

## 'Fujian' - aircraft carrier

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## Why in news?

Fujian is China's  $3^{rd}$  & most advanced aircraft carrier, officially commissioned into service on November 5, 2025.

- Fujian China's 1<sup>st</sup> fully indigenously designed & built aircraft carrier, marking a significant advancement in its naval modernization efforts.
- **Propulsion Diesel-fuelled** warship (world's largest conventionally powered).
- **Displacement -** 80,000-85,000 tonnes

## **Features**

- Electromagnetic Catapult Launch System (EMALS) 1<sup>st</sup> Chinese carrier to use EMALS, replacing ski-jump ramps used on Liaoning and Shandong.
  - $\circ$  Fujian is China's 1st aircraft carrier & the 13th globally to adopt this technology (11 U.S & 1 French).

EMALS - A modern catapult that uses a linear induction motor to launch aircraft instead of steam.

- **Flat Deck Design** It is designed to facilitate efficient aircraft operations and higher sortie rates, comparable to U.S. Navy's Ford-class carriers.
- **Combat Capability** Offers greater strike range and higher sortie rates by accommodating aircraft with heavier fuel and weapon payloads.
- **Limited range** Fujian's diesel-fuelled propulsion restricts its operational endurance, unlike U.S. nuclear-powered carriers that can function for years without refueling.
- Multi-Aircraft Launch Capability Can launch 3 types of aircraft, including those with heavier payloads and longer strike range.
- No match for American carriers Still, US has the fleet of 11 carriers would be larger than a combined fleet of all other aircraft carriers in the world (China (3); India, the UK and Italy have two each; and France, Russia and Spain one each).

**USA**, the only country, other than China to have an aircraft carrier with electromagnetic catapult system.

• **Symbolic Naming** - Named after Fujian province, which directly faces Taiwan across the strait—seen as a deliberate geopolitical signal.

## References

- 1. Indian Express | China gets new aircraft carrier 'Fujian'
- 2. BBC | China launches new aircraft carrier 'Fujian'

