

Navantia's 'Juan Carlos I'



Visits India

Promoting its flagship amphibious assault vessel, Navantia, the Spanish state-owned shipbuilding company, brought its warship 'L-61 Juan Carlos I' to the Indian port city of Mumbai on 2 June 2018. This special visit by the Spanish warship is considered as a key step by the company to offer the Indian Navy four similar ships to upgrade its current fleet. Vayu visited the warship to be briefed on its capabilities, strengths and technologies.

Spanish shipyard Navantia sailed its 26,000 tonne amphibious assault vessel from Spain to India but before arriving at Mumbai, the Spanish vessel had docked in Kuwait where it offloaded five helicopters: three Chinooks and two Cougars that Spain has deployed in support of its current military mission in Iraq.

The *Juan Carlos I*, launched in 2008 and commissioned in 2010, is named after the King of Spain who abdicated for his son Felipe VI in 2014. The concept of the *Juan*

Carlos I is based on four different aspects: usefulness of the ski-jump ramp of Royal Navy aircraft carriers, the versatility of US Navy amphibious assault ships, the logistic capabilities of RO-RO transport ships, and the potential for humanitarian assistance of hospital ships. Its main distinguishing features are thus a combination of all these capabilities in one single platform.

The Spanish Navy intends versatility and interoperability for its naval force and the LHD *Juan Carlos I* meets both requirements.