

1. Military exercises

Month Cycle	Exercise Name	Participants (Force)	Typical Location Focus	Key Insights & PYQ Relevance
Jan-Feb	Desert Cyclone	India & UAE (Army)	Rajasthan	First edition focused on urban warfare; marks deepening Gulf defence ties.
Jan-Feb	Cyclone	India & Egypt (Special Forces)	Jaisalmer / Anshas (Egypt)	Inaugural 2023; focuses on combat free fall, sniping, and desert survival.
Jan-Feb	Khanjar	India & Kyrgyzstan (Special Forces)	Bakloh, HP / Bishkek	Counter-terrorism in high-altitude terrain; Bakloh is a frequent PSC trap option.
Jan-Feb	Sada Tanseeq	India & Saudi Arabia (Army)	Mahajan Range, Rajasthan	Inaugural edition focusing on semi-desert operations and joint interoperability.
Jan-Feb	Sahyog-Kaijin	India & Japan (Coast Guard)	Chennai / Bay of Bengal	Focuses on anti-piracy and search & rescue, showcasing advanced interceptor boats.
Jan-Feb	Desert Knight	India, France, UAE (Air Force)	Al Dhafra / Arabian Sea	Trilateral aerial drill where India deployed Su-30 MKI and AWACS.
February	MILAN	Multilateral (50+ Navies)	Visakhapatnam	India's largest naval exercise; frequently showcases indigenous

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				aircraft carriers.
Feb-Mar	Dharma Guardian	India & Japan (Army)	Rajasthan / Japan	Focus on sub-conventional operations and jungle warfare under a UN mandate.
Feb-Mar	LAMITIYE	India & Seychelles (Army)	Seychelles	Longest-running bilateral exercise since 2001; translates to "Friendship" in Creole.
Feb-Mar	Shinyuu Maitri	India & Japan (Air Force)	Komatsu / Agra	Tests heavy transport drops (C-17 Globemaster III) in challenging crosswinds.
Feb-Mar	Dosti	India, Maldives, Sri Lanka (CG)	Male, Maldives	Trilateral Coast Guard exercise crucial for Indian Ocean Region maritime security.
March	Bharat Shakti	India (Tri-Services)	Pokhran, Rajasthan	Exclusively showcased indigenous tech like Tejas and the Akashteer defence system.
March	Varuna	India & France (Navy)	Arabian Sea	High-level focus on advanced Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and air

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				defence.
March	AFINDEX	India & 20 African Nations (Army)	Pune, Maharashtra	Focuses on humanitarian mine action; key platform for Indian arms exports to Africa.
Mar-Apr	SLINEX	India & Sri Lanka (Navy)	Colombo / Visakhapatnam	Tests cross-deck helicopter landings using the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).
April	Dustlik	India & Uzbekistan (Army)	Aundh, Pune / Uzbekistan	Multi-domain operations; exact location (Aundh) is a highly repeated PYQ fact.
April	Tiger Triumph	India & USA (Tri-Services)	Eastern Seaboard (Vizag)	Tri-service exercise exclusively dedicated to Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief.
Apr-May	Cope India	India & USA (Air Force)	Kalaikunda / Panagarh	First time US B-1B bombers participated in Indian airspace for dogfighting drills.
Apr-May	Ajeya Warrior	India & UK (Army)	Salisbury (UK) / Chaubatia	Focuses on company-level urban and semi-urban counter-terror operations.

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May-Jun	Shakti	India & France (Army)	Umroi, Meghalaya / France	Joint operations under a UN mandate; Umroi is India's premier joint training node.
May-Jun	Nomadic Elephant	India & Mongolia (Army)	Umroi, Meghalaya / Mongolia	Platoon-level mountain warfare focusing on counter-insurgency.
May-Jun	Samudra Shakti	India & Indonesia (Navy)	South China Sea / Batam	India often deploys ASW corvettes like INS Kavaratti in these strategic waters.
Jun-Jul	Sampriti	India & Bangladesh (Army)	Umroi / Bangladesh	India frequently tests its indigenous INSAS rifles and sniper tactics here.
Jul-Aug	Pitch Black	Multilateral (Air Force)	Northern Territory, Australia	India deployed Su-30MKI; high Quad nation participation.
Jul-Aug	RIMPAC	Multilateral (Navy)	Hawaii, USA	The world's largest international maritime warfare exercise.
Jul-Aug	Bold Kurukshetra	India & Singapore (Army)	Jodhpur, Rajasthan	Armoured and mechanised unit operations; highlights desert mobility.

