



INSV Kaundinya

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Why in news: The Prime Minister has lauded **INSV Kaundinya** as it embarks on its **maiden voyage from Porbandar to Muscat**, symbolically retracing **India's ancient maritime trade routes** across the Indian Ocean.

About INSV Kaundinya

Type: Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV)

What it is:

o A recreated ancient Indian ocean-going ship, based on a 5th-century CE vessel depicted in the **Ajanta Cave paintings**.

Built by:

o **Indian Navy**, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Culture**.

Purpose:

o To showcase **India's maritime heritage**, traditional shipbuilding knowledge, and ancient navigation capabilities.



Key Features

1 Stitched-ship construction: Wooden planks are **stitched together**, not nailed—an ancient Indian shipbuilding technique.

2 Traditional materials: **Coconut coir ropes**, natural resins, and wooden planks; **no modern metal fastenings** used.

3 Cultural symbolism:

o **Gandabherunda** and **Sun motifs** on sails

o **Simha Yali** figure on the bow

o **Harappan-style stone anchor** on the deck

4 Ocean-going capability: Designed, tested, and certified as **fully seaworthy** for long-distance navigation.

5 Historic identity: Named after **Kaundinya**, the legendary Indian mariner linked to early **India–Southeast Asia** maritime contacts.

Significance

1 Reinforces India's historical role as a **maritime civilisation**.

2 Demonstrates continuity of **indigenous technological knowledge**.

3Strengthens cultural diplomacy and heritage-based soft power.

4Relevant to India's broader **Indian Ocean outreach**.