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INSV Kaundinya

Published On: 30-12-2025

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:

oA 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:

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

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Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

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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

- 1Reinforces India's historical role as a **maritime civilisation**.
- 2Demonstrates continuity of **indigenous technological knowledge**.

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3Strengthens **cultural diplomacy** and **heritage-based soft power**.

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