= INS Shakti (A57) =

 INS Shakti (A57) is a Deepak @-@ class fleet tanker in service with the Indian Navy . She was built by Fincantieri , an Italian shipbuilding company based in Trieste . She is the second and final ship of her class . Shakti , along with her predecessor Deepak , is one of the largest ships of the Indian Navy .
 Construction of the vessel began in November 2009 and it was launched in October 2010 . She was handed over to India by September 2011 and was commissioned on 1 October 2011 . The construction of the vessel was completed in a record time of 27 months , after the contract worth ? 159 @.@ 32 million was signed in April 2008 .
 INS Shakti can refuel four ships at a time , with a fuelling speed of 1 @,@ 500 tonnes per hour while her predecessors had a speed of 300 per hour . She is also equipped with state @-@ of @-@ the art electronics , medical facilities and storage spaces . According to Admiral Nirmal Verma , Shakti would significantly add to the Indian Navy 's ability to conduct and sustain operations distant from the coast .

 = = Design and description = =

 = = = General characteristics and propulsion = = =

 INS Shakti has a length of 175 m (574 ft) overall , a beam of 25 m (82 ft) and a draught of 9 @.@ 1 m (30 ft) . The ships displaces about 27 @,@ 550 tonnes (27 @,@ 110 long tons ; 30 @,@ 370 short tons) at full load . The complement is about 200 , including 20 officers .
 The ship is powered by two MAN diesel engines providing a total power of 19 @.@ 2 MW (25 @,@ 700 hp) . This allows the ship to reach a maximum speed of 20 knots (37 km / h ; 23 mph) and an endurance of 10 @,@ 000 nautical miles (19 @,@ 000 km ; 12 @,@ 000 mi) at 16 knots (30 km / h ; 18 mph) .
 To help prevent accidental oil spills the ship features a double hull configuration , in compliance with MARPOL 73 / 78 .

 = = = Capacity = = =

 The Deepak @-@ class tanker can carry 17 @,@ 900 tonnes of cargo , including 15 @,@ 500 tonnes of liquid cargo (water , ship and aircraft fuel) and 500 tonnes of solid cargo (victuals and ammunition) . The modern cargo handling facility on board the ship enables transfer of heavy solid cargo via a 30 tonne capacity deck crane , and simultaneous fuelling of multiple ships at sea , and can refuel at the rate of 1 @,@ 500 tonnes per hour . Workshop facilities on the ship can support other ships of the fleet and it is capable of supporting heavy helicopters .

 = = = Self @-@ defence systems = = =

 The ship has self @-@ defence capability and is equipped with an indigenous anti @-@ missile defence chaff system . On @-@ board systems include fully automatic engine controls , power management and battle damage control systems . According to the navy , the ship was designed to operate as a command platform . The ship is fitted with four AK @-@ 630 Close @-@ in weapon systems , which can fire at a rate of 4 @,@ 000 to 10 @,@ 000 rounds a minute .

 = = Construction and service = =

 Fincantieri was awarded the contract to construct Shakti in April 2008 , at a cost of US $ 300 million . The Deepak @-@ class tankers were the first warships constructed for India by Fincantieri . The construction of