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Jul-Aug	Al Najah	India & Oman (Army)	Mahajan / Oman	Oman is India's oldest Gulf defence partner; focuses on UN mandate peacekeeping.
August	Tarang Shakti	Multilateral (Air Force)	Sulur & Jodhpur	Highly Probable for BPSC: India's largest-ever multilateral air exercise hosted in 2024.
Aug-Sep	Vajra Prahar	India & USA (Special Forces)	Bakloh, HP / JBLM (USA)	Strictly Special Forces (PARA SF); BPSC often confuses this with Army's Yudh Abhyas.
Aug-Sep	Zayed Talwar	India & UAE (Navy)	Port Rashid, Dubai	Bilateral naval interoperability; naval follow-up to the Army's Desert Cyclone.
Sep-Oct	Yudh Abhyas	India & USA (Army)	Alaska / Rajasthan	Extreme cold weather drills; earlier locations (Ranikhet) appeared in BPSC PYQs.
Sep-Oct	Malabar	Quad Nations (Navy)	Indo-Pacific Region	Advanced interoperability between the navies of India, USA, Japan, and Australia.
Sep-Oct	Bright Star	Multilateral (Tri-Services)	Egypt	Massive Middle-East drill where India sends full tri-

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				service contingents.
Sep-Oct	SIMBEX	India & Singapore (Navy)	South China Sea / Vizag	India's longest uninterrupted naval exercise with any foreign country (since 1994).
October	Chakravat	India Tri-Services + State	Rotates Annually (e.g., Goa)	Annual Joint HADR exercise testing disaster response (cyclones) with local NDRF.
Oct-Nov	JIMEX	India & Japan (Navy)	Bay of Bengal	Focuses heavily on complex surface and anti-submarine warfare drills.
Oct-Nov	Garuda	India & France (Air Force)	Jodhpur / Mont-de-Marsan	Fighter combat focusing on Rafale integration and mid-air refueling.
Oct-Nov	Harimau Shakti	India & Malaysia (Army)	Umroi / Malaysia	Appeared directly in 63rd BPSC Prelims; recent focus on command post-drone integration.
Oct-Nov	KAZIND	India & Kazakhstan (Bi-service)	Otar (Kaz) / Umroi	Upgraded from a company-level to a bi-service (Army + Air Force) exercise.

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Oct-Nov	IBSAMAR	India, Brazil, South Africa	South Africa Coast	Trilateral naval exercise linking the IBSA democratic nations.
November	SITMEX	India, Singapore, Thailand	Andaman Sea	Trilateral maritime exercise focusing on securing the Strait of Malacca approaches.
Nov-Dec	Trishul	India (Tri-Services)	Western Borders / Andaman	Live-testing protocols for upcoming Integrated Theatre Commands; frequent PYQ topic.
Nov-Dec	Mitra Shakti	India & Sri Lanka (Army)	Pune / Sri Lanka	Induction of new drone and counter-drone (C-UAS) tactics.
Nov-Dec	Surya Kiran	India & Nepal (Army)	Pithoragarh / Nepal	Focus on mountain warfare and disaster response in the Himalayan region.
Nov-Dec	VINBAX	India & Vietnam (Army)	Chandimandir / Hanoi	Focuses on deploying Combat Engineering and Medical teams for UN peacekeeping.
Nov-Dec	Garuda Shakti	India & Indonesia	Special Forces School, Agra	Cross-training in close-quarter battle (CQB) and

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		(Special Forces)		hostage rescue.
Nov-Dec	Naseem Al Bahr	India & Oman (Navy)	Arabian Sea	"Sea Breeze"; India occasionally deploys its Scorpene-class submarines for this drill.
Nov-Dec	Eastern Bridge	India & Oman (Air Force)	Masirah / Jodhpur	Oman is the only Gulf country to conduct bilateral air exercises with India.
Periodic	Vayu Shakti	Indian Air Force	Pokhran, Rajasthan	Conducted every 3 years; demonstrates full-spectrum combat capabilities and firepower.
Periodic	Gagan Strike	Army (Kharga Corps) + IAF	Punjab / Haryana	Tests deep penetration strikes by mechanized columns supported by Apache helicopters.
Periodic	Parvat Prahar	Army (Strike Corps)	Ladakh (LAC)	High-altitude warfare using Chinooks; meant as a deterrent posture against China.
Periodic	Sea Vigil	Navy, Coast Guard, Customs	Entire 7516 km Coastline	Largest pan-India coastal defense exercise activated post-26/11 to test total

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				security.
Periodic	Prasthan	Navy (Western/Eastern Cmd)	Offshore Development Areas	Conducted every 6 months to test the security of offshore oil rigs (like ONGC platforms).
Periodic	Sudarshan Prahar	Army (Sudarshan Chakra)	Rajasthan Deserts	Tests integration of new K9 Vajra artillery and swarm drones in desert environments.



