

## Sansad TV Perspective: INS Vikrant

In the series Sansad TV Perspective, we bring you an analysis of the discussion featured on the insightful programme 'Perspective' on Sansad TV, on various important topics affecting India and also the world. This analysis will help you immensely for the [IAS exam](#), especially the mains exam, where a well-rounded understanding of topics is a prerequisite for writing answers that fetch good marks.

In this article, we feature the discussion on the topic: INS Vikrant .

**Anchor:** Vishal Dahiya

**Guests:**

1. Vice Admiral, (Retd). Shekhar Sinha, Former Head of India's Western Naval Command,
2. Abhijit Singh, Senior Fellow, and Head, Maritime Policy Initiative, Observer Research Foundation
3. Ajay Banerjee, Senior Defence Journalist

**Context:** Prime Minister of India commissioned the country's first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant at Cochin Shipyard Limited.

**Highlights of the discussion:**

- Introduction.
- INS Vikrant.
- Significance of INS Vikrant.
- Indigenization of the Indian Navy
- Road Ahead.

**Introduction:**

- India entered into a select group of Nations that have the niche capability to indigenously design and build an Aircraft Carrier.
- It is designed by the Indian Navy's in-house Warship Design Bureau and built with state-of-the-art automation features.
- It is the largest ship ever built in the maritime history of India.
- It is capable of operating an air wing consisting of 30 aircraft comprising of MH-60R multi-role helicopters, Kamov-31, MiG-29K fighter jets, apart from indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopters(ALH) and Light Combat Aircraft(LCA).

**INS Vikrant:**

- It is the biggest warship indigenously developed in India, it is five to seven times bigger than anything attempted in the past.
- With a 45,000 tonnes warship, India is now in the league of Nations that are capable of making such aircraft carriers. There are only five to six countries that have this technology.
- INS Vikrant is fitted with a very advanced radar system, surface-to-air missile(which is a collaboration between Israel and India).
- It is fitted with multiple electronic warfares.

For more on the INS Vikrant, read here: [UPSC Exam Comprehensive News Analysis. September 2nd, 2022 CNA. Download PDF](#)

**Significance of INS Vikrant:**

- Commissioning of INS Vikrant is vital in terms of strategic outreach. The fact that the Aircraft carrier sits in the center of India's maritime strategy is undoubted.
- It is an important power projection tool that is used for both soft power as well as hard power.
- It brightens the arc of the Indian Navy.
- It gives speed, resilience, and most importantly the latest technology.
- It will have fast gas turbine engines, that can generate 88 Megawatt of power.
- Indian Navy has always projected to have at least two operational aircraft carriers on both the eastern and the western front, as there is an increase in the number of threats.
- It will give confidence to the Indian Navy, that even though India had ample ships in the battle group but there was a major missing of an operational carrier.
- Moreover, it will give a lot of flexibility and much more muscle to the Indian Navy.
- It is also a significant achievement in terms of indigenization and project management.
- In Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Relief(HADR) operations, Aircraft carriers are of significant help as they help in sending aid of very large amounts. This is particularly important as the Arabian and the eastern Indian Ocean region face the largest number of cyclones.
- During peacetime, it gives confidence to all the littoral countries of the Indian Ocean, that are threatened by economic, military, or political coercion. They have a reliable and preferred security partner in the form of India.
- Aircraft carriers provide naval operations with essential vitality.

**Indigenization of Indian Navy:**

- In a span of a decade, the Indian navy has jumped leaps and bounds. Indian navy is currently making 49 ships.
- There is a significant transformation, from [INS Vikramaditya](#) to INS Vikrant. For instance, the Navy wisely took the lifts out from the deck as observed in British and American Aircraft

carriers.

- There is a considerable amount of automation and modernization of electronics and radar screens.
- The Navy has shifted to modular construction in the control room- the topmost stack of the warship.
- A new dock is being developed in Cochin that can handle the capacity of around 70,000 tonnes.

### **Road Ahead:**

- There is a need for a third aircraft carrier as a backup in cases of refit or maintenance.
- The third aircraft is required to project power beyond Indian Ocean Region. It will be essential to provide ballast to our maritime strategy.
- The international world order is undergoing a major change, so it is an opportunity for India to become a pole by itself. It implies that its action should not be dictated by others.
- The carrier deployment should be adequately planned to project effective power among the littorals.
- The carrier should not be seen in the context of combat only as it goes beyond naval operations. It is also important in terms of developmental operations.

### **Conclusion:**

India is already consolidating its asset and showcasing the growing prowess of indigenous manufacturing. It is a major milestone in the path towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. But it should also be realized that India needs to expand its vision beyond and match China, which is growing at a very fast pace.