

INS Mahe

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance

Why in News?

The Indian Navy recently commissioned INS Mahe.

- It is an **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft**.
- It is the first of the indigenously designed and built Mahe-class ASW-SWC, at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.
- **Designed and constructed by** - Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi.
- It is the lead ship of 8 vessels in her class.
- **Nomenclature** - The ship takes her name from the historic coastal town of Mahe on the Malabar Coast.
- **Size** - These vessels are 78 meters long and 11.36 meters wide, with a draught of about 2.7 meters.
- The displacement is about 896 tonnes, with a maximum speed of 25 knots and an endurance of 1,800 nautical miles.
- **Key features** - It has been designed and constructed as per the classification rules of Det Norske Veritas (DNV), a leading global classification society that sets technical standards for ships and offshore structures.
- The ships in this class are the largest Indian Naval warships propelled by a diesel engine, waterjet combination.
- They are designed for underwater surveillance, search and rescue operations, and Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO).
- The ship is capable of undertaking ASW operations in coastal waters, along with advanced mine-laying capabilities.
- **Significance** - It will augment the Indian Navy's capacity to ensure near-sea dominance, strengthen the coastal security grid, and safeguard India's maritime interests across the littorals.
- It bridges the operational gap by giving the Navy the crucial ability to detect and counter stealthy diesel-electric submarines operating close to the coastline, an area where larger surface combatants cannot manoeuvre

effectively.

- Their low draught, advanced sonars, and high manoeuvrability make them essential for securing harbour approaches, sea-lanes leading to major ports, offshore energy assets, and operational bases, all vulnerable and economically vital maritime assets.

The Mahe-class comprises the newly commissioned INS Mahe and the yet-to-be-commissioned Malval, Mangrol, Malpe, Mulki, Magdala, and Machilipatnam.

All these vessels are set to be commissioned in the coming 2-3 years.

Reference

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