 2019. This was followed by a Closing Ceremony at Belawan, Indonesia, which was scheduled from 01-04 April 2019. During the stay in the Port Blair harbour, various activities such as official calls, formal reception onboard ship, sporting fixtures between both navies, ship open to visitors and professional interactions had been planned. Indian Naval assets have been increasingly deployed

in the recent times to address the maritime concerns on the region. In addition, as part of the Indian Government's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region). The Indian Navy has also been involved in assisting countries in the Indian Ocean Region with EEZ Surveillance, Search and Rescue, and other capacity-building and capability-enhancement activities.

**Comments: The IND-INDO CORPAT series of bilateral exercise seek to underscore India's peaceful presence and solidarity with friendly Maritime neighbouring countries to ensure good order in the maritime domain, consolidate interoperability and strengthen existing bonds of friendship between India and Indonesia. The 33rd IND-INDO CORPAT, also coincided with 70 years of India-Indonesia diplomatic ties, will contribute towards the Indian Navy's efforts to consolidate inter-operability and forge strong bonds of friendship across the seas.**

### **SAMUDRA SHAKTI, Bay of Bengal, India**

Naval Exercise, 4-7 November 2019

**Scope:** The 2nd Divisional Naval Exercise 'Samudra Shakti 2019' between Indian Navy and Indonesian Navy was held in Bay of Bengal, the northeastern part of the Indian Ocean, from November 6-7, 2019. INS (Indian Naval Ship) Kamorta, an anti-submarine warfare corvette was jointly exercising with Indonesian warship KRI (Kapal Republik Indonesia) Usman Harun as part of the exercise. The aim of this joint exercise was to expand mutual relations, deepen maritime cooperation and adopt each other's best practices. Harbor Phase of practice was conducted from November 4-5, 2019 at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. During this time, the navies of the two countries met each other's warships and held mutual talks in the form of Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE), cross deck visits, simulator drills, planning conferences, sports fixtures

and social interactions. Indonesian Ambassador to India Sidharto Reza, Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command & other officials were present during the harbour phase. It was followed by the Sea Phase which included operations such as Surface warfare exercises, air defence exercises, weapon firing drills, helicopter operations and boarding operations.

**Comments: The 1st edition of ‘Samudra Shakti’ was held in 2018 at the port of Surabaya, Indonesia.**

## **Japan**

### **DHARMA GUARDIAN 2019, Vairengte, Mizoram, India**

Army Exercise, 19 October – 2 November 2019

**Scope:** The second edition of bilateral annual Joint Military Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN-2019 between India and Japan was conducted at counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School, Vairengte from 19 Oct 2019 to 02 Nov 2019. The Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF) comprising of 25 soldiers each participated in the exercise with an aim to share experience gained during various Counter Terrorism Operations in their respective Countries. The scope of this exercise covered platoon level joint training on counter terrorism operations in jungle and urban scenario. The joint military exercise enhanced the level of defence co-operation between the Indian Army and the Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF) which in turn fostered bilateral relations between the two nations. As part of the exercise, important lectures, demonstrations and drills related to counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations were also conducted. Both the Armies shared their valuable experiences in countering

such situations and also refined drills and procedures for joint operations. The exercise culminated with a 72 hours validation phase which tested the skills of soldiers in conducting joint operations in a counter-terrorism scenario. The closing ceremony was presided over by General Goro Yuasa, Chief of Staff, Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces and Lieutenant General Rajeev Sirohi, GOC, 3 Corps.

**Comments: DHARMA GUARDIAN is an annual training event which is being conducted in India since 2018. Notably, in the series of military training exercises undertaken by India with various countries, Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN with Japan is crucial and significant in terms of the security challenges faced by both the nations in the backdrop of global terrorism.**



@adgpi 28 Oct 2019



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## Kazakhstan

### KAZIND 2019, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, India

Army Exercise, 16–29 September 2019

**Scope:** The 4th edition of the annual military exercise KAZIND 2019 between the Indian and the Kazakhstan army was held at Pithoragarh. The aim of the exercise was joint training of troops in

Counter Insurgency/ Counter Terrorism operations in both jungle and mountainous terrain. As part of the exercise, important lectures, demonstrations and drills related to counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations were conducted. Both the armies also shared their valuable experiences in countering such situations and also refined drills and procedures for joint operations whenever the need so arises. The exercise comprised of nearly 100 soldiers from both the Indian and the Kazakhstan Army who shared their experience gained during conduct of various counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations in the past. The aim of this exercise was to conduct company level joint training with emphasis on counter terrorism operations in a mountainous terrain. During the exercise, aspects of emerging trends of global terrorism and hybrid warfare had also been included. The joint military exercise will enhance the level of defence cooperation further fostering bilateral relations between the two nations.

**Comments: Exercise KAZIND-2019 is the fourth edition of this annual event which is conducted alternatively in Kazakhstan and India. Exercise KAZIND 2019 is a fructification of long standing strategic ties between India and Kazakhstan.**



twitter@adgpi 3 Oct 2019



@adgpi 3 Oct 2019

## Maldives

### EKUPERIN, Pune, India

Army Exercise, 7-20 October 2019

**Scope:** The Tenth edition of the Joint Military Exercise EKUPERIN between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force was organized from 07 to 20 October 2019 at Aundh Military Station in Pune, Maharashtra. The focus of the exercise was on sharing of best practices and acquainting each other with the operating procedures being followed while undertaking counter insurgency and counter-terrorism operations.

