‘Fujian’ - aircraft carrier

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Why in news?

Fujian is China’s 3rd & most advanced aircraft carrier, officially commissioned into service on November 5, 2025.

- **Fujian –** China’s ***1st 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)** – 1st Chinese carrier to use EMALS, replacing ski-jump ramps used on Liaoning and Shandong.
  - 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’

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