



Exercise INDRA-21

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Why in News

The **12th Edition of Indo-Russia joint military Exercise INDRA** will be held at **Volgograd, Russia** in August 2021.



Key Points

- **About Exercise INDRA:**
 - The exercise will entail **conduct of counter terror operations** under the **United Nations mandate** by a joint force against international terror groups.
 - The **INDRA series of exercises began in 2003** and was conducted as a bilateral naval exercise alternately between the two countries. However, the **first joint Tri-Services Exercise was conducted in 2017**.
 - The **last joint, tri-services** exercise between India and Russia was conducted in **India in December 2019**. It was held **simultaneously at Babina (near Jhansi), Pune, and Goa**.

- **Significance of Military Exercises:**

- In the domain of international relations, **military diplomacy** has, in recent years, emerged as a major tool to further diplomatic interests of nations.
- Participation in international level military exercises is an **indication of the highest level of trust and confidence** between the member nations.
- On the operational side, **military exercises enable militaries to understand each other's drills** and procedures, overcome language barriers, and facilitate familiarisation with equipment capabilities.
- This is particularly useful in the event of joint operations whether in war or in **operations other than war (OOTW)** like, humanitarian aid, disaster relief, anti-piracy, etc – when nations come together for a common cause.
- Perhaps, the most important advantage of joint military exercises is '**strategic signalling**'.

A joint exercise with one or more nations serves the purpose of signalling to a third country the influence we have in the region and a demonstration of our resolve to further our diplomatic objectives.

- On the intangible side, **military exercises promote brotherhood and camaraderie** between soldiers and militaries.

Besides goodwill, it is a tool for **projection of a nation's soft power** – culture, language, customs, beliefs, food habits and lifestyle.

Joint Military Exercises of India with Other Countries

Name of Exercise	Country
Garuda Shakti	Indonesia
Ekuverin	Maldives
Hand-in-Hand	China
Kurukshetra	Singapore
Mitra Shakti	Sri Lanka
Nomadic Elephant	Mongolia
Shakti	France
Surya Kiran	Nepal
Yudh Abhyas	USA

Source: PIB