



INS Vikrant: First Indigenous Aircraft Carrier

Why in News

Recently, India's Defence Minister reviewed the ongoing work on the **Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC)**, INS Vikrant (IAC-1), which is a part of [Atmanirbhar Bharat](#).

- INS Vikrant, is likely **to be commissioned in 2022**. At present, **India has only one aircraft carrier**, the Russian-origin **INS Vikramaditya**.
- Earlier, the [Defence Acquisition Council \(DAC\)](#) approved issuance of [Request for Proposal \(RFP\)](#) for six advanced submarines for the Indian Navy under [Project-75I](#).

Key Points

▪ About:

- The vessel, to be named Vikrant after the decommissioned maiden carrier of the Navy.
- It will have **an air component of 30 aircraft**, comprising [MiG-29K fighter jets](#), **Kamov-31 airborne early warning helicopters** and the soon-to-be-inducted **MH-60R multi-role helicopter**, besides the [indigenous Advanced Light Helicopters](#).
- It is expected to have **a top speed of 30 knots (approximately 55 kmph)** and is propelled by four gas turbines. Its endurance is 7,500 nautical miles at 18 knots (32 kmph) speed.
- The **shipborne weapons include Barak LR SAM and AK-630**, while it has **MFSTAR and RAN-40L 3D radars** as sensors. The vessel has a **Shakti EW (Electronic Warfare) Suite**.
- It has a pair of runways and a 'short take off but arrested recovery' system to control aircraft operations.

▪ Significance:

- The combat capability, reach and versatility of the aircraft carrier will add formidable capabilities in the defence in the country and help secure India's interests in the maritime domain.
- It would offer an incomparable military instrument with its ability to project air power over long distances, including air interdiction, anti-surface warfare, offensive and defensive counter-air, airborne anti-submarine warfare and airborne early warning.

▪ Current Status of Indian Navy:

- As per the **Maritime Capability Perspective Plan, by 2027**, India ought to have about 200 ships but there is still a lot to cover to reach the target.
 - However, the cause is not mainly funding but procedural delays or some self imposed restrictions.
- The navy **ensures that it has state of the art SONARs and Radars**. Also, many of the ships contain a high amount of indigenous content.

▪ Navy's Contribution to Fight against Covid-19:

- [Operation Samudra Setu-I](#): Bringing back Indian citizens from overseas amidst

coronavirus-induced travel restrictions.

- **Operation Samudra Setu-II:** Indian Navy has launched this for shipment of Oxygen-filled containers to India.

Source: TH

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