

# VIKRANT A REFLECTION OF SELF-RELIANT INDIA: PM

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From 2013 to 2017, the Navy had fielded two aircraft carriers — the erstwhile Viraat acquired from the U.K. and the INS Vikramaditya from Russia which is currently in service. Once INS Vikrant becomes fully operational, Indian Navy will once again be able to deploy two full-fledged carrier groups significantly expanding its footprint across the Indo-Pacific.

“So far, such aircraft carriers were only made by developed countries. India has taken a step towards being a developed country by being part of the league,” said Mr. Modi speaking at the formal commissioning ceremony which saw the presence of several naval veterans who commanded and served on the erstwhile Vikrant.

Terming *INS Vikrant* huge, the ceremony massive, distinguished and very special, Mr. Modi said it is not just a warship but a testament to the hard work, talent, influence and commitment of India in the 21st century. The Commanding Officer, Capt. Vidhyadhar Harke, read the commissioning warrant and the *nishaan* (ensign) was hoisted. INS Vikrant adorned the new ensign with effect from its commissioning.

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