Surya, the first indigenous Fleet Support Ship

Defence · 6 October 2026 · https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/current-affairs-english/2026/10/06



News

On **6 October 2026** Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** launched and dedicated to the nation **Surya**, the Indian Navy's **first indigenous Fleet Support Ship (FSS-1)**, at **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam**. Chief of the Naval Staff **Admiral Krishna Swaminathan** attended; **Laila Swaminathan**, President of the Navy Wives Welfare Association, named the ship.

Key facts

Ship	**Surya (FSS-1)**, first of a five-ship series
Size	About **43,500 tonnes**
Role	Supplying warships at sea with **fuel, water, ammunition and stores** (replenishment at sea)
Features	Multi-role helicopter deck, repair workshops, self-defence systems
Contract	**August 2023**, about **₹19,000 crore**, five ships, HSL

Background

- **Blue-water navy:** support ships let a navy operate far from port for long periods and help India act as the **first responder** in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

- **Earlier support ships:** INS **Deepak** and INS **Shakti** (built in Italy), INS **Jyoti** (Russia), INS **Aditya** (GRSE). The new FSS will replace them.
- **HSL:** founded in **1941** by **Walchand Hirachand** for the Scindia Steam Navigation Company; first ship **Jala Usha (1948)**; nationalised 1961; under the **Defence Ministry since 2010**; **Miniratna-I** in 2025.
- **Atmanirbhar Bharat:** most new Indian Navy ships are now built in Indian shipyards.

Tamil Nadu link: The **L&T shipyard at Kattupalli** near Chennai builds Navy and Coast Guard vessels. The name **Surya** means the Sun; the **Chola navy** (Rajendra Chola's **Kadaram expedition, 1025**) shows Tamil Nadu's long seafaring tradition.

Shanmugam IAS Academy – your next step

- **Courses:** TNPSC Group 1, 2 / 2A (Prelims + Mains), Group 4, UPSC / IAS – Coimbatore · Madurai · Online – https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/fees
- **Books (PDF):** TNPSC PYQ books, UPSC books – https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/study-materials
- **Free quiz + daily PDFs:** https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/free-pdf-download · All news of this day: https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/current-affairs-english/2026/10/06

Admissions – call / WhatsApp: 99941 46662 · 99944 27714 · www.shanmugamiasacademy.in