**Comments:** The Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Forces have been conducting Exercise EKUPERIN meaning 'Friends' in the Dhivehi language, since 2009. The 14 days Joint Exercise held alternatively in India and Maldives focuses on enhancing interoperability between the two forces

**for carrying out counter insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in a semi-urban environment under the United Nations mandate. The last exercise was held in 2018 at Northern Area Headquarters, Lh. Maafilaafushi of Maldives. India shares very close ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial ties with the Maldives and Exercise EKUVERIN will assist in further strengthening of these ties between the two nations.**

## **Mongolia**

### **NOMADIC ELEPHANT XIV, Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh, India**

Army Exercise, 5-18 October 2019

**Scope:** 14th edition of Indo - Mongolian joint military training, Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT–XIV was conducted from 05 to 18 Oct 19 at Bakloh. The Mongolian Army was represented by officers and troops of the elite 084 Air Borne Special Task Battalion while the Indian Army was represented by a battalion of the Rajputana Rifles Regiment. NOMADIC ELEPHANT - XIV was the fourteenth edition between the two nations aimed at training troops in counter insurgency & counter terrorism operations under United Nations mandate. The joint exercise enhanced defence co-operation and military relations between the two nations. It is an ideal platform for the armies of both the nations to share their experiences and best practices and gain mutually during the joint training. The joint training aimed at evolving various tactical drills in counter-terror environment like Convoy Protection Drill, Room Intervention Drills, Ambush/ Counter Ambush Drills, while jointly conducting counter terrorist operations under the UN mandate. The joint training also laid emphasis on conducting operations by a cohesive subunit, comprising of troops from both the armies, in



adverse operational conditions thus enhancing the interoperability between the two armies. The training planned by both the contingents will go a long way in capacity building for conducting joint operations by the two armies. As part of the exercise, important lectures, demonstrations and drills related to counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations were conducted. Both the Armies also shared their valuable experiences in countering such situations and also refined drills and procedures for joint operations.

**Comments: Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT is an annual, bilateral exercise since 2006 which is designed to strengthen the partnership between the Indian Army and the Mongolian Armed Forces. The exercise will see them improve their tactical and technical skills in joint counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations in rural and urban scenario under the United Nations mandate.**

## **Myanmar**

### **IMBEX, Chandimandir, India**

Army Exercise, 18 January 2019

**Scope:** This was the second edition of the IMBEX. It provided opportunities to the army personnel of both the nations to serve effectively in UN missions by providing understanding about each other's traits, tactics, procedures and best practices. India is one of the largest contributors to the UN peacekeeping force and has a rich experience of serving in UN peacekeeping operations. This expertise was shared with the delegation from Myanmar. This delegation would form the core group of trainers who will further impart training to Myanmar Army personnel who are likely to serve in UN peacekeeping operations.

**Comments:** The objectives of IMBEX 2018-19 were to primarily train the Myanmar delegation for participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations under the UN flag. It also includes training the Myanmar Army delegation on tactics, procedures, expertise and methodology required by contingents of the member nations for serving in UN peacekeeping operations.

### **IMCOR, Bay of Bengal, India**

Naval Exercise, 20-28 May 2019

**Scope:** Myanmar Navy Ship UMS King Tabin Shwe Htee (773) and UMS Inlay (OPV-54) arrived at Port Blair on 20 May 19 to participate in the 8th Indo-Myanmar coordinated patrol (IMCOR), at the Andaman and Nicobar Command. The Myanmar delegation led by Commodore Htein Win, Commander, Ayeyarwady Naval Command, called on Commodore Ashutosh Ridhorkar, VSM, Naval Component Commander on 20 May 19. Myanmar ships UMS King TabinShweHtee and UMS Inlay undertook a coordinated patrol with Indian Naval Ship Saryu from 20 – 28 May 19. The patrolling effort was augmented by Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both the navies. The ships patrolled along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) between the two countries covering a distance of approximately 725 Kms over a period of four days. The ships also undertook joint maneuvers and drills during the sea phase of the coordinated patrol (CORPAT).

**Comments:** Started in Mar 2013, the CORPAT series has enhanced the mutual understanding and fostered improved professional interaction between the two navies for maritime interoperability. The CORPAT initiative between the two navies is meant to address issues of terrorism, illegal fishing, drug trafficking, human trafficking, poaching and other illegal activities inimical to the interests of both nations.



<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=190052>

## Nepal

### **SURYA KIRAN XIV, Rupandehi, Nepal**

Army Exercise, 2-16 December 2019

**Scope:** The 14th edition of the bilateral annual military exercise SURYA KIRAN-XIV between the Indian and the Nepal Army was held at the Nepal Army Battle School (NABS), Salijhandi, in the Rupendehi district of Nepal. The aim of this exercise was to conduct a battalion level combined training between the Indian and the Nepal Army with a scope to enhance interoperability at military level in jungle warfare, counter terrorist operations in a mountainous terrain, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief operations, medical and environmental conservation including aviation aspects. As part of the exercise, important lectures, demonstrations and drills related to counter insurgency, counter terrorism operations and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief response mechanism were rehearsed and executed jointly. The training culminated with a 72 hours outdoor exercise in which troops of both contingents carried out drills of counter insurgency operations. During the final phase of the exercise, Major General Gopal Gurung, Head of Indian Observer Mission was present as observer representative of Indian Army and Lieutenant General Sharad Giri, Chief of General Staff,

Nepal Army was the chief guest during the ceremony. In addition to training, both the contingents also participated in a number of extracurricular activities including friendly Football, Basketball, Volleyball matches and cultural events on the final day to showcase respective cultural lineages as also to increase the bonhomie amongst troops. The joint training was undoubtedly, an unprecedented success. Besides promoting understanding and interoperability between the two armies, it will further help in cementing ties between both the nations.

