



# India-US: PASSEX

## Why in News

Indian naval ships will join maritime patrol and other aircraft to participate in a **Passage Exercise or PASSEX** with the **US Navy's Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group** during its transit through [Indian Ocean Region \(IOR\)](#).

- A passage exercise is **normally undertaken whenever an opportunity arises**, in contrast to pre-planned maritime drills.
- Earlier, the Indian Navy had **also conducted similar PASSEXs with the Japanese Navy and the French Navy**.

## Key Points

### ▪ About:

- Indian Naval Ships **Kochi** and **Teg** along with **P8I** (maritime patrol aircraft) and (Indian ship based) **MiG 29K** aircraft are participating in the PASSEX.
- The Indian Naval warships along with **aircraft from [Indian Navy](#) and [Indian Air Force \(IAF\)](#)** will be engaged in joint multi-domain operations with the US Carrier Strike Group.
  - The exercise is in the IAF's Southern Air Command's area of responsibility and the IAF forces will include **Jaguars**, **Sukhoi-30 MKI** fighters, **Air-to-Air Refueller aircraft**, **[Airborne Warning And Control System \(AWACS\)](#)** and **Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C)**.
- High tempo operations during the exercise include **advanced air defence exercises, cross deck helicopter operations and anti-submarine exercises**.

### ▪ Previous PASSEX with US:

- The Indian Navy conducted as PASSEX with the **USS Ronald Reagan in October 2020**.
- Indian naval ships conducted another PASSEX with the **[USS Nimitz in July 2020](#)**.

### ▪ Impact:

- **Establish Rule Based Order:**
  - It underscores the **shared values as partner navies, in ensuring commitment to an open, inclusive and a rule-based international order**.
- **Increased Interoperability:**
  - It will **enhance aspects of interoperability**, nuances of international integrated maritime search and rescue operations and exchange of **best practices in the maritime airpower domain**.
- **Counter China's Expansionism:**
  - The exercise comes a week after the Indian defence minister called for an open and inclusive order in the **[Indo-Pacific region](#)**, including the **[South China Sea](#)** at the **[8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting \(ADMM\) Plus Meeting](#)**.

- The Indian Navy is carrying out **round-the-clock surveillance in the IOR**, which, it believes, **China will inevitably try to enter in its quest to become a global power**, just as it has laid claim to large portions of the disputed South China Sea.

▪ **India-US Joint Exercises:**

- **Vajra Prahar** (Army).
- **Yudh Abhyas** (Army).
- **Cope India** (Air Force).
- **Red Flag** (USA's multilateral air exercise).
- **Malabar Exercise** (trilateral naval exercise of India, USA and Japan).

**Source: IE**

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