



# Multilateral Maritime Exercise La Perouse

## Why in News

Indian Navy Ships **INS Satpura** and **INS Kiltan** alongwith [P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft](#) are participating, **for the first time in multilateral maritime exercise La Pérouse**, being conducted in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

- Post conduct of **La Perouse**, the **Indo-French Naval** exercise “**Varuna**” is scheduled in the **Western Indian Ocean**, wherein **UAE** too shall be participating.

## Key Points

### ▪ About the Exercise:

- The first edition of **La Pérouse** joint exercise, **initiated by France in 2019**, included ships from Australia, Japan and the US.
- The exercise is **named after the eighteenth century French Naval explorer**.
- **India's participation in 2021 completed the QUAD force representation** in the French led Naval Exercise.
  - **QUAD** is a **grouping of India, USA, Australia and Japan** which aims to safeguard the interests of democratic nations in the Indo-Pacific region and address global challenges.
  - It will witness complex and advanced naval operations including **surface warfare, anti-air warfare and air defence exercises, weapon firing exercises, cross deck flying operations, tactical manoeuvres and seamanship evolutions** such as replenishment at sea.
  - It will provide an opportunity for these five like-minded, high-end naval forces to develop closer links, sharpen their skills, and promote maritime cooperation throughout a free and open Indo-Pacific.

### ▪ Naval Significance of Indo-Pacific:

- The **Indo-Pacific is slowly but surely turning into a serious Naval Theatre for multi-national activities** with a vision to establish a free, open, inclusive and a rule-based ordering of the Indo-Pacific to support the freedom of navigation and peaceful cooperative use of the seas.
- The goal is to respect and adhere to the international laws like the [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea \(UNCLOS\)](#) and peaceful resolution of territorial sea disputes.
  - The **role of the QUAD navies in the IOR (Indian Ocean Region)** has been well illustrated by the effective cooperative engagement capabilities of the multi-national Naval powers through naval exercises like formation sailing, live fire drills, Search and Rescue (SAR) operations etc.
  - Navies of member countries of **QUAD** participated in [Malabar wargaming exercise](#) in November 2020.
- On the other hand, **China endeavours to establish a defensive perimeter around its**

seas ([Yellow Sea](#), [East China Sea](#) and part of [South China Sea](#)) by following a sea denial policy in these regions.



#### ▪ **QUAD+ France Pacific Ocean Concerns:**

- The **region of Pacific Islands** stretches from Hawaii in the north to Tonga in the south, and Easter Island in the east to New Caledonia in the west.
- **US interest in the Indo-Pacific region** has always been well illustrated with the fact that **US Indo-Pacific Command** established after World War II is the largest unified command.
- **France** has a direct **strategic and economic stake in New Caledonia, French Polynesia, and Wallis and Futuna**. France is a member of the Pacific Community and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).
- **Japan** although has trade ties with China but has always been **suspicious of China's growth as a military power**. China's assertiveness closer to Japanese waters and airspace have been a testing time for Japan.
- **Indian Navy** has always maintained a tactical advantage over the IOR to ensure compliance to the internationally established Rules of the Road (ROR) for the seas.
  - This has been respected by the world (like declaration of warships transiting IOR etc.), but Indian Navy has **observed and reported multiple sightings of undeclared Chinese ships and submarines** suspiciously lurking within the IOR.

#### **Indo-French Joint Exercises**

- [Desert Knight-21](#) and [Garuda](#) (Air exercise)
- [Varuna](#) (Naval exercise)
- [Shakti](#) (Army exercise)



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