**Comments: In a series of military training exercises undertaken by India with various countries, 'SURYA KIRAN' exercise with Nepal is an important exercise in terms of security challenges faced by both nations in the realm of changing facets of global terrorism. This joint military exercise will enhance level of defence cooperation which will further foster bilateral relations between two nations.**

## **Oman**

### **AL NAGAH, Jabel Al Akhdhar, Oman**

Army Exercise, 12-25 October 2019

**Scope:** The third edition of joint military training exercise between the Indian Army and the Royal Oman Army, Exercise AL NAGAH 2019 was conducted at Jabel Al Akhdar training camp, Oman. The Indian side was represented by HE Mr Munu Mahawar, Indian Ambassador to Oman and Major General A K Samantara. The Royal Oman Army was represented by Major General Matar Bin Salim Bin Rashid Al Balushi and many senior officials. Contingent commanders of both the contingents briefed the delegation on the progress of the exercise. 60 Soldiers of the Indian Army took part in

the exercise along with a similar strength of personnel from Royal Army of Oman. Both sides jointly planned and executed a series of well-developed tactical operations based on scenarios that are likely to be encountered in semi-urban and mountainous terrains. Commanders at various levels from both sides were exercised to work in close coordination to receive and collate information, jointly plan operations and issue suitable order to respective components. The Indian Army and RAO contingents have been specifically selected for the exercise based on the expertise and professional competence and will take part in the two-week-long event that will see them hone their tactical and technical skills in joint counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations in semi-urban scenario in mountainous terrains under the UN mandate. Due emphasis was laid on increasing interoperability between forces from both the countries which is crucial for success of any joint operation. Both sides jointly trained, planned and executed a series of well-developed tactical drills for neutralization of likely threats that may be encountered in such a scenario.

**Comments: Ex Al Nagah 2019 will contribute immensely in developing mutual understanding and respect for each other's military as also facilitate in tackling the worldwide phenomenon of terrorism. It will also go a long way in further cementing the relationship between the nations and will act as a catalyst in bringing synergy and cooperation while undertaking such operations under the United Nations mandate.**

### **EASTERN BRIDGE V, Masirah, Oman**

Air Force Exercise, 17-26 October 2019

**Scope:** Indian Air Force participated in a Bilateral Joint exercise with the Royal Air Force Oman (RAFO), named EX EASTERN BRIDGE-V, from 17-26 Oct 19, at Air Force Base Masirah. For the

first time, MiG-29 fighter aircraft participated in an International Exercise outside India. IAF contingent comprised of the MiG-29 and C-17 aircraft. The Omani contingent comprised of the Royal Air Force Oman's Eurofighter Typhoon, F-16 and the Hawk. The exercise was aimed at enhancing inter-operability during mutual operations between the two air forces and will provide an opportunity to learn from each other's best practices.

**Comments:** The participation of the Indian Air Force in the exercise also promoted professional interaction, exchange of experience and operational knowledge. Besides strengthening bilateral relations, it also provided a good opportunity to the air-warriors to operate in an international environment. The last exercise, EX EASTERN BRIDGE-IV was held in 2017 at Jamnagar.



@IAF\_MCC 25 Oct 2019

## Russia

### INDRA, Babina, Goa & Pune (simultaneously), India

Tri-Services Exercise, 10-19 December 2019

**Scope:** Exercise INDRA 2019 a joint, tri services exercise between India and Russia was conducted in India from 10 - 19 December 2019 simultaneously at Babina (near Jhansi), Pune and Goa. Company

sized mechanised contingents, fighter and transport aircraft as well as ships of the respective Army, Air Force and Navy participated in this 10 day exercise. The INDRA exercises are being regularly held since 2003, initially being a bilateral single service exercise between India and Russia. The first-ever Joint Tri Services Exercise was held in the Eastern Military District of Russia in Oct 2017. This year IAF fielded the Su-30MKI, Jaguar, MI-17 helicopters and the Airborne Warning & Control System aircraft. The Garuda of IAF also participated in the exercise. The exercise consisted of a five day training phase consisting of a comprehensive training curriculum including tactical operations and drills such as cordon house intervention, handling and neutralisation of Improvised Explosive Devices, prevention of arms smuggling through the sea route and anti-piracy measures. This training phase was followed by a 72 hour validation exercise. INDRA 2019 culminated on 19 December with an Integrated Fire Power demonstration and the Closing Ceremony. The contingents of both the countries shared their expertise and their professional experience. The esprit-de-corps and goodwill were the key areas during the exercise which will facilitate further strengthening of bonds between the defence forces of India and Russia.

**Comments: The INDRA series of exercise began in 2003 and the first joint tri-services exercise was conducted in 2017. It was a historic occasion for two of the world's greatest armed forces to join hands and successfully conduct an exercise of this magnitude with professionalism, to imbibe the best practices from each other and to jointly evolve drills to defeat the scourge of terror under the United Nation mandate.**



@adgpi 19 Dec 2019



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## Singapore

### **BOLD KURUKSHETRA, Babina, India**

Army Exercise, 8-11 April 2019

**Scope:** BOLD KURUKSHETRA–2019, a joint military exercise of India and Singapore was inaugurated at Babina Cantonment of Jhansi. The joint exercise was aimed at developing military technology, enhancing maritime security and bolstering the nations' fight against terrorism. The 12th edition of the joint military exercise between India and Singapore, BOLD KURUKSHETRA 2019, culminated on 11 April 2019 after an impressive closing ceremony held at Babina Military Station. The four day long joint training



focused on developing interoperability and conduct of joint tactical operations in mechanised warfare. The troops learnt about each other's organisations and best practices being followed in combat. Reviewing officers addressed the contingents and congratulated the participating nations for successful termination of the exercise. The exercise was a grand success and taught valuable lessons to troops of both the participating nations.

