ICGS Akshar Commissioned (2025)

Commissioning Details

- **Event:** Commissioning of Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) *Akshar*

- **Date:** 4 October 2025

- **Location:** Karaikal, Puducherry

- **Builder:** *Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)*

- **Class:** *Adamya-class* Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV)

- **Series:** Second vessel in the Adamya-class FPV series

- **Under:** '**Make in India**' and '**Aatmanirbhar Bharat**' initiatives

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⚙ 1. Overview and Strategic Context

- ICGS Akshar represents **India's focus on indigenization** in the maritime defence sector.

- It is designed for **coastal surveillance, law enforcement, and maritime security** operations.

- The commissioning aligns with India's objective to enhance **Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)** and **Eastern Seaboard security**.

- The ship will operate under the **Commander Coast Guard Region (East)** and **District Headquarters No. 13 (Karaikal)**.

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2. Design and Construction Features

Specification	Details
Length	51 metres
Displacement	~320 tons
Indigenous Content	Over 60%
Builder	Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)
Design Focus	Speed, endurance, and multi-mission flexibility

- The vessel incorporates **modern shipbuilding techniques** with advanced materials.

- Emphasis has been placed on **indigenous propulsion systems, sensors, and**

armaments.

- Demonstrates India's **self-reliance (Aatmanirbharata)** in defence manufacturing.

⚡ 3. Propulsion and Performance

- **Engines:** Two **3,000 KW diesel engines**, designed for high efficiency.

- **Propulsion System: Indigenously developed Controllable Pitch Propellers (CPP)** and gearboxes.

- **Top Speed:** Up to **27 knots** (~50 km/h).

- **Endurance: 1,500 nautical miles** at economical cruising speed.

- **Special Feature:**

    - The **CPP system** enables better manoeuvrability, fuel efficiency, and quick directional control.

    - Suitable for **fast response missions** and **extended patrol operations** in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

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4. Armament and Combat Systems

Armament	Details
Main Gun	30 mm CRN 91 naval gun
Secondary Weapons	Two 12.7 mm Stabilized Remote-Controlled Guns (SRCG)
Fire Control	Integrated with **advanced fire control systems**

- Weapons are optimized for **surveillance, interdiction, anti-smuggling, and law enforcement**.

- The **SRCG** allows remote targeting with precision and minimal crew exposure.

- Enhances Akshar's capability to respond to **asymmetric maritime threats** (e.g., piracy, infiltration, and illegal fishing).

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5. Advanced Onboard Systems

The vessel is fitted with state-of-the-art automation systems, enhancing operational efficiency:

System	Function
Integrated Bridge System (IBS)	Centralizes navigation and communication controls.
Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS)	Monitors propulsion, machinery, and auxiliary systems.
Automated Power Management System (APMS)	Ensures optimal energy distribution and safety.

 Advantages:

- Reduces crew workload.

- Enhances operational safety and precision.

- Enables **real-time monitoring** and **quick decision-making** in dynamic maritime situations.

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6. Operational Role and Deployment

Base Location: Karaikal, Puducherry (East Coast)

Primary Missions:

1. **Maritime Zone Surveillance** – Securing India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

2. **Search and Rescue (SAR)** – Quick response during maritime emergencies.

3. **Pollution Control** – Assisting in oil-spill management and marine ecosystem protection.

4. **Law Enforcement** – Preventing smuggling, illegal fishing, and human trafficking.

5. **Maritime Safety** – Providing aid to fishermen and coastal communities.

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7. Symbolism and Significance

- **Name Meaning:** *"Akshar"* in Sanskrit means *imperishable or eternal.*

- Symbolizes the **unwavering vigilance** and **enduring commitment** of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

- Embodies the ICG's motto — *"Vayam Rakshamah"* meaning *"We Protect."*

Strategic Importance

- Strengthens India's **Eastern Seaboard security** and surveillance capability.

- Supports India's **Blue Economy and SAGAR vision** (*Security and Growth for All in the Region*).

- Reinforces the government's **Make in India** initiative in the maritime defence sector.

8. Relevance for UPSC IAS 2026

Prelims Relevance

- Commissioning of **ICGS Akshar** (2025)

- **Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV)** — Second in series

- Built by **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)**

- Key Systems: *CPP, IBS, IPMS, APMS*

- **Make in India** and **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in defence

Mains Relevance

- **GS Paper III:**

  - Indigenization of defence technology.

  - Role of Coast Guard in national security.

  - Make in India and maritime self-reliance.

- **GS Paper II:**

  - Coastal security and governance in India.

  - Disaster management (search & rescue, oil spills).

⚓ 9. Key Takeaways

Aspect	Details
Ship Name	ICGS Akshar
Commissioned On	4 October 2025
Class/Type	Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessel
Builder	Goa Shipyard Limited
Length	51 metres

Aspect	Details
Displacement	320 tons
Indigenous Content	60%
Speed	27 knots
Endurance	1,500 nautical miles
Main Armament	30 mm CRN 91 gun
Additional Armament	2 × 12.7 mm SRCG
Base	Karaikal, Puducherry
Motto	"Vayam Rakshamah" — *We Protect*
Significance	Enhances coastal security and maritime self-reliance

10. Conclusion

The commissioning of **ICGS Akshar** marks another milestone in India's pursuit of **maritime self-reliance** and **technological advancement**.
It showcases the successful integration of **indigenous shipbuilding, automation, and defence innovation**, vital for India's **coastal security architecture**.

With vessels like *Akshar*, the **Indian Coast Guard** continues to strengthen its role as the **sentinel of the seas**, ensuring safety, security, and sovereignty across India's maritime frontiers.

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