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INS VIKRANT : " A step towards India's Atmanirbharta in Defence"

INS VIKRANT

Why in News?

Recently PM Modi commissioned India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC), INS Vikrant (IAC-1), which is a part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat

About the INS Vikrant

- INS Vikrant (IAC-I) is the first aircraft carrier to be built in India and the first Vikrant-class aircraft carrier built for the Indian Navy.
- The motto of the ship is "**Jayema Sam Yudhi Sprdhah**" which is taken from Rig Veda and can be translated as "I defeat those who fight against me".
- **Specifications:**
 - There are 14 decks in all, including five in the superstructure. The carrier is 262 m long, 62 m at the widest part and with a depth of 30 m minus the superstructure.
 - The deck is designed to enable aircraft such as the MiG-29K to operate from the carrier.
 - It can carry an air group of up to thirty aircraft, which will include up to 24-26 fixed-wing combat aircraft, primarily the MiG-29K.
 - Vikrant is powered by four General Electric LM2500+gas turbines on two shafts, generating over 80 megawatts (110,000 hp) of power.

- Once Vikrant is having sport a gender-sensitive living environment and infrastructure, with provision to accommodate eight women officers. The ship will then accommodate 1,645 personnel in all, including 196 officers.
- It will join INS Vikramaditya , contracted from Russia under a \$2.3-billion deal and inducted into service in November 2013..
- The first Vikrant displaced 20,000 tonnes and operated a mix of Westland Sea Kings, HAL Chetak and Sea Harrier jets. Viraat displaced 28,500 tonnes and Vikramaditya displaces 45,400 tonnes. The new Vikrant will displace 40,000 tonnes.

Significance:

GEOSTRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE

- It would offer an incomparable military instrument with its ability to project air power over long distances, offensive and defensive counter-air, including air interdiction, anti-surface warfare, airborne anti-submarine warfare and airborne early warning.
- 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.

GEO POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE

- It would ensure India's application of SAGAR Doctrine in India's neighborhood i.e. SECURITY AND GROWTH FOR ALL IN THE REGION.
- It would also ensure India's transformation from the Brown Water Navy to Blue Water Navy.
- It would also showcase India's seriousness for Neighborhood First Policy.
- It would enhance India's presence in the Indo Pacific region.

GEO ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE:

- It would ensure India's Atma Nirbharta in Defence.
- It would also be step forward in reducing Current Account Deficit which is caused due to India's enhanced imports of Defense Equipment's.

India's road to the "self reliance in defence " is long , but the projects such as INS VIKRANT, Tejas can be a step forward in this direction.

Teesta Dispute

Why in the news?

Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh Prime Minister, recently came to Delhi for a 4-day visit. Solving the long-standing, unresolved dispute over the sharing of the waters of the Teesta is back in the news.

About Teesta river:



- Water sharing of the **Teesta river**, which originates in the Himalayas and flows through Sikkim and West Bengal to merge with the Brahmaputra in Assam and (known as Jamuna in Bangladesh), was one the **most contentious issue** between two friendly neighbors, India and Bangladesh.
- The river covers nearly the entire floodplains of Sikkim while **draining 2,800 sq km of Bangladesh**, governing the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

Location

Country	India, Bangladesh
State	Sikkim, West Bengal, Rangpur Division
Districts	Kurigram District, Nilphamari District, Gangtok District, Pakyong District, Mangan District, Kalimpong district,

	Darjeeling district, Cooch Behar district, and Jalpaiguri district
City	Singtam, Rangpo, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Mekhliganj

Physical characteristics

Source	Pauhunri, Zemu Glacier, Gurudongmar Lake, Tso Lhamo Lake
• location	Sikkim, India
Mouth	Brahmaputra river
• location	Phulchhari Upazila, Gaibandha, Bangladesh
Length	414 km (257 mi)[1]
Basin size	12,540 km ² (4,840 sq mi)[2]

What is the history of the Teesta dispute?

- In West Bengal, Teesta is considered the **lifeline** of half-a-dozen districts in North Bengal. Teesta is very important for those districts.
- Bangladesh has sought an "**equitable distribution**" of Teesta waters from India, on the lines of the **Ganga Water Treaty of 1996** (an agreement to share surface waters at the Farakka Barrage near their mutual border), but to no avail.
- In 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Dhaka generated some expectations to take forward to resolve the previous issues on fair and equitable water sharing agreement.
- But Teesta **remains an unfinished project**, as in India individual states have significant influence over **transboundary agreements**. This arrangement sometimes holds back the policymaking process.

What is the recent status of the Teesta dispute between India and Bangladesh?

In 2015 when PM, Modi visited Dhaka accompanied by the Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamta Banerji. There PM Modi gave Prime Minister Hasina the confidence of resolving the issue in a “fair solution” to the dispute through cooperation between the central and the state governments. But, Seven years later, the Teesta issue remains unresolved.

Farhin

The zombie Ice

Why is it in the News?

- Recently, Scientists predicted that the melting of Zombie Ice will raise the global sea level by 10 inches.



What is Zombie Ice?

- It is also referred to as dead or doomed ice.
- Zombie ice is one that does not accumulate fresh snow even while continuing to be part of the parent ice sheet.
- This type of ice is prone to melting and rising sea levels.

What has led to this?

- This is a result of global warming that has affected the climate already.
- The study focuses on an equilibration condition where snowfall from the northerly extremes of the Greenland ice cap melts down to the recharge edges of the snow glaciers and hardens them.
- The study states that over the past several decades there has been less replenishment and more melting.

What will happen next?

- By calculating the minimum committed ice loss based on the ratio of recharge to loss, scientists have projected that 3.3% of Greenland's total ice volume will melt, and this will happen even if the global temperature is stabilized at the current level.
- Considering that global warming is anticipated to worsen, the melting and its direct impact on the rising sea level could get worse as well. It could climb up to 30 inches if Greenland's melting record year (2012) works as a regular phenomenon.

What could a 10-inch rise in sea level mean?

- The inescapable rise in the sea level, as predicted by the researchers, is precisely a piece of unpleasant news for millions, who are residing in coastal zones.
- The **UN Atlas of Oceans** says that 8 out of the 10 world's largest cities are close to the coast. Increasing sea levels will cause high tides, floods, and storms to occur more frequently.
- It will lead to threats to local economies and infrastructure.
- The low-lying coastal regions will have to bear a harder hit.
- According to the World Economic Forum's 2019 Global Risks Report, approximately 800 million people in 570 coastal cities are already endangered by a rise in the sea level by 0.5 meters by 2050.

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