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INSV KAUNDINYA



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INSV KAUNDINYA HAS SET SAIL ON ITS MAIDEN VOYAGE TO OMAN



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- INSV *Kaundinya*, a traditional stitched sailing vessel built using the ancient Tankai technique, successfully completed its maiden voyage to Oman.
- The ship is inspired by depictions found in the Ajanta cave paintings and operates entirely on wind power.
- The ship is named after **Kaundinya**, a legendary **Indian mariner** associated with voyages from **India to Southeast Asia**.
- It incorporates cultural motifs such as the Gandabherunda emblem and sun symbols, reflecting India's maritime heritage.
- The Tankai shipbuilding method, dating back to the 5th century CE, avoids the use of metal and instead joins wooden planks with coir rope and natural resin, providing strength and flexibility.

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- The vessel is primarily modeled on ships depicted in Ajanta cave paintings, particularly Cave No. 17, as no original blueprints of such ships are available.
- It was constructed under a tripartite agreement signed in 2023 between the Ministry of Culture, the Indian Navy, and Hodi Innovations, with funding provided by the Ministry of Culture.
- Unlike modern naval ships, *Kaundinya* does not have an engine and depends entirely on wind power through its sails.
- Although owned and operated by the Indian Navy, the vessel is non-combatant in nature and is intended for cultural and heritage purposes rather than warfare.
- Major features of Kaudinya includes:
 - Gandabherunda: A two-headed eagle linked to the Kadamba dynasty, symbolising power, authority, and protection.
 - Sun motifs on the sails: Signify vitality, divinity, navigation, and auspicious beginnings.
 - Simha Yali on the bow: A mythical lion-like figure representing strength and guardianship of the vessel.
 - Harappan-style stone anchor on the deck: Pays homage to the Indus Valley civilisation's maritime trade networks and early anchoring technology.



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ABOUT TANKAI METHOD

- The Tankai method is an ancient shipbuilding technique in which wooden planks are sewn together instead of being fixed with nails.
- This approach provides greater flexibility and strength to the vessel, reducing the risk of damage when navigating shallow waters, shoals, or sandbars.

