

Operation Vanilla

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Source: *PIB & The Hindu*

Indian Navy launched '**Operation Vanilla**' in support of the **national disaster in flood-hit Madagascar** and diverted a large amphibious ship to provide assistance.

Key highlights

- **Madagascar has been hit by a cyclone** and there has been heavy flooding and landslips since the last week of January causing loss of lives and displacement of a number of people.
- According to reports, more than 92,000 people have been affected.
- As the first respondent, it has been decided to immediately divert **INS Airavat**, en route to Seychelles, to Madagascar
- With the onboard stores, the ship could provide clothing, emergency food, temporary shelters, medical assistance, carry out transportation and evacuation of personnel using four large and two medium-sized boats, diving and communication assistance
- Of late, the Indian Navy has been the first responder for Humanitarian and Disaster Relief (HADR) in the Indian Ocean Region.
- INS Airavat is an amphibious assault ship and as **part of the mission-based deployment has Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR)** as part of its missions and carries relief material in the form of HADR bricks. This enables ships on deployment to respond rapidly to any emergent situation.
- **India's assistance to Madagascar is in consonance with Indian Navy's Foreign Cooperation initiatives in line with India's vision of 'Security and Growth for all in**

the Region (SAGAR)'.