**Comments: India and Singapore had entered into an official agreement to strengthen defence ties between their respective armed forces. As per the agreement, personnel from the Singapore Armed Forces will receive training and undertake firing exercises along with the Indian Armed Forces. Both India and Singapore have also agreed to step up intelligence and information sharing in maritime security, especially in the field of counter-terrorism, and agreed to expand collaboration on submarine safety and rescue operations.**

## **SIMBEX, South China Sea**

Naval Exercise, 16-20 May 2019

**Scope:** For SIMBEX 19, the Indian Navy (IN) has deployed its finest assets with an aim to strengthen mutual trust, enhance interoperability, and build greater synergy to address common maritime concerns among both navies. The harbour phase of SIMBEX-19 conducted from 16 to 18 May 19 included various planning conferences, simulator based warfare training/ wargaming, courtesy calls to dignitaries of The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), sporting events and deck reception onboard Kolkata. The sea phase of SIMBEX 19, conducted in the South China Sea from 19 to 22 May 19 included various maritime combat exercises such as firing on aerial/surface targets, advanced aerial tracking, coordinated targeting exercises and tactical exercises on surface/air scenarios. In

addition to IN ships Kolkata and Shakti, long range maritime patrol aircraft Poseidon-8I (P8I) also participated in SIMBEX-19. The Singapore side was represented by RSN ships Steadfast and Valiant, maritime patrol aircraft Fokker-50 (F-50) and the F-16 fighter aircraft.

**Comments: Since its inception in 1993, SIMBEX has grown in tactical and operational complexity. The annual bilateral exercise saw its progression from traditional anti-submarine exercises to more complex maritime exercises such as advanced air defence operations, anti air/surface practice firings, tactical exercises, etc. Over the years SIMBEX has stood the test of time in demonstrating the nation’s commitment to enhance maritime cooperation between the two navies and bolster bonds of friendship between the two countries. SIMBEX 19 also concluded the two month long deployment of IN ships Kolkata and Shakti to South and East China Seas which is aimed at extending the bridges of friendship through enhanced cultural, economic and maritime interactions with countries of East and South-East Asia. IN ships’ participation in the International Fleet Review (IFR) at Qingdao, China as part of the PLA Navy’s 70th anniversary celebrations and ADMM-plus MS FTX also reflects India’s ‘Act East’ policy and the Indian Navy’s efforts to “unite nations through the oceans”.**



<https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/node/22781>

## **JOINT MILITARY TRAINING X EDITION 2019, Kalaikunda, India**

Indian Air Force Exercise

**Scope:** Joint Military Training 2019 (JMT-2019) between the Republic Singapore Air Force (RSAF) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) which commenced on 31 Oct 19 at AF Stn Kalaikunda successfully culminated on 19 Dec 19. The teams from both the countries along with the fighter jets and transport aircraft engaged in series of rigorous flying exercises for a period of more than 06 weeks. The RSAF deployed the F-16C/D fighter aircraft to train alongside the IAF's SU-30MKI fighter aircraft. To commemorate the 10th edition of the JMT, the scope of the exercise was expanded to include an air-sea training component for the first time, with assets from the Indian Navy supporting. JMT allows aircrews from both air forces to hone their operational skills and enhance interoperability through high-end training such as Air Combat and Mission-Oriented Trainings.

**Comments:** The exercise was highly enriching and fruitful in enhancing operational capabilities of the participating nations. During the training, apart from operational commitments, various other activities were also undertaken. JMT is conducted under the ambit of the Air Force Bilateral Agreement, which was signed in 2007 and was recently renewed in 2017. Aside from the JMT, both air forces also interact regularly through visits, cross-attendance of courses and other professional exchanges.



@IAF\_MCC 28 Nov 2019

# Sri Lanka

## MITRA SHAKTI VI, Diyatalawa, Badulla, Sri Lanka

Army Exercise, 26 March – 8 April 2019

**Scope:** The Sixth edition of the joint military training exercise between the Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army, Exercise MITRA SHAKTI concluded on 8 April at Diyatalawa in the Badulla district of Sri Lanka. The two week long training that had commenced on 26 March, came to an end with a grand Closing Ceremony that witnessed a smart and scintillating joint parade by the two contingents. It was reviewed by the Indian Army Contingent Commander that also had the trooping in of the national flags of the two friendly nations and a rousing display by the Sri Lankan Army band. During the 14 days, both the contingents jointly planned and executed a series of well-coordinated tactical operations based on scenarios that are likely to be encountered in rural & urban environments. Commanders at various levels from both sides were exercised to work in close coordination to receive and collate information, jointly plan operations and issue orders to their respective components. Subject experts from both the contingents also held in depth discussions on various facets of counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations. The contingents also honed their tactical and technical skills in a wide spectrum of counter insurgency operations including joint training on weapons and equipment, cross training exercises, field training exercise and handling of improvised explosive devices. The two army contingents also shared the best practices of each other to further enhance their learning experience. The exercise provided an ideal platform for both the contingents to share their operational experience and expertise while also being instrumental in broadening the interoperability and cooperation between the armies of India and Sri Lanka. Future

editions of Exercise Mitra Shakti are likely to witness a progressive increase in the scope and content of combined training.

