



Project Seabird: INS Kadamba

Why in News

Recently, the Defence Minister visited the **Karwar Naval Base in Karnataka** to review the ongoing infrastructure development under **Phase-II** of 'Project Seabird'.

Key Points

▪ Project Seabird-Phase II:

- Project Seabird involves **construction of a naval base over an area of 11,169 acres**.
- **Phase I** comprised construction of a deep-sea harbour, breakwaters dredging, a township, a naval hospital, a dockyard uplift centre and a ship lift. It was **completed in 2005**.
- **Phase-II of Project Seabird** was **cleared by the [Cabinet Committee on Security in 2012](#)**. It envisages **expanding facilities to house additional warships** and set up a **new Naval Air Station**, among other plans.
- **INS Kadamba** is currently the **third-largest Indian naval base**, and is expected to become the **largest naval base in the eastern hemisphere after completion of expansion Phase II**.
- The Navy's lone **aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya is based at Karwar**. The base also has the country's first sealift facility, a unique "shiplift" and transfer system for docking and undocking ships and submarines.
- The project involves **several technical and environmental challenges**.

▪ Efforts to Boost Self Reliance in Indian Navy:

- More than two-thirds of the Navy's modernisation budget has been spent on indigenous procurement in the last five financial years.
- Out of the 48 ships and submarines, 46 are being inducted through indigenous construction.
- **[Project 75 \(I\)](#)** envisages indigenous construction of submarines equipped with the state-of-the-art Air Independent Propulsion system at an estimated cost of Rs. 43,000 crore.
- **[Aircraft Carrier Vikrant](#)**, likely to be commissioned in 2022, is a shining example of the Navy's self-reliance efforts.
- The Navy is **continuously strengthening India's relations with its maritime neighbours with its focus on 'SAGAR'** (Security & Growth for All in Region).
 - From rescuing stranded Indian nationals from affected countries to ferrying-in critical equipment, including oxygen cylinders, from abroad, Indian Navy has worked tirelessly in the fight against Covid-19 ([Operation Samudra Setu - I and II](#)).
 - **[SAGAR](#)** was launched **in 2015**. It is India's strategic vision for the **[Indian Ocean Region \(IOR\)](#)**.

[Source: TH](#)

