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

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 noncombat missions:
 - Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR):
 - Transport of relief material and personnel.
 - Rescue and evacuation operations.
 - Hospital Ship Role:

 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
Ship Name
Meaning of Name
Type
Series Position
Commissioning Date
Location
Builder
Indigenous Content

Details
Ikshak
"The Guide"
Survey Vessel (Large)
Third in the SVL series
6 November 2025
Naval Base, Kochi
GRSE Ltd., Kolkata
Over 80%

Parameter	Details
Special Feature	Dedicate
	officers
Role	Hydrogra

Dedicated accommodation for women officers
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."

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