**Comments: Started in 2013, Exercise MITRA SHAKTI is in continuation of a series of joint exercises that is conducted annually as part of military diplomacy to enhance cooperation between the armies of India & Sri Lanka.**

### **MITRA SHAKTI VII, Pune, India**

Army Exercise, 1-14 December 2019

**Scope:** The seventh edition of the joint training exercise between the Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army, Exercise MITRA SHAKTI concluded on 14 December at Aundh Military Station, Pune. Contingent comprising of 120 personnel each from Sri Lankan and Indian Army participated in the exercise. The two week long exercise had commenced on 01 December and focused on enhancing interoperability for developing the capability to undertake joint operations in counter terrorism operations under United Nations mandate. The themes chosen for the joint training exercise were both, live & contemporary affecting both the nations. The joint training exercise concluded with a 48 hour long culmination exercise which was witnessed by senior military and defence officials of the Indian Army as well as representatives of the Sri Lankan Army. The culmination exercise showcased the standards achieved by the contingents during the joint training & demonstrated the commitment as well as capabilities of the participating armies in working closely with each other to maintain world peace under the United Nations flag. Both the contingents displayed high degree of professionalism while practicing various counter terrorism drills which has been a great learning experience for both the contingents. The standards displayed by the contingents delivered a strong and reassuring message with regards to the intent, commitment and

capability of both the armies towards maintaining world peace & upholding the mandate of the United Nations.

**Comments: The conduct of such bilateral military training exercises is an important step to uphold the values of peace, prosperity, international brotherhood and trust.**

### **SLINEX, Vishakapatnam, India**

Naval Exercise, 7-14 September 2019

**Scope:** The ‘SLINEX 2019’, the bilateral maritime exercise between India and Sri Lanka commenced on 7 September 2019 and went on till September 14th. Sri Lankan Navy sent two offshore patrol vessels SLNS Sindurala and SLNS Suranimala to India to participate in seventh annual Joint Indo-Lanka Maritime Fleet Exercise- SLINEX 2019. The offshore patrol vessels, SLNS Sindurala and Suranimala left from Trincomalee Port (of Sri Lanka) for India and arrived in port of Visakhapatnam (India). SLINEX (Sri Lanka India Naval Exercise) was attended by 323 Sri Lankan navy personnel including Flag Officer Commanding of the Naval Fleet. The week-long joint Naval exercise featured wide ranging naval exercises including helicopter operations.

**Comments: This exercise signifies the desire of both countries to enhance co-operation and to further strengthen mutual trust and interoperability between two navies. The bilateral maritime exercise will enable Indian Navy and Sri Lankan navies to rehearse and improve their capabilities and enhance operational effectiveness required to maintain maritime security in Indian Ocean region (IOR). The first ever SLINEX exercise took place in 2005.**

## Thailand

### MAITREE 2019, Umroi, Meghalaya, India

Army Exercise, 16–29 September 2019

**Scope:** Joint Military Exercise MAITREE-2019 between India and Thailand was conducted at Foreign Training Node, Umroi (Meghalaya) from 16–29 September 2019. Indian and Royal Thailand Army (RTA) comprising 50 soldiers each, participated in the exercise with an aim to share experience gained during various counter terrorism operations in their respective countries. The exercise began with a cross training period involving familiarization training between two armies to evolve drills and procedures involved in counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations in urban, rural and jungle terrains under the UN mandate. The initial days of the field training also focused on familiarizing with each other's modus operandi, basic maneuvers and evolving joint drills. The second phase included practicing of various drills & tactical scenarios in counter insurgency environment, execution of tactical operations like search and destroys operation, house intervention and survival techniques. The exercise culminated with a 72 hour joint exercise on planning and execution of series of tactical operations like raid, pursuit, establishing Military Check Post and cordon and search operations. Both the armies immensely benefitted from each other's expertise and experience in conduct of tactical level counter terrorist operations. The exercise helped in enhancing the cooperation and bonhomie between the two armies and troops. The joint military exercise has enhanced the level of defence co-operation between the Indian Army (IA) and the Royal Thailand Army (RTA) which in turn will further foster defence cooperation and bilateral relations between the two nations.

**Comments:** In the series of military training exercises undertaken by India with various countries, Exercise MAITREE with Thailand is a significant in terms of the security challenges faced by both the nations in the backdrop of changing facets of global terrorism. The scope of this exercise covers company level joint training on counter terrorism operations in jungle and urban scenarios.



@adgpi 18 Sep 2019



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## United Kingdom

### KONKAN, English Channel, UK

Naval Exercise, 10-19 December 2019

**Scope:** Indian Navy stealth frigate INS Tarkash joined the UK Royal Navy's HMS Destroyer in the English Channel for their annual



KONKAN Exercise. The Portsmouth-based Type 45 destroyer, HMS Dragon, met up with INS Tarkash off the South Coast for the two navies' annual workout called Exercise KONKAN. Both vessels involved are regarded as "stealth" ships designed to make the minimum impact on an enemy's radar display, with Dragon specifically designed to shield a task group from air attack, while the Russian-built Tarkash is a general-purpose frigate bristling with anti-ship/anti-land/anti-air missiles. The exercise typically takes place off the namesake Konkan stretch of coastline in India - running for 450 miles along the Western Seaboard and encompassing Mumbai and Goa - as the Royal Navy maintains a regular presence in the Indian Ocean. The two frigates conducted various combined training manoeuvres and serials involving anti-submarine warfare demonstrations and boarding operations. The two ships' helicopters - a Wildcat from the Defender, a Helix from Tarkash - traded places on the respective flight decks, while Indian and British personnel were also encouraged to step into each other's shoes, with a select few spending several hours experiencing life in a different Navy. KONKAN-19 involved Gunnery Shoots, Manoeuvres, Cross Deck Flying, ASW Screening and Air Defence exercises. The thrust of the KONKAN this year was on Anti-Air warfare, Anti-Surface Warfare, Flying Operations and Seamanship Evolutions of varying complexities.

