Indian Navy to Commission Indigenously Built Survey Vessel (Large) — Ikshak

Victor Growth

1. Overview

- The Indian Navy will commission **INS Ikshak**, an **indigenously built Survey Vessel (Large)**, on **6 November 2025** at **Naval Base Kochi**.
- The commissioning ceremony will be **presided over by Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi**, Chief of the Naval Staff.
- *Ikshak* represents a major step towards **self-reliance in naval shipbuilding** and **modernisation of India's hydrographic survey capabilities**.

---

2. Builder and Indigenous Collaboration

- **Builder:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Ltd., Kolkata.
- **Supervision:** Directorate of Ship Production & Warship Overseeing Team (Kolkata).
- **Indigenisation Level:** Over **80% indigenous content**, involving significant participation from **Indian MSMEs** and domestic industries.
- **Significance:**
    - Strengthens the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative.
    - Reduces dependency on foreign technology and imports.
    - Showcases India's capability to design and construct advanced hydrographic ships domestically.

---

3. Class and Sequence

- *Ikshak* is the **third vessel** in the **Survey Vessel (Large) [SVL] class**.
- The series consists of **four ships** being built by GRSE for the Indian Navy.
- The first two ships in the series are:
    1. **INS Sandhayak** (lead ship, commissioned earlier)

2. **INS Nirdeshak**

---

4. Purpose and Operational Role

- **Primary Role:** Hydrographic survey operations — essential for producing nautical charts and ensuring safe navigation.
- **Functions include:**
    - Mapping of seas, coastal waters, ports, and shipping lanes.
    - Collection of oceanographic and hydrographic data.
    - Support to naval operations and maritime security.

---

5. Equipment and Capabilities

- Equipped with **state-of-the-art survey and navigation systems**, including:
    - Multi-beam Echo Sounders
    - Side-scan Sonars
    - Advanced Positioning and Data Processing Systems
    - Communication and Charting Tools
- **Special Features:**
    - Capable of conducting **research, mapping, and data collection** for both defence and civil uses.
    - Can operate in **deep and shallow waters**.

---

6. Dual-Role Capability

- Apart from survey operations, *Ikshak* can be reconfigured to support **non-combat missions**:
    - **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR):**
        - Transport of relief material and personnel.
        - Rescue and evacuation operations.
    - **Hospital Ship Role:**

Victor Growth

- Can provide **medical support** and **casualty evacuation** during natural disasters or emergencies.

---

7. Design and Accommodation

- Built with **modern automation, propulsion, and habitability standards**.
- **First Survey Vessel (Large)** to have **dedicated accommodation for women officers and sailors**, reflecting the Navy's inclusive vision.
- Spacious design for better crew comfort and endurance during long missions.

---

8. Symbolism of the Name – "Ikshak"

- The word *Ikshak* means **"The Guide."**
- Symbolises the vessel's mission — to **chart unknown waters** and **guide mariners safely**.
- Reflects the Indian Navy's motto of **service, precision, and guidance** in maritime navigation.

---

9. Strategic and National Importance

- Enhances India's **hydrographic survey capabilities** and **maritime domain awareness**.
- Strengthens India's role as a **regional provider of hydrographic data** to friendly nations in the Indian Ocean region.
- Boosts India's **blue economy initiatives** by supporting safe marine navigation and resource exploration.
- Contributes to **Make in India** and **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in the defence sector.

---

10. Key Facts for UPSC Prelims

Parameter	Details
Ship Name	*Ikshak*
Meaning of Name	"The Guide"
Type	Survey Vessel (Large)
Series Position	Third in the SVL series
Commissioning Date	6 November 2025
Location	Naval Base, Kochi
Builder	GRSE Ltd., Kolkata
Indigenous Content	Over 80%

Victor Growth

Parameter	Details
Special Feature	Dedicated accommodation for women officers
Role	Hydrographic survey, HADR, and hospital ship
Presiding Officer	Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, CNS

11. Broader Relevance for UPSC

- **GS Paper 3 (Security / Defence Technology):** Indigenous defence production, Aatmanirbhar Bharat, naval modernisation.
- **GS Paper 2 (International Relations):** Strengthening maritime partnerships through hydrographic cooperation.
- **Essay / Interview Topics:**
    - “Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Defence Sector.”
    - “India’s Maritime Strength and Blue Economy.”
    - “Role of Women in the Armed Forces.”

Victor Growth

Facebook

Instagram

Youtube

Kandahar
Kandahar
Arghistan
Mar'uf
Daman
KANDAHAR
Panjwa'i
Spin
Boldak
Qila
Abdullah
Dobandi
Boghra Pass
Chaman
Khojak Pass
Qila
Saifullah
Pishin
Ziarat
Shorabak
Registan
Quetta
Quetta
Khost
Sibi
Mastung
BALOCHISTAN