



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar"

INS Vikramaditya & INS Vikrant

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Why is in news? The 'Sky' is the Limit: Showcasing Indian Navy's Multi-Aircraft Carrier Force

- The Indian Navy showcased its formidable maritime capabilities with a spectacular display of **multi-carrier operations and the coordinated deployment of more than 35 aircraft in the Arabian Sea.**
- This demonstration of naval prowess underscores India's commitment to safeguarding its national interests, maintaining regional stability, and fostering cooperative partnerships in the maritime domain.
- It also marks a **significant milestone in Indian Navy's pursuit of enhancing maritime security and power-projection** in the Indian Ocean, and beyond.
- The exercise involved seamless integration of two Aircraft Carriers INS Vikramaditya and the indigenously built INS Vikrant- along with a diverse fleet of ships, submarines and aircraft, showcasing India's technological expertise in the maritime domain.
- **INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant**, centre-pieces of the exercise, serve as 'floating sovereign airfields', providing a launch platform for a wide array of aircraft, including **MiG-29K fighter jets, MH60R, Kamov, Sea King, Chetak and ALH helicopters.**
- These mobile bases can be positioned anywhere, allowing for increased mission flexibility, timely response to emerging threats and sustained air operations to safeguard our national interests across the globe.
- In addition, they provide our friends with an assurance that the Indian Navy is capable and ready to support our 'collective' security needs in the Region.
- The successful demonstration of two-carrier battle group operations serves as a powerful testament to the pivotal role of sea-based air power in maintaining maritime superiority.
- As India continues to strengthen its security apparatus, significance of Aircraft Carriers will remain paramount in shaping the nation's defence strategy and promoting regional stability.

INS Vikramaditya:

- NS Vikramaditya is the **Indian Navy's largest short take-off but assisted recovery (STOBAR) aircraft carrier** and warship **converted from the Russian Navy's decommissioned Admiral Gorshkov vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) missile cruiser carrier.**
- INS Vikramaditya , contracted from Russia under a \$2.3-billion deal and inducted into service in November 2013.
- The warship was **extensively refurbished with new propulsion systems**, hull sections, sensors, and flight deck. It was operationally deployed with a full complement of MiG-29 aircraft in May 2014.
- The vessel can carry more than 30 long-range multi-role fighters with anti-ship missiles, air-to-air missiles, guided bombs, and rockets.
- The aircraft on board the carrier include MiG 29K / Sea Harrier combat aircraft, Kamov 31 radar picket Airborne Early Warning (AEW) helicopter, Kamov 28 naval helicopter, Sea King helicopter, ALH-Dhruv, and Chetak helicopter.
- The naval variant of the indigenous LCA Tejas fighter aircraft made its first landing on the INS Vikramaditya in January 2020.

INS Vikrant:

Kamaraj IAS Academy

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833**

- The name **‘INS Vikrant’** originally belonged to India’s first aircraft carrier which was acquired from **the UK**, and played a vital role in the 1971 War with Pakistan before it was **decommissioned in 1997**.
- It was designed and developed by the Indian Navy's in-house **Warship Design Bureau (WDB)** and **built by Cochin Shipyard Limited**, a Public Sector Shipyard under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways.
- It has been **built with state-of-the-art automation features** and **is the largest ship ever built-in maritime history of India**.
- The motto of the ship is **Jayema Sam Yudhi Sprdhah** which is taken **from Rig Veda** and is translated as **“I defeat those who fight against me”**.
- The carrier is 262 m long, 62 m at the widest part and with a depth of 30 m minus the superstructure. There are 14 decks in all, including five in the superstructure.
- It **features a Short Take-Off But Arrested Recovery(STOBAR) configuration** with a ski-jump.
- The ship is capable of operating an air wing consisting of 30 aircraft comprising MiG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31, MH-60R multi-role helicopters, in addition to indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) and Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) (Navy).
- The warship will also **offer an “incomparable military instrument** with its ability to project Air Power over long distances, including offensive, Air Interdiction, Anti-Surface Warfare, defensive Counter-Air, Airborne Anti-Submarine Warfare and Airborne Early Warning.