**Comments: The KONKAN series of exercises commenced in 2004, and since then has grown in scale. This was 14th Edition of KONKAN series of annual bilateral exercises between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Britain. Konkan is designed to test the ability of the two Commonwealth navies to operate side-by-side during war and other crunch scenarios.**

# USA

## **TIGER TRIUMPH, Andhra Pradesh Coast, India**

Tri-Services Amphibious Exercise, 13-21 November 2019

**Scope:** Indian and American defence forces held their first Tri-Services amphibious exercise off the Andhra coast from November 13 to 21, 2019. US Marine Corps and a Special Forces reconnaissance team, Indian Navy's P8I long-range maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare aircraft participated in the exercise. The Indian Air Force (IAF) deployed C-130J Super Hercules aircraft, Mi-17 transport helicopters, GARUD Commandos and a Rapid Action Medical Team.

The 'harbour phase' was held in Visakhapatnam from November 13 to 16 and the second phase in Kakinada from November 17 to 21. Around 400 troops, including Army's signal, medical and communication arms participated in the exercise. Indian and American soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen operated together in a simulated "humanitarian aid and disaster relief" (HADR) situation — jointly providing succour to an Indian Ocean country that has been hit by a natural disaster. The two militaries are honing their capability to work together in an amphibious landing — such as a joint invasion of an enemy coast; or an operation to free one's own territory that has been captured by an enemy country, a terrorist group, or a mercenary force. The Indian side deployed its biggest amphibious assault ship, INS Jalashwa; a tank landing ship, INS Airavat and INS Sandhayak, a survey ship that functioned as a hospital ship. The US Task Force included the naval landing ship USS Germantown, which is equipped with landing craft and amphibious assault vehicles needed to land large numbers of marines onto a beach. Troops from the Third Marine Expeditionary Force,

a specialist unit for combat beach landings also participated. The exercise involved sailing from Visakhapatnam to Kakinada, and then staging a shore landing and setting up a joint command centre and a joint relief and a medical camp. India was fielding a battalion group, from 19 Madras, and BMP-II armoured vehicles from 7 Guards.

**Comments: This is the first ever amphibious exercise being held and signifies the readiness of the Indian security establishment to develop an expeditionary mindset and capability. Since 2000, the Navy's Maritime Warfare Centre in Visakhapatnam has been refining these tactics.**



Indian Air Force 22 November 2019

## **VAJRA PRAHAR, Joint Base Lewis McChord, Seattle, Washington, USA,**

Army Exercise (Special Forces), 13-28 October 2019

**Scope:** A 45-member Special Forces team from the Indian Army trained alongside US Special Forces from 13 - 28 October, 2019 as part of the 10<sup>th</sup> Edition of Ex VAJRA PRAHAR which is a Special Forces joint training exercise conducted alternately in India and the US. These exercises enable sharing of best practices and experience in areas such as joint mission planning capabilities and operational tactics.

**Comments: Bilateral military exercises and defence exchanges are an important aspect of deepening bilateral defence cooperation between India and the US.**

## **YUDH ABHYAS, Joint Base Lewis McChord, Seattle, Washington, USA,**

Army Exercise, 5-18 September 2019

**Scope:** Joint military training was conducted at Joint Base Lewis Mc Chord, Washington, USA from 05-18 September 2019. YUDH ABHYAS is one of the largest joint running military training and defence cooperation endeavors between India and the USA. This was the 15th edition of the joint exercise hosted alternately between the two countries. YUDH ABHYAS provides an opportunity to the armed forces of both the countries to train in an integrated manner at a Battalion level with joint planning at Brigade level. Multiple scenarios were rehearsed during the joint exercise with a view to understand each other's organisational structure and battle procedures which would result in a higher degree of jointmanship that would further facilitate interoperability between the armed forces of both countries to meet any unforeseen contingency across the globe. The exercise is also an ideal platform to learn from each other's expertise and experiences of planning and execution of operations. Both armies jointly trained, planned and executed a series of well developed operations for neutralization of threats of varied nature. In the end, a joint exercise was undertaken by both countries in an operational setting under a UN mandate. Experts from both sides held expert academic and military discussions to share each other's experiences on varied topics for mutual benefit.

**Comments:** YUDH ABHYAS has been ongoing since 2004, and is designed to promote cooperation between the two militaries while sharing training, cultural exchanges, and building joint operating skills. The U.S. military-to-military association with the Indian army is a maturing bilateral relationship that is strengthened by exercises like YUDH ABHYAS.

## Uzbekistan

### DUSTLIK 2019, Chirchiq Training Area, Uzbekistan

Army Exercise, 4 -14 November 2019

**Scope:** The inaugural Indo-Uzbekistan Joint Field Training Exercise (FTX)-2019, Exercise DUSTLIK-2019 was held in November 2019 after 10 days of joint training with the Uzbekistan Army. Displaying India's increasing strategic reach, an IAF C-130 aircraft airlifted Indian Army troops from Jamnagar to Tashkent. In the joint exercise which began on 04 November 2019 training was focused on counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations in urban scenario as well as sharing of expertise on skills at arms, both combat shooting and experiences in counter insurgency and counter terrorism. The exercise also provided an opportunity to armies of all nations for greater cultural understanding, sharing experiences and strengthening mutual trust and cooperation. After intense military training, the joint exercise concluded with both armies exhibiting their combat power and dominance over the extremist groups. The closing ceremony showcased the immense talent with unique traditional touch of both nations. It was conducted at Chirchiq Training Area, Uzbekistan. The senior officials expressed great satisfaction with high standards achieved in the exercise. The bonhomie, spirit de corps and goodwill generated during the exercise will go a long way in future, strengthening the bonds between our armed forces, enabling us in understanding each other's organization and methodology of conducting various operations.

