

## 8. Shortnews

### 1. Exercise Yudh Abhyas

An Indian Army contingent has reached Fort Wainwright, Alaska, to participate in the 21st edition of the India–US Joint Military Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2025.

#### About Yudh Abhyas

**Nature** – An annual joint military exercise between India and the USA.

**Start Year** – Conducted regularly since 2004.

**Objective** – Aims to enhance military cooperation, promote training exchanges, encourage cultural interaction, and develop joint operational skills.

**Previous Edition** – Held at the Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan.

#### About the 2025 Edition

##### Participants

1. **Indian Army contingent** – Personnel from a battalion of the *Madras Regiment*.
2. **US Army contingent** – Soldiers from the 5th Infantry Regiment ("Bobcats") of the Arctic Wolves Brigade Combat Team, part of the US 11th Airborne Division.

##### Scope and Focus of Training

1. **Tactical drills** – Heliborne operations, mountain warfare, and integrated use of artillery, aviation, and electronic warfare systems.
2. **Use of technology** – Employment of surveillance resources and unmanned aerial systems (UAS).
3. **Joint planning** – Troops will engage in coordinated tactical manoeuvres and live-fire exercises in high-altitude warfare scenarios.

##### Other Exercises between India and the USA

1. **Army** – Vajra Prahar
2. **Navy** – MALABAR (Multilateral), SALVEX
3. **Air Force** – Cope India, Red Flag (Multilateral)
4. **Exercise Tiger Triumph** – A bilateral, India-U.S. tri-service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise.

### 2. Blue Dragons

Several beaches in Spain were closed after large numbers of blue dragons, a venomous sea slug species.

#### About Blue Dragons (*Glaucus atlanticus*)

**Species** – A small sea slug (~4 cm long) that drifts on the ocean surface with currents.

**Floating Mechanism** – Floats upside down by storing an air bubble in its stomach.

**Camouflage** – Blue on the upper side blends with the sea; white underside blends with sunlight when seen from below.

**Feeding Habits** – Consumes jellyfish and venomous siphonophores (e.g., Portuguese man o' war).

**Unique Trait** – Stores stinging cells from prey in finger-like body structures, making its sting stronger than the jellyfish it feeds on.

**Impact on Humans** – Sting can cause severe pain, redness, swelling, nausea, and vomiting.

##### Geographical Distribution –

1. **Native Habitat** – Warm tropical waters of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans.
2. **Recorded Sightings** – Found in Australia, South Africa, and the US in recent years.
3. **Mediterranean Rarity** – First recorded in the Canary Islands (1839), later in the Balearic Islands in the early 20th century, but sightings remained rare until the last 5 years.

## Reasons for Arrival in Spain

1. **Warming Seas** – Linked to the rapid warming of the Mediterranean Sea, one of the fastest-warming seas globally.
2. Rising temperatures bring their food source (Portuguese man o' war) into the region, enabling the species' survival and proliferation

## 3. Exercise Yudh Kaushal 3.0

The Indian Army conducted *Exercise Yudh Kaushal 3.0* in the high-altitude Kameng region of Arunachal Pradesh.

### About Yudh Kaushal 3.0

It is a series of Indian Army exercises aimed at enhancing combat preparedness, improving operational efficiency, and promoting the adoption of modern technologies.

### Key Features of the Yudh Kaushal 3.0

**Conducted by** – General Officer Commanding, Gajraj Corps.

#### Operations demonstrated –

1. Drone surveillance and real-time target acquisition.
2. Precision strikes.
3. Air-littoral operations.
4. Synchronised battlefield manoeuvres in difficult terrain.

#### Debut of ASHNI Platoons –

**Objective** – Integration of advanced technology with traditional combat skills.

**Aim** – Provide decisive battlefield advantage.

**Participation of Indian Defence Industry** – Reflecting India's focus on *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* and indigenous innovation in defence preparedness.

**Significance of Yudh Kaushal 3.0** – Validated combat effectiveness in high-altitude, harsh terrain. Reinforced the Army's transition towards multi-domain operations, Adoption of advanced, indigenous technologies.