



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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United States and South Korea Launch Joint Military Exercise “Freedom Shield”

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The United States and South Korea have launched a large-scale joint military exercise called Freedom Shield 2026, involving thousands of troops to strengthen their combined defence readiness on the Korean Peninsula.

About the Freedom Shield Exercise

Freedom Shield is an annual joint military exercise conducted by the armed forces of the United States and South Korea.

The drills integrate operations across land, air, sea, space, and cyber domains to test modern warfare scenarios.

The exercise is designed to improve interoperability between allied forces and prepare for potential crises on the Korean Peninsula.

It is part of the broader U.S.–South Korea security alliance established after the Korean War (1950–53).

Strategic Context

The Korean Peninsula remains a major geopolitical hotspot due to tensions with North Korea, which continues to develop nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

Military exercises like Freedom Shield are intended to deter aggression and ensure regional stability.

Such drills often trigger strong reactions from North Korea, which sees them as hostile actions.

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