China’s New Aircraft Carrier

Why in news?

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China acquiring its second aircraft carrier to counter India’s defence.

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What is the status of Chinese aircraft carrier?

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- China launched its first indigenous aircraft carrier on April 2017, which may be named **Shandong** started in 2013 and it is likely to be commissioned in 2020.
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- The two Chinese carriers are conventionally powered, not nuclear, which means they cannot be put on extended deployment.
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- **They lack the logistics capability to operate far away from Chinese shores.**
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What will be the plan of China after the deployment?

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- China will not send both its carriers on permanent deployment in the Indian Ocean, its interest’s lies in the East and in the South China Sea.
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- China will maintain both its carriers there although it will make symbolic port visits in the Indian Ocean region especially to Gwadar in Pakistan.
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- China plans a four- to six-carrier navy which will give it the capability to permanently deploy in the Indian Ocean. But that will take a couple of decades.
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- To break India’s dominance in the Indian Ocean, China has invested in a

number of port projects in India’s neighbourhood, referred to as ‘string of pearls’.
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- China has to contend with India’s two unsinkable aircraft carriers in Indian Ocean and also with other naval powers of US, Japan, etc.,
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What is the status of Indian aircraft carriers?

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- The **INS Vikramaditya** is fully operational, and India also has decades of experience in operating aircraft carriers, it has used them in warfare.
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- India launched its first indigenous carrier, **Vikrant**, in 2013 and it is likely to be commissioned in the early 2020s.
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- By 2030 India will have three aircraft carriers in service.
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What is India’s strategy?

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- **India has the geographical advantage,** with over 40 warships under construction; it will have nearly 200 warships by 2025.
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- India has multinational cooperation in the maritime domain primarily with the US and Japan.
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- All major Indian warships are being equipped with Barak 8 long-range surface-to-air missiles along with the supersonic Brahmos anti-ship cruise missiles.
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- China’s expected naval base in Gwadar in Pakistan is within the range of India’s land-based fighters and missiles.
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- India is going to acquire nuclear and diesel-electric attack submarines.
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- India should beef up its air defence and land-based anti-ship missiles in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as well as peninsular India.
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