



## 23rd Exercise Varuna 2025

**Source:** [HT](#)

The **Indian and French navies** are set to commence the **23rd** edition of the annual bilateral naval exercise, **Varuna-2025**, in the **Arabian Sea**.

- It will include aircraft carriers **INS Vikrant (India)** and **Charles de Gaulle (France)**, along with **fighter aircraft, destroyers, frigates**, and an Indian **Scorpene-class submarine**.
- It was first held in **2001** and aims to enhance **interoperability and operational synergy**.
- **Defence Cooperation:** India and France strengthened military ties with a new **defence industrial roadmap** for **co-design, co-development, and co-production** of defense equipment.
- **Upcoming Defence Deals: 26 Rafale-M fighter jets** for **INS Vikrant**.
  - **3 additional Scorpene-class submarines** to be built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) under **Project 75**.
- **MDL** has already built **six Kalvari-class (Scorpene) submarines** with French technology transfer.

**Read More:** [India-France Relations](#)

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