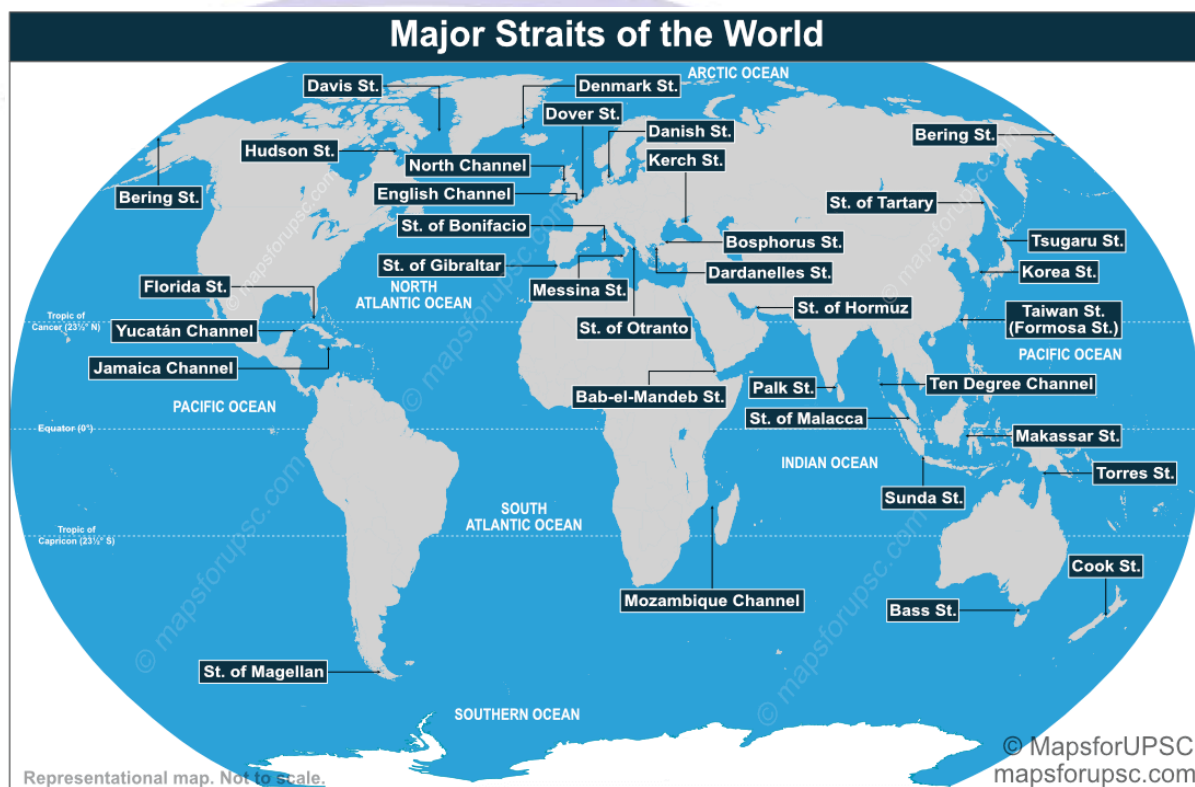
2. International Choke Points: Straits, Isthmuses & Canals

PYQ Insight: BPSC frequently asks about the exact water bodies connected by major straits (e.g., Palk Strait, Strait of Malacca).

A strait *connects* two water bodies and *separates* two landmasses.

