

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 **non-combat 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	Details
Ship Name	<i>Ikshak</i>
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%

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.”

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