

# Project Seabird

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**In news-** Defence minister Rajnath Singh recently visited the Karwar Naval Base to review the progress of ongoing infrastructure development under 'Project Seabird'.

## **Project Seabird-**

- **INS Kadamba** is an Indian Navy base located near Karwar in **Karnataka**.
- The **first phase** of construction of the base, **code-named Project Seabird**, was completed in 2005.
- Development of Phase II commenced in 2011.
- INS Kadamba is **currently the third largest Indian naval base**.
- In the early 1980s, then **Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Oscar Stanley Dawson** conceived of a dedicated naval base sandwiched between the hills of the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea near Karwar.
- The location had significant **advantages as being very close to the world's busiest shipping route** between the Persian Gulf and east Asia.
- It also offered a **natural deep-water harbour**.
- **In 1999**, following Pokhran-II, then **Defence Minister George Fernandes approved** Project Seabird to pursue the construction of the new naval base.
- The **Binaga Bay** was dredged and its rock outcrops blasted to allow even large aircraft carriers to turn inside the bay.
- The **Phase-IIA** expansion approval was obtained from the Cabinet Committee on Security in **2012**.
- The work commenced in 2016 and is expected to be completed by 2022.
- **After the completion of Phase II-B** of the project, INS Kadamba **will be the biggest naval base east of the Suez canal**.