

# UK Carrier Strike Group reaches Indian Ocean region

Following a series of successful engagements and operations in the Mediterranean it is now sailing East across the Indian Ocean towards India. It will then meet with ships from the Indian Navy to conduct routine maritime exercises.

The deployment represents the UK's commitment to deepening diplomatic, economic and security ties with India and in the Indo-Pacific region. It demonstrates both the UK's support for the freedom of passage through vital trading routes and for a free, open and inclusive order in the Indo-Pacific.

## **Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:**

The UK Carrier Strike Group deployment is a major moment for UK defence as we develop this cutting edge capability across the globe.

The group is sailing the Indian Ocean and will shortly conduct exercises with the Indian Navy, building on our already strong partnership with an important ally and friend.

The deployment illustrates the UK's enduring commitment to global defence and security, strengthening our existing alliances and forging new partnerships with like-minded countries as we face up to the challenges of the 21st century.

## **Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said:**

The Carrier Strike Group deployment marks the start of a new era of defence cooperation with allies in India and the Indo-Pacific.

By visiting 40 countries and working alongside our partners, the UK is standing up for democratic values, seizing new trading opportunities and tackling the shared threats we face together.

The deployment will interact with India, strengthening our already deep ties for the benefit of both our peoples' security and prosperity.

## **British High Commissioner to India, Alex Ellis, said:**

The Carrier Strike Group is a powerful demonstration of our commitment to the security of India and the Indo-Pacific. Its arrival follows the UK's first International Liaison Officer

joining the Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region in Gurugram.

Today marks another step towards delivering the ambition set out jointly by our Prime Ministers in the 2030 Roadmap, bringing our countries, economies and people closer together.

### **Further information**

Free-to-use photos of the Carrier Strike Group are available to download [here](#).

As part of its maiden operational deployment, the CSG will sail over 26,000 nautical miles, engaging with 40 countries from the Mediterranean to the Indo-Pacific and back again.

This deployment will provide tangible reassurance and security to our friends and a credible deterrence to those who seek to undermine global security.

As the spearhead of UK's Joint Expeditionary capability and a cornerstone of the UK's conventional military deterrent, the CSG comprises nine ships, 32 aircraft and one submarine and is manned by 3,700 sailors, aviators and marines from the combined forces of the UK, US and the Netherlands.

The fifth generation HMS Queen Elizabeth carrier, at 65,000 tonnes, is the largest surface vessel ever constructed in the UK. Taller than Niagara Falls, her propellers generate the power of 50 high-speed trains. She leads six Royal Navy ships, a Royal Navy submarine, a US Navy destroyer and a frigate from the Netherlands in the largest concentration of maritime and air power to leave the UK in a generation. It is equipped with the fifth generation F-35B Lightning multi-role aircrafts. They are being jointly crewed by the Royal Air Force, Royal Navy and the US Marine Corps.

From defending democratic values and tackling shared threats, to seizing new trade opportunities through engagements with Singapore, the Republic of Korea, Japan, India and others, the deployment marks a step-change in UK engagement in the region. The UK is already investing significantly in the region by seeking ASEAN Dialogue Partner status, kicking off negotiations to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and rapidly progressing trade talks with Australia, New Zealand and India.

For media queries, please contact:

David Russell, Head of Communications  
Press and Communications, British High Commission,  
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110021. Tel: 24192100

Media queries: [BHCMediaDelhi@fco.gov.uk](mailto:BHCMediaDelhi@fco.gov.uk)

Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Flickr](#), [Youtube](#), [Eventbrite](#) and [Blogs](#)