

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 nearsea 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

The Indian Express | INS Mahe

