



Indigenous Aircraft Carrier

For Prelims: Aircraft Carrier, INS Vikrant, INS Vikramaditya, Significance of Aircraft Carriers, INS Vishal

For Mains: Significance of Aircraft Carriers for Internal Security.

Why in News

Recently, the **Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) 1**, which will be called [INS Vikrant](#) once it enters service with the Indian Navy, began another set of sea trials.

- INS Vikrant is the **largest and most complex warship to be built in India.**



Key Points

- **About Aircraft Carrier:**
 - An aircraft carrier is "**a large ship that carries military aircraft** and has a long, flat surface where they take off and land."
 - These **floating air bases** are equipped with a full-length flight deck capable of **carrying, arming, deploying and recovering aircraft.**
 - They act as **command and control** of a naval fleet in times of war and peace.
 - A **carrier battle group** consists of an aircraft carrier and its escorts, together making the

group.

- During [World War II](#), the Imperial Japanese Navy was the first to assemble a large number of carriers into a single task force known as **Kido Butai**.
- This task force was used during the **Pearl Harbour Attack**.

▪ **Aircraft Carrier in India:**

- **INS Vikrant (decommissioned):** Beginning with INS Vikrant which served India from 1961 to 1997.
 - India acquired the **Vikrant from the United Kingdom in 1961**, and the carrier played a stellar role in the [1971 war](#) with Pakistan that led to the birth of Bangladesh.
 - In 2014, INS Vikrant, was broken down in Mumbai.
- **INS Viraat (decommissioned):** INS Vikrant was followed by the Centaur-class carrier **HMS (Her Majesty's Ship) Hermes**, which was rechristened in India as [INS Viraat](#) and served in the Indian Navy from 1987 to 2016.
- [INS Vikramaditya:](#)
 - It is the **Indian Navy's largest aircraft carrier** and warship converted from the **Russian Navy's decommissioned Admiral Gorshkov/Baku**.
 - INS Vikramaditya is a modified Kiev-class aircraft carrier that was commissioned into service in November 2013.
- **INS Vikrant:**
 - In order to commemorate the legacy of INS Vikrant (**decommissioned**), the **First IAC will be named as INS Vikrant**.
 - It is built at **Cochin Shipyard Limited**.
 - It is currently **undergoing sea trials and is likely to be commissioned in 2023**.
 - Its construction propelled India into a select group of countries having capabilities to **build state-of-the-art aircraft carriers**.
 - **Operational Modalities:** According to the Indian Navy, the warship will operate [MiG-29K fighter jets](#), [Kamov-31 helicopters](#), [MH-60R multi-role helicopters](#) and the [indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopters \(ALH\)](#).

▪ **Significance of Aircraft Carriers:**

- Currently, most of the world powers are operating or building technologically **advanced aircraft carriers** to safeguard their maritime rights and interests.
- **Thirteen navies across the world now operate aircraft carriers.** Following are the name of a few:
 - Nimitz Class, **US**
 - Gerald R Ford Class, **US**
 - Queen Elizabeth Class, **UK**
 - Admiral Kuznetsov, **Russia**
 - Liaoning, **China**
 - INS Vikramaditya, **India**
 - Charles De Gaulle, **France**
 - Cavour, **Italy**
 - Juan Carlos I, **Spain**
 - USS America, **US**
- Aircraft Carrier for India, provides a **deterrent naval capability**, that is not only essential but a **strategic need**.
 - This is because India's area of responsibility ranges from the **east coast of Africa to the Western Pacific**.

▪ **Future Endeavours:**

- Since 2015, the Navy has been seeking approval to build a third aircraft carrier for the country, which, if approved, will become **India's second Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-2)**.
- This proposed carrier, **to be named INS Vishal**, is intended to be a giant 65,000-tonne vessel, much bigger than IAC-1 and the INS Vikramaditya.

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