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## INS Vikrant: First Indigenous Aircraft Carrier

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### Why in News

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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

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- **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**