**Comments:** Dustlik is an Uzbek word for "Friendship". This engagement is reflected in the first-ever meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Defence Cooperation in February 2019, visit of the Defence Secretary of India in March 2019 and

**the first-ever Defence-Industry Workshop organised in Tashkent in September 2019. India has offered a concessional line of credit of USD 40 million for procurement of goods and services by Uzbekistan from India. The direct exchanges related to training, capacity building and education between the armed forces on both sides has also witnessed a significant upswing.**

## **Vietnam**

### **VINBAX, Hanoi, Vietnam**

Army Exercise, 8-14 July 2019

**Scope:** Vietnam and India held a joint exercise on scale model in Thach That District, Hanoi, on July 8 to share experience in dealing with situations that may arise during peace keeping operations at United Nations missions. The 2019 Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise (VINBAX), which lasted until July 14, was attended by 30 officers from both countries. The drill was a good occasion for the two countries to continue exchanging knowledge about and experience in deployment, management and direction activities and the settlement of situations that peacekeepers may face at UN missions. It also helped improve the effectiveness of their participation in multidimensional peacekeeping missions. The exercise was also a contribution to the mutual understanding, friendship and cooperation in UN peacekeeping between Vietnam and India, noting that it is held amidst the fruitful cooperation in the field and growing bilateral defence ties.

**Comments:** India has strongly supported Vietnam in taking part in peacekeeping activities by inviting Vietnamese officers to join in peacekeeping training courses or seminars it organises.

# MULTILATERAL EXERCISES

## AFRICA INDIA FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE (AFINDEX)

### **Pune, India**

Army Exercise, 18-27 March 2019

**Scope:** As part of the inaugural Africa-India Field Training Exercise, AFINDEX-19 was commenced on 18 March 2019 at Military Station and College of Military Engineering, Pune. A number of activities in planning and conduct of Humanitarian Mine Assistance was undertaken by all 18 participating nations. The activities included demonstrations and training on establishing & functioning of Mine Action Center, identification and survey of contaminated areas, mechanical and manual demining, disposal of improvised explosives devices and air casualty disposal. The exercise focused on exchange of best practices amongst the participating nations, team building and tactical level operations in conduct of Humanitarian Mine Assistance and Peace Keeping operations based on the guidelines issued by the United Nations. The exercise

was divided into three phases: the first phase included the ‘Training of the trainers’ from the participating nations; the second phase involved detailed training of the entire contingent of around 180 trainees on various aspects of the HMA training. It was structured around the five pillars of mine action—Mine Risk Education (MRE), de-mining including manual, mechanical and dog assisted demining techniques, victim assistance, use of anti-personnel mines including a total ban and stockpile destruction. And the final phase of training involved practicing the drills on the ground by the contingents under the instructors from the College of Military Engineering (CME), as part of the validation exercise. 17 African nations i.e. Benin, Botswana, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, three observers African nations i.e. Rwanda, Congo and Madagascar along with India participated in the inaugural Africa-India Field Training Exercise.

**Comments: AFINDEX-19 will go a long way in further cementing relationship amongst the nations and will act as a catalyst in bringing synergy and cooperation while undertaking such operations under the United Nations mandate. On the sidelines of AFINDEX 2019, Indian companies under the umbrella of FICCI and Army Design Bureau (ADB) and Indian Army showcased indigenously manufactured defence equipment which can be exported to friendly nations. The companies showcased capabilities on Small Arms and Munitions; Surveillance and Security Management Equipment; Communication Equipment; Body Protection Armour; Light and Heavy Vehicles; Bullet Proof and IED Protected Vehicle; Simulators; IED Detection Equipment; System Engineering; Counter Terrorism related equipment and Prosthetics & Artificial Limbs.**



# COBRA GOLD

## Thailand

Army Exercise, February 2019

**Scope:** The 38th Annual COBRA GOLD Exercise ran through February co-sponsored by the Royal Thai and U.S Armed Forces. They were joined by another 27 nations, including Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea and Singapore. China and India participated in civic-action parts of the exercise. This year's exercise focused on military field training, civic assistance to communities and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, according to the exercise's statement. Approximately 4,500 U.S. personnel participated, including U.S. Navy Seabees, the amphibious transport dock ship USS Green Bay, the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and the U.S. Air Force's 35th Fighter Squadron. The aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis also docked in LaemChabang, Thailand, for a brief port call during its deployment to the Indo-Pacific region. Altogether, approximately 10,000 personnel participated in the exercise.

**Comments:** Its organizers claim Cobra Gold is the largest annual Asia-Pacific military exercise. Its stated goals are to improve the capabilities of participating nations to plan operations and conduct them together, build relationships and enhance maritime security and response to natural disasters. The exercise improved the participating nations' response to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami in Indonesia, 2011 Tohoku earthquake and Tsunami in Japan, 2013 Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines and 2015 earthquake in Nepal. In 2018, COBRA GOLD partner nations supported Thai allies in the dramatic rescue of the Wild Boars soccer team from the caves in northern Thailand. Teams of international divers saved the 12 boys on the team and their coach,