Choke Point	Connects (Water Bodies)	Separates (Landmasses)	Trivia & Strategic Importance
Strait of Hormuz	Persian Gulf & Gulf of Oman	Iran & UAE/Oman	The world's most critical oil transit chokepoint.
Strait of Malacca	Andaman Sea & South China Sea	Malay Peninsula & Sumatra (Indonesia)	BPSC PYQ. Busiest shipping lane connecting the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
Bab-el-Mandeb	Red Sea & Gulf of Aden	Yemen (Asia) & Djibouti/Eritrea (Africa)	Known as the "Gate of Tears." Crucial for Suez Canal traffic.
Bosphorus Strait	Black Sea & Sea of Marmara	Asian Turkey & European Turkey	Connects the Black Sea to the Mediterranean system.
Strait of Gibraltar	Atlantic Ocean & Mediterranean Sea	Spain (Europe) & Morocco (Africa)	Known historically as the "Pillars of Hercules."
Bering Strait	Arctic Ocean (Chukchi Sea) & Bering Sea	Russia (Asia) & Alaska (North America)	The International Date Line passes through it.

Choke Point	Connects (Water Bodies)	Separates (Landmasses)	Trivia & Strategic Importance
Palk Strait	Bay of Bengal & Palk Bay	India (Tamil Nadu) & Sri Lanka	BPSC PYQ. Contains the Adam's Bridge (Ram Setu).
Strait of Magellan	Atlantic Ocean & Pacific Ocean	Mainland South America & Tierra del Fuego	Difficult to navigate; historically bypassed by the Panama Canal.
Suez Canal	Mediterranean Sea & Red Sea	Africa & Asia (Sinai Peninsula)	Artificial waterway in Egypt. Reduces the journey from Europe to Asia.
Panama Canal	Atlantic Ocean & Pacific Ocean	North America & South America	Uses a system of locks to lift ships over the continental divide.



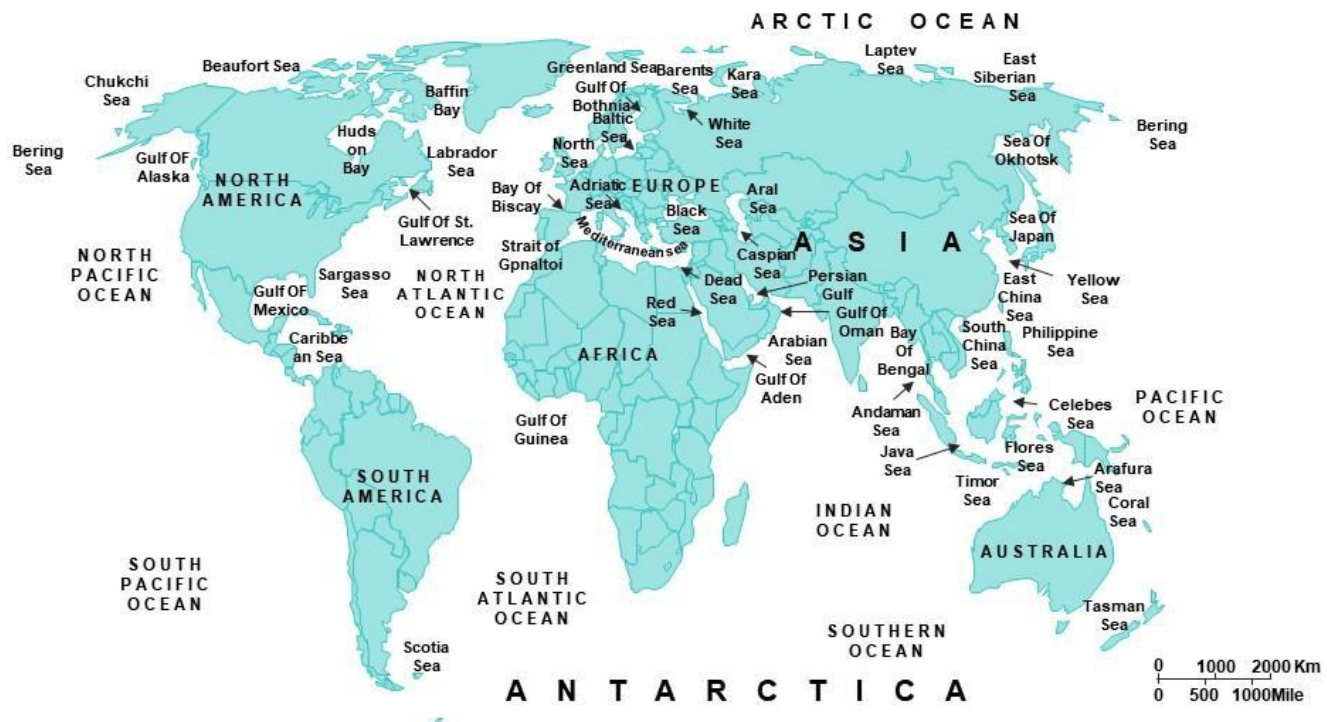
3. Geopolitics & Borders: Conflict Zones & Major Seas

PYQ Insight: Questions asking "Which of the following countries does NOT border the [Sea Name]?" are a staple in BPSC.

