



Exercise VARUNA 2021

Why in News

The **19th edition of the Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise 'VARUNA-2021'** is being conducted **in the Arabian Sea**.

- Earlier this year, the Indian Navy took part for the first time in the France-led naval exercise **"La Pérouse"** with the navies of the US, Australia and Japan.



Key Points

- **About the Exercise:**
 - **Background:**
 - The Indian and French Navies have been conducting bilateral maritime **exercises since 1993**. **Since 2001**, these exercises have been called 'VARUNA'.
 - These interactions further underscore the shared values as partner navies, in **ensuring freedom of seas and commitment to an open, inclusive Indo-Pacific** and a rules-based international order.
 - **2021 Exercise:**
 - This is the **first time that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is participating** in the Varuna maritime exercise.
 - The 'Varuna' joint exercise is **part of the French carrier strike group's 'CLEMENCEAU 21' deployment**, which the French Navy is conducting in the **eastern Mediterranean, the Gulf and the Indian Ocean (Arabian Sea)**.
 - Its goal is **to contribute to the stabilization of these strategic zones** and strengthening cooperation with the navies of partner countries, in particular India for the Indian Ocean component.
 - As part of this deployment, the **Carrier Strike Group is also taking part in anti-ISIS (the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) operations**.
 - The exercise will see **high tempo-naval operations at sea**, including **advanced**

air defence and anti-submarine exercises, tactical manoeuvres, underway replenishment and other maritime security operations.

▪ **Other Indo-French Joint Exercises:**

- **Desert Knight-21** and **Garuda** (Air exercise)
- **Varuna** (Naval exercise)
- **Shakti** (Army exercise)

Major Indian Bilateral Maritime Exercises	
Name of the Exercise	Name of the Country
SLINEX	Sri Lanka
Bongosagar and IN-BN CORPAT	Bangladesh
JIMEX	Japan
Naseem-Al-Bahr	Oman
Indra	Russia
Za'ir-Al-Bahr	Qatar
Samudra Shakti	Indonesia
Indo-Thai CORPAT	Thailand
IMCOR	Malaysia
SIMBEX	Singapore
AUSINDEX	Australia

Source: PIB

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