



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalsivam Kamarajar"

INDIA - FRANCE BILATERAL NAVAL EXERCISE VARUNA

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Context:

The **2024 Indo-French bilateral naval Exercise Varuna** was held from September 2 to 4, 2024.

'Indian Naval Ship Tabar & LRMR P8I Aircraft Participate in the **22nd edition of IN - FN Bilateral Exercise VARUNA** in the **Mediterranean Sea**'.

Details

Particulars

Description

Initiation Year

1983 and **renamed as Varuna in 2001**.

Venue

- The joint-exercises are held either in the Indian Ocean or Mediterranean Sea.
- 2024 edition is being **conducted in the Mediterranean Sea**.

Aim and Objectives

- **Improving Indo-French coordination** on capabilities like cross-deck operations, replenishment-at-sea, minesweeping, anti-submarine warfare.
- To **strengthen India-France strategic bilateral relationship**.

Indian Navy's participants

P-8I aircraft and INS Tabar.

P-8I Aircraft

- It is an **American origin Aircraft**.
- The **Indian Navy has twelve P8i aircraft** in total.
- Role: **Coastal patrolling, maritime surveillance**, anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare, search-and-rescue, anti-piracy, and supporting operations of other arms of the military.
- Significance of P-8I's Participation: Reflects growing sophistication and complexity of joint operations.

INS Tabar

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- **INS Tabar, is a stealth frigate** built for the Indian Navy **in Russia**.
- The ship is equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors and is among the *earliest stealth frigates of the Indian Navy*.
- The ship is **part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet** which is based at Mumbai under the Western Naval Command.