

Delivery of Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) Vikrant

Indian Navy created maritime history on 28 July 2022 by taking delivery of the prestigious Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) Vikrant from her builder Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi. Designed by Indian Navy's inhouse Directorate of Naval Design (DND) and built by CSL, a Public Sector Shipyard under Ministry of Shipping (MoS), the carrier is christened after her illustrious predecessor, India's first aircraft carrier which played a vital role in the 1971 war. Coinciding with the celebrations to commemorate 75th anniversary of India's independence 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the reincarnation of "Vikrant is a true testimony to the country's zeal and fervor in pursuing capability build up towards enhanced maritime security".

The 262 meter long carrier has a full displacement of close to 45,000 tonnes which is much larger and advanced than her predecessor. The ship is powered by four gas turbines totaling 88 MW power and has a maximum speed of 28 knots. Built at an overall cost of close to Rs. 20,000 Crs, the project has been progressed in three phases of contract between MoD and CSL, concluded in May 2007, Dec 2014 and Oct 2019 respectively. The ship's keel was laid in Feb 2009, followed by launching in Aug 2013. With an overall indigenous content of 76%, IAC is a perfect example of the nation's

quest for Aatma Nirbhar Bharat and provides thrust to Government's Make in India initiative. With the delivery of Vikrant, India has joined a select group of nations having the niche capability to indigenously design and build an aircraft carrier.

Vikrant has been built with high degree of automation for machinery operation, ship

navigation and survivability, and has been designed to accommodate an assortment of fixed wing and rotary aircraft. The ship would be capable of operating air wing consisting of 30 aircraft comprising of MiG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31 AEW, MH-60R multi-role helicopters, in addition to indigenously manufactured Advanced

