

# Indian and French Navies conduct Varuna 2025



The 23rd edition of the bilateral naval exercise Varuna, a testament to the enduring maritime partnership between India and France, took place from 19 to 22 March 2025. Since its inception in 2001, Varuna has evolved into a cornerstone of cooperation, showcasing the two nations' commitment to enhancing naval interoperability and operational synergy. This year's edition saw an exhilarating array of maritime exercises and complex manoeuvres across the sub-surface, surface and air domains. The joint participation of the aircraft carriers Vikrant and Charles de Gaulle, alongside their fighter aircraft, destroyers, frigates and an Indian Scorpene class submarine, highlighted the collaborative strength of both Navies.

Varuna 2025 featured advanced air defence drills and fighter exercises, including mock air-to-air combat between the French Rafale-M and Indian MiG-29K, designed to refine tactical and operational capabilities. Anti-submarine warfare exercises provided rigorous training in underwater domain awareness, while surface warfare operations demonstrated synchronised manoeuvres and engagements by the Indian and French fleets. Maritime patrol aircraft enhanced situational

awareness, and replenishment-at-sea exercises will fortified logistical cooperation.

The Varuna exercises symbolise the enduring military cooperation between France and India, who have shared a robust strategic partnership for more than 25 years. It is part of a series of bilateral training exercises on land (Shakti), in the air (Garuda), and at sea (Varuna). "By fostering the exchange of best practices and mutual understanding, the exercise reaffirms the ability of both nations to operate seamlessly in even the most complex maritime scenarios. Varuna 2025 stands as a powerful reminder of the deep bonds uniting the Indian and French Navies in their pursuit of maritime peace and security" stated the Indian Navy.

