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1. PM Modi commissions INS Vikrant, India's indigenous aircraft carrier (Sept. 2, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi commissioned India's **first indigenously designed and built** aircraft carrier **INS Vikrant in Kochi** on 2 September.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The aircraft carrier has been built at the **Cochin Shipyard Limited in Kochi** at a cost of ₹20,000 crore.
- With its commissioning, India has joined a **select group (US, Russia, France, the UK and China)** of countries that have the unique capability to indigenously design and build aircraft carriers.
- The aircraft carrier is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities.
- The Prime Minister **unveiled a plaque** to commemorate the induction of INS Vikrant, named after its predecessor, which played a key role in the Navy in the **1971 Indo-Pak war**.
- He also unveiled the new **Naval Flag (Nishaan)** on the occasion.

INS Vikrant :

- INS Vikrant, also known as Indigenous **Aircraft Carrier 1**.
- It has been designed by the Indian Navy's in-house **Warship Design Bureau (WDB)** and built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited**.
- It is the first aircraft carrier to be built in India.
- It has been named '**Vikrant**' as a tribute to India's first aircraft carrier, Vikrant.
- The Indian Naval Ship Vikrant played an important role in the **1971 war**.
- The **262-metre-long carrier** has a full displacement of around **45,000 tonnes** which is more advanced than its predecessor.
- It is powered by four gas turbines with a total power of **88 MW** and has a maximum speed of **28 knots**.
- The project was executed in three phases of contract between the Ministry of Defence and CSL, which were concluded in May 2007, December 2014 and October 2019 respectively.