Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the first made-in-India aircraft carrier – INS Vikrant – calling it a “historic occassion” and an “exceptional symbol of self-reliant India”. Built at a cost of ₹20,000 crore, the Prime Minister commissioned the carrier at a function organised at the Cochin Shipyard Limited in Kochi, Kerala.

INS Vikrant has been built with state-of-the-art automation features and is the largest ship ever built in the maritime history of India. It has a large amount of indigenous equipment and machinery, involving major industrial houses in the country as well as over 100 MSMEs. The carrier displaces about 45,000 tonnes, making it the largest warship in the Indian naval inventory.

‘Vikrant’ got its name from the illustrious predecessor, India’s first aircraft carrier, which had played a vital role in the 1971 war. It is designed by the Indian Navy’s in-house Warship Design Bureau (WDB) and built by Cochin Shipyard Limited, a Public Sector Shipyard under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.