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**.

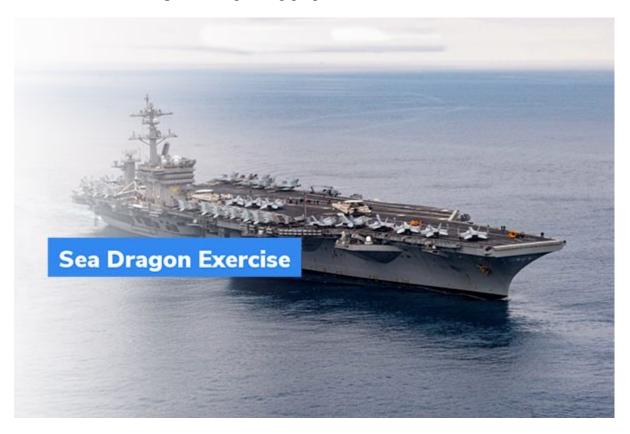
Host and Location

- 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 antisubmarine 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