

- It is a **tri-service joint** amphibious exercise which involved the participation of **Navy, Army** and **Air force**.
- Aim →
 - To validate **India's capabilities** to **safeguard the territorial integrity** of its **island territories**.
 - It also aims to **enhance operational synergy** and joint warfighting capabilities amongst the three Services.

TROPEX 21

WHY IN NEWS?

- Indian Navy's largest biennial Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX 21) is currently underway.

ABOUT

- It is the biennial **Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise** (TROPEX).
- It was started as an **annual event from 2005** but from 2015 onwards, it is being **conducted once in two years**.
- Theme → **'Combat Ready, Credible and Cohesive force'**.
- Participants → It is **Indian Navy's largest war game** with participation of **all operational units** of **Indian Navy** including ships, submarines, aircraft as well as units of the Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard.
- Location → It is being conducted over a **vast geographical expanse** in the **Indian Ocean Region** including its adjunct waters.
- Aim → It is aimed at **testing combat readiness** of the Navy in a complex multi-dimensional scenario set in the context of the current geo strategic environment.
- The Theatre Level exercise also aims to **validate Navy's offensive-defence capabilities, safeguard national interests** in the maritime domain.
- **Overseen By** → The conduct of TROPEX is being overseen by **Naval Headquarters** with participation from **all three Commands of the Indian Navy** and the **Tri-Services Command at Port Blair**.
- **Phases of TROPEX** →

- **'Sea Vigil'**: In the first phase, the Indian Navy had conducted coastal defence exercise **'Sea Vigil'** along the **entire coastline and Island territories of India** on 12-13 January 2021.
- Exercise Sea Vigil was followed by a large-scale Tri-Service joint amphibious exercise **AMPHEX-21**.

INS VIRAAAT

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Supreme Court has ordered status quo on the dismantling of the Navy's decommissioned aircraft carrier, INS Viraat.

ABOUT

- Originally commissioned by the **British Navy** as HMS Hermes on **November 18, 1959**, the aircraft carrier had **taken part** in the **Falkland Islands war in 1982**.
- India bought the British carrier in **1986** and **rechristened it as INS Viraat**.
- It played a major role in **Operation Jupiter in 1989** during the Sri Lankan Peacekeeping operation.
- The ship was also deployed during **Operation Parakram (2001-02)** following the terror attack on the Indian Parliament.
- It has participated in various international joint exercises like **Exercise Malabar (USA)**, **Exercise Varuna (French)**, **Naseem-Al-Bahar (Oman Navy)**.
- It holds the **world record** as mentioned in the **Guinness Book of records** for being the **longest serving warship** of the world.
- The ship's Motto was the Sanskrit phrase **'Jalamev Yashya, Balamev Tasya'** which means **'who controls the sea is the powerful'**.

ARJUN MAIN BATTLE TANK

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Prime Minister has handed over the indigenously developed Arjun Main Battle Tank (MK-1A) to the Indian Army.

ABOUT

- It was initiated by **DRDO in 1972** with the Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (**CVRDE**) as its lead laboratory.