

India's shipbuilders: GRSE and MDL forge ahead

GRSE launches 2nd Survey Vessel (Large)

Survey Vessel (Large) - Yard No 3026 - being built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd, was launched by Smt Sarbani Dasgupta, wife of Vice

Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command on 26 May 2022. Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta was the Chief Guest at the occasion. This is the second vessel in a series of four such ships being built by GRSE for the Indian Navy to be launched in less than six months. The first ship, INS Sandhayak, was launched in Kolkata on 5 December 2021.



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Among the others present at the ceremony were Vice Admiral Kiran Deshmukh, Controller of Warship Production & Acquisition, Vice Admiral Adhir Arora, Chief Hydrographer, Cmde P R Hari IN (Retd), Chairman and Managing Director (Officiating) GRSE, R K Dash, Director (Finance), GRSE, other senior officials of GRSE, L&T and Indian Armed Forces.

GRSE has a vast experience in building survey ships for the Indian Navy. In the 1980s, a series of six hydrographic survey vessels were delivered by GRSE to the Indian Navy. The first of them was named INS Sandhayak. After serving for 40 years, the ship was decommissioned in 2021, a few months before the new INS Sandhayak was

reborn in Kolkata in December 2021. The launch of INS Nirdeshak now signals the rebirth of ex-INS Nirdeshak, another survey ship of the Sandhayak Class built by GRSE in 1983 and later decommissioned in 2014 after 31 years of service.

The latest series of Survey Vessels (Large) being built by GRSE are far more advanced as compared to the earlier series of survey ships in the Indian Navy's fleet. These modern, indigenously developed 110-metres long and 16-metres wide ships have a displacement of nearly 3,400 tonnes and can attain a top speed of 18 knots with an endurance of 6,500 nautical miles. Congratulating GRSE on the achievement, Vice Admiral Dasgupta acknowledged that a large number of ships of the Eastern Fleet were being built by GRSE. He stated, "The newer ship 'Nirdeshak' will be more capable, larger, modern, state-of-the-art with advanced propulsion and maneuvering and will be able to operate autonomous and remotely operated systems. The ship's ability to perform full spectrum of hydrographic and oceanographic operations of the Indian Navy will make us even more potent and foreign navies are looking to the Indian Navy for the hydrographic co-operation. The vessel has achieved 80% of indigenisation by cost which is a significant achievement for Indian shipbuilding."

In order to ensure swift delivery of quality, GRSE has now enhanced its capacity through tie-ups with capable Private Shipyards under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode for part construction of ships. Further, these ships are now being built using the 'Integrated Construction' concept through which maximum pre-outfitting is being carried out at the block stage itself.

GRSE is the only shipyard in the country to have built and delivered 105 warships to the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard. Two warships built by this shipyard were also exported by the Government of India to Mauritius and the Seychelles. At the moment, GRSE is working on 23 ships. Seven of these are for foreign orders. This defence PSU has also been bagging orders through competitive bidding. Among the larger ships that GRSE is working on now are stealth frigates under the Indian Navy's Project 17A. The shipyard is also building Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft for the Indian Navy.

GRSE: Keel laying of 4th SVL and 2nd/3rd ASW/SWC

Keel for the fourth ship of Survey Vessel (Large) and second and third ships of ASW SWC for the Indian Navy was ceremoniously laid on 17 June 2022 by VAdm SN Ghormade, Vice Chief of Naval Staff at L&T, Kattupalli in the presence of RAdm GK Harish, DGND (SSG), RAdm Sandeep S Sandhu, ACWP&A, Cmde P R Hari (Retd), CMD, GRSE, Cmde Ashok Khetan (Retd), Head L&T shipbuilding, Directors, and other senior officials of the Indian Navy, GRSE and L&T.

