

EXERCISE SEA DRAGON

NEWS: Exercise Sea Dragon 2025 is a **two-week-long** multinational **anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise** that brings together key Indo-Pacific nations.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Overview of the Exercise

- The **primary objective** of the exercise is to **enhance maritime security** and strengthen **naval cooperation** among participating countries.
- The exercise specifically focuses on **detecting, tracking, and neutralizing enemy submarines**, helping navies refine their **tactical ASW capabilities** through real-world operational scenarios.
- The exercise is structured to **simulate combat conditions**, allowing navies to practice submarine hunting using **sonar systems, torpedoes, and surveillance aircraft**.

Host and Location

- **Host Nation:** The exercise is conducted under the leadership of the **United States Navy's 7th Fleet**, which is responsible for operations in the **Indo-Pacific region**.
- **Location:** The drills take place at **Andersen Air Force Base, Guam**, a strategically significant military base located in the **Southwest Pacific Ocean**.
- **Guam's deep-sea environment** and proximity to vital sea lanes make it an ideal location for conducting advanced anti-submarine warfare exercises.

Participating Nations in Sea Dragon 2025

- **India** – First participated in **2021** and continues to expand its presence in the exercise.
- **Australia** – A key Indo-Pacific ally contributing advanced naval aviation capabilities.
- **Japan** – Utilizes its advanced maritime surveillance aircraft and submarines to improve joint operations.
- **South Korea** – Participates to strengthen its ASW readiness, given regional security challenges.
- **United States** – As the host, it deploys state-of-the-art naval assets, including **P-8A Poseidon aircraft** and nuclear-powered submarines.

- These countries share strategic interests in maintaining a **free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific region** amid growing geopolitical tensions.



Significance of Exercise Sea Dragon 2025

1. Strengthening India's Maritime Security

- India's participation in Exercise Sea Dragon significantly **enhances its anti-submarine warfare (ASW) capabilities**, crucial for maintaining security in the Indian Ocean.
- The Indian Navy's **P-8I maritime patrol aircraft** is actively involved in the exercise, improving its ability to **detect, track, and neutralize enemy submarines**.
- With growing concerns over the **presence of Chinese submarines in the Indian Ocean**, the exercise helps **India refine its undersea warfare strategies**.
- The drills provide an opportunity for Indian naval personnel to **train in realistic combat conditions**, improving their **submarine detection and engagement techniques**.

2. Boosting Naval Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific

- The exercise fosters **closer naval collaboration** between **India and its Indo-Pacific allies**, particularly members of the **Quad (India, US, Japan, Australia)**.

- The training involves **joint operations**, including **real-time information sharing, coordinated ASW maneuvers, and interoperability testing**.
- By engaging in **multilateral ASW drills**, India strengthens its role as a **key security provider in the Indo-Pacific**.

3. Enhancing Tactical Proficiency and Readiness

- The exercise allows participating navies to **test their advanced ASW sensors, sonar systems, and aerial surveillance capabilities** in a realistic operational setting.
- Training scenarios include **search-and-track operations using hydroacoustic sensors, deep-sea sonar detection, and precision targeting of enemy submarines**.
- The drills enhance the **combat preparedness** of naval forces, ensuring that they are **ready to respond to potential underwater threats** in the region.

4. Addressing Regional Security Concerns

- The Indo-Pacific region has seen a **rise in submarine activity**, particularly from China, which has been increasing its presence in the **South China Sea and the Indian Ocean**.
- Exercise Sea Dragon allows India and its allies to **counter potential undersea threats** and ensure **secure maritime trade routes**.
- The exercise reinforces **India's commitment to upholding a rules-based international order**, ensuring that maritime activities adhere to international norms.
- The collaboration between Indo-Pacific nations sends a strong signal against **aggressive territorial expansion and unauthorized military presence in regional waters**.

5. Supporting India's Long-Term Naval Modernization

- Exercise Sea Dragon aligns with India's **long-term naval modernization efforts**, focusing on expanding **anti-submarine warfare capabilities**.
- India has been investing in **modern naval assets**, including the **P-8I Poseidon aircraft, MH-60R multi-role helicopters, and indigenous submarines**.
- By participating in this exercise, the Indian Navy can **benchmark its ASW tactics against advanced navies** and incorporate the **latest technologies in undersea warfare**.
- The exercise complements India's efforts to **enhance its naval surveillance and ASW capabilities**, ensuring better **protection of its coastline, EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone), and maritime interests**.

Annual Nature of the Exercise

- **Exercise Sea Dragon is conducted annually**, ensuring that participating navies **continuously improve their ASW coordination and operational efficiency**.
- Each year, the exercise is modified to incorporate **newer technologies, evolving threats, and updated warfare strategies**, making it a **dynamic and evolving training program**.
- The consistent participation of India and its allies highlights **the growing emphasis on collaborative maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region**.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/indian-navy-us-sea-dragon-2025-anti-submarine-warfare-explained-125032000802_1.html