**who were trapped when heavy rains flooded the ThamLuang cave as they explored it on June 23.**

## **MALABAR**

### **Japanese Coast**

Naval Exercise, 26 September – 04 October 2019

**Scope:** The 23rd edition of the Trilateral Maritime Exercise MALABAR, was held between the navies of India, Japan and the USA from 26 Sep to 04 Oct 19 off the coast of Japan. Two frontline indigenously designed and built Indian Naval Ships, the Multipurpose Guided Missile Frigate Sahyadri and ASW Corvette Kiltan, with Rear Admiral Suraj Berry, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet embarked onboard, arrived at Sasebo, to participate in the Exercise. In addition to the ships, a 'P8I' Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft, also arrived in Japan for the Exercise. The US Navy was represented by the USS McCampbell, a Los Angeles-Class Attack Submarine and a 'P8A' Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft. The JMSDF participated with its Izumo Class Helicopter Destroyer JS Kaga, Guided Missile Destroyers JS Samidare and Choukai and a 'P1' Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft. MALABAR 2019 endeavored to further strengthen India-Japan-US Naval cooperation and enhance interoperability, based on shared values and principles. The Exercise encompassed conduct of complex maritime operations in the surface, sub-surface and air domains, and focus on Anti-Submarine Warfare, Anti-Air and Anti-Surface Firings, Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) including Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) and tactical scenario based Exercise at Sea. In addition, the partner navies also conducted official protocol visits, professional interactions including Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE), reciprocal ship visits, sports fixtures and social

events during the harbour phase. Participation of IN ships and aircraft in the exercise significantly bolstered the strong maritime bonds of friendship between the three countries and contribute to security and stability in the region.

**Comments: Malabar 2019 endeavours to further strengthen India -Japan-US Naval cooperation and enhance interoperability, based on shared values and principles.**



<https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/content/exercise-malabar-2019>

## **SINGAPORE INDIA THAILAND MARITIME EX (SITMEX)**

### **Andaman Sea and Port Blair**

Maritime Exercise, 18-20 September 2019

**Scope:** SITMEX-19 was a five day maritime exercise that aims to strengthen relations between all the three countries. The Sea Phase of the maiden SITMEX-19 (Singapore India Thailand Maritime Exercise) commenced in the Andaman Sea from 18 Sep 19. IN Ships Ranvir, a Guided Missile Destroyer, Kora, a Missile Corvette, Sumedha, an Offshore Patrol Vessel along with Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft P8I jointly exercised

with RSS Tenacious, a Formidable-class Guided Missile Stealth Frigate and HTMS Kraburi, a Guided Missile Frigate and engaged in various Gunnery, Force Protection Measures, Air Defence and Communication Exercises to enhance maritime interoperability between the participating navies. Sea Riders have also been exchanged between participating ships to provide experience sharing of best practices. The harbour phase of SITMEX-19 culminated at Port Blair and included professional interaction in the form of Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE), Pre-Sail Conferences which was attended by Command teams and friendly basketball matches between joint teams drawn from participating ships. A Food Festival was also organized during the harbor phase to showcase delicacies of each participating country. As part of this trilateral exercise, the Singapore Navy's Guided Missile Stealth Frigate ASN Tenesus and Thailand's Guided Missile Frigate HTMS Kraburi had been launched along with Indian Navy ships.

**Comments: This maritime exercise will not only promote cooperation between the three navies, but also the spirit of cooperation for stronger maritime security will increase. This exercise will increase mutual trust and understanding between the three navies and will help in a better understanding of each other's maritime operations**

## **TSENR**

### **Donguz Training Ranges, Orenburg, Russia**

Army Exercise, 9-23 September 2019

**Scope:** The exercise was held from 09 - 23 September 19 at Donguz training ranges, Orenburg, Russia. In 2019, invitations for participation had been extended to nine other countries. The

TSENTR 2019 was conducted by the Central Military Commission of Russia. Apart from the host Russia, military contingents from China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan also took part in this mega event. The exercise was aimed at evolving drills of the participating armies and practicing them in the fight against the scourge of international terrorism thereby ensuring military security in the strategic central Asian region. The TSENTR-2019 strategic measures focused on evaluating the level of troop preparedness, the acquisition of the required skills and raising the level of inter-operability and demonstrate the readiness of the participating armies. The exercise TSENTR 2019 comprised of two modules. The first module included counter-terror operations, repelling air strikes, reconnaissance operations and defensive measures, while the second focused on offensive operations.

**Comments: Exercise TSENTR 2019 was part of the annual series of large scale exercises that form part of the Russian Armed Forces' annual training cycle. The series rotates through the four main Russian operational strategic commands. Russia holds a major military exercise every year at one of its four military Commands i.e Vostok (East), Zapad (West), TSENTR (Centre) and Kavkas (South). These annual exercises have slowly begun taking an international character, with Belarus participating in ZAPAD-2017 and China and Mongolia participating in VOSTOK-2018.**



@adgpi 10 Sep 2019

## About the VIVEKANANDA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Vivekananda International Foundation is an independent non-partisan institution that conducts research and analysis on domestic and international issues, and offers a platform for dialogue and conflict resolution. Some of India's leading practitioners from the fields of security, military, diplomacy, government, academia and media have come together to generate ideas and stimulate action on national security issues.

The defining feature of VIF lies in its provision of core institutional support which enables the organisation to be flexible in its approach and proactive in changing circumstances, with a long-term focus on India's strategic, developmental and civilisational interests. The VIF aims to channelise fresh insights and decades of experience harnessed from its faculty into fostering actionable ideas for the nation's stakeholders.

Since its inception, VIF has pursued quality research and scholarship and made efforts to highlight issues in governance, and strengthen national security. This is being actualised through numerous activities like seminars, round tables, interactive dialogues, Vimarsh (public discourse), conferences and briefings. The publications of VIF form lasting deliverables of VIF's aspiration to impact on the prevailing discourse on issues concerning India's national interest.



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