

Exercise Sea Dragon 2026

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Exercise Sea Dragon Latest News

The Indian Navy along with multiple partner nations is participating in Exercise Sea Dragon 2026, a United States Navy-led multinational anti-submarine warfare drill.

About Exercise Sea Dragon

- It is a **United States Navy-led multinational anti-submarine warfare (ASW) drill conducted annually** to strengthen maritime security and cooperation among **allied nations in the Indo-Pacific region**.
- It has been **held annually since 2019 at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam** in the **Western Pacific**.
- Participating countries deploy **long-range maritime patrol aircraft**, such as the **P-8 Poseidon**.
- It provides a structured environment to **test interoperability between near-identical platforms operated by different nations, standardizing data links, communication protocols, and tactical procedures** that would be essential in any real-world combined ASW operation.
- **Sea Dragon 2026:**

- The exercise includes forces from the **United States Navy, the Indian Navy, the Royal Australian Air Force, the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force, and the Royal New Zealand Air Force.**
- Participants will be challenged on speed, accuracy, and coordinated mission execution, strengthening ASW proficiency and enhancing interoperability among partner forces.
- It advances aircrew proficiency in ASW by **progressing from track-simulated targets to detecting and tracking a live submarine.**
- During the exercise, **each event is graded**, and the **nation scoring the highest** total points will receive the coveted **Dragon Belt award.**

Source: HBL

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