Water Body / Region	Bordering Countries	Key Trivia & Geopolitics
Black Sea	Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Georgia	Heavy conflict zone due to the Russia-Ukraine war. Turkey controls access via the Bosphorus.
Caspian Sea	Russia, Iran, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan	Largest inland body of water (actually a lake). Mnemonic: TARIK.
Red Sea	Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, Yemen	High-tension zone recently due to Houthi attacks on commercial shipping.
Aral Sea	Kazakhstan & Uzbekistan	BPSC favorite. It has shrunk by over 90% due to Soviet irrigation projects.
South China Sea	China, Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Taiwan	Disputed territory centered around the "Nine-Dash Line," Paracel, and Spratly Islands.
Mediterranean Sea	21 countries across Europe, Africa, and Asia	Key African borders (Mnemonic: METAL) - Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya.
Horn of Africa	Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti	Strategic peninsula in East Africa. Mnemonic: SEED. Ethiopia is the only landlocked country here.

Water Body / Region	Bordering Countries	Key Trivia & Geopolitics
Persian Gulf	Iran, Oman, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq	Contains massive global oil reserves. Bounded by the Strait of Hormuz.

World Map Of Continents And Seas



4. Global Drainage & Lakes: Rivers and Freshwater Bodies

PYQ Insight: BPSC loves rivers that cross major latitudes (Equator, Tropics) and lakes that hold specific geographical records (deepest, largest).

River / Lake	Location	Outflow / Drainage	Key Trivia & Unique Facts
Congo (Zaire) River	Central Africa	Atlantic Ocean	Crosses the Equator twice. Highly repeated BPSC PYQ.
Limpopo River	Southern Africa	Indian Ocean	Crosses the Tropic of Capricorn twice.
Mahi River	India (MP, Rajasthan, Gujarat)	Arabian Sea	Crosses the Tropic of Cancer twice.
Nile River	Northeast Africa	Mediterranean Sea	Longest river in the world. Formed by the White Nile (Lake Victoria) and Blue Nile (Lake Tana).
Amazon River	South America	Atlantic Ocean	Largest river by discharge volume; carries 20% of global river water.
Danube River	Europe	Black Sea	Flows through or borders 10 countries and passes through 4 capital cities (Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest, Belgrade).
Lake Baikal	Russia (Siberia)	Angara River	Deepest and oldest freshwater lake in the world. Holds 20% of unfrozen

River / Lake	Location	Outflow / Drainage	Key Trivia & Unique Facts
			freshwater.
Lake Victoria	Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya	White Nile River	Africa's largest lake and the world's second-largest freshwater lake. Equator passes through it.
Lake Tanganyika	Central Africa	Congo River basin	World's longest freshwater lake; shared among four countries.
Lake Titicaca	Peru & Bolivia (Andes)	Inland	Highest navigable lake in the world.

5. Climate Zones & Agriculture: Shifting Cultivation

PYQ Insight: Shifting cultivation (slash-and-burn agriculture) is frequently tested via matching questions, requiring you to pair the local name with its country or Indian state.

Local Name	Country / Region	Trivia
Jhum / Jhumming	North-Eastern India	India's most famous slash-and-burn practice; heavily relies on ash as natural fertilizer.
Ladang	Indonesia & Malaysia	Frequently asked in state PCS matching questions.
Milpa	Mexico & Central America	Historically associated with the Maya civilization; typically grows maize, beans, and squash.
Roca	Brazil	Practiced in the Amazon basin.
Chena	Sri Lanka	The primary traditional shifting cultivation method of the island.
Taungya	Myanmar	Originally developed by the British for teak plantations; later adopted as a farming method.
Ray	Vietnam	Traditional highland farming method.
Masole	Congo (Central Africa)	Practiced in the dense tropical rainforests of the Congo River basin.
Bewar /	Madhya Pradesh,	Local name in the Bundelkhand and Bastar regions.

Local Name	Country / Region	Trivia
Dahiya	India	BPSC often tests regional Indian names.
Podu	Andhra Pradesh, India	Practiced by tribal communities in the Eastern Ghats.
Kumari	Western Ghats (Kerala), India	Practiced in the hilly, forested regions of the Western Ghats.

