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INS Nipun and India's Deep-Sea Rescue Capability

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

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INS Nipun and India's Deep-Sea Rescue Capability

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✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

Hindustan Shipyard Limited delivered INS Nipun, the second Nistar-class Diving Support Vessel, to the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam on July 30, 2026.

THE VESSEL, IN NUMBERS

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Class	Nistar-class Diving Support Vessel
Lead ship	INS Nistar
This vessel	INS Nipun , second in class
Builder	Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) , Visakhapatnam
Length	About 118 metres
Displacement	Over 8,560 tonnes
Indigenous content	Roughly 75-80 per cent
Delivery	30 July 2026 , Visakhapatnam

WHAT A DIVING SUPPORT VESSEL DOES

A Diving Support Vessel (DSV) is a specialised naval ship built to support deep-sea diving, underwater rescue and salvage operations, functions that become critical when a submarine suffers an emergency at depth and its crew must be reached and recovered before oxygen and time run out. INS Nipun is fitted with:

CAPABILITY	FUNCTION
Deep-sea saturation diving systems	Allow divers to work at depth for extended periods without the decompression penalty of repeated short dives, by keeping them saturated at working pressure between shifts
Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs)	Unmanned, tethered submersibles for inspection, salvage assistance and rescue support at depths beyond safe diver range
Dynamic positioning system	Automatically maintains the vessel's exact position over a target on the seabed using thrusters and satellite positioning, without needing to anchor, essential for precision work directly above a stricken submarine or wreck

WHY THIS MATTERS STRATEGICALLY

Submarine rescue capability is a niche but strategically significant naval capacity: a nation operating a submarine fleet without organic deep-rescue capability is dependent on allied nations' assets arriving in time during an emergency, a dependency that can be operationally and diplomatically costly in a crisis. India's Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV) capability, developed and inducted over the past decade, already gave the Navy some organic rescue reach; the Nistar-class DSVs extend and diversify that capability with dedicated surface-support platforms purpose-built around diving, ROV and salvage operations rather than as an adaptation of another ship class.

LAYER OF CAPABILITY	ASSET TYPE
Rescue submersible	Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV)
Surface support and diving platform	Nistar-class Diving Support Vessel (INS Nistar, INS Nipun)
Broader indigenisation context	Shipbuilding under Atmanirbhar Bharat / Make in India in defence

THE INDIGENISATION ANGLE

At roughly 75-80 per cent indigenous content, INS Nipun sits within India's broader defence-shipbuilding indigenisation push, which has progressively moved warship and support-vessel construction away from imported hulls and systems toward domestically designed and built platforms, sourced increasingly from India's own steel, propulsion and electronics supply chains. Hindustan Shipyard Limited, a Ministry of Defence public-sector shipyard at Visakhapatnam, has built a specific niche in specialised naval support vessels, including submarine and diving-support platforms, alongside India's larger private and public shipyards that focus more heavily on frontline combatants.

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 3: Various security forces and agencies and their **mandate**; indigenisation of technology and developing new technology; defence indigenisation under Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Prelims pointers:

- **INS Nipun:** second **Nistar-class Diving Support Vessel**, after lead ship **INS Nistar**.
- Built by **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)**, Visakhapatnam; delivered **30 July 2026**.
- Specifications: about **118 m** length, over **8,560 tonnes** displacement, **75-80 per cent** indigenous content.
- Key systems: deep-sea saturation diving, ROVs, dynamic positioning.
- Distinct from, and complementary to, India's **Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV)** capability.

★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

INS NIPUN:

Nistar-class Diving Support Vessel; second in class after INS Nistar.

Built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam; delivered 30 July 2026.

About 118 m, over 8,560 tonnes; 75-80 per cent indigenous content.

Fitted with deep-sea saturation diving systems, ROVs, dynamic positioning.

RESCUE CAPABILITY LAYERS:

DSRV: Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel, the rescue submersible itself.

Nistar-class DSV: surface support and diving platform.

Builder: HSL, a Ministry of Defence PSU shipyard at Visakhapatnam.

Sources: PIB, Ministry of Defence, Hindustan Shipyard Limited

Source: INS Nipun and India's Deep-Sea Rescue Capability — [Ujyari.com](https://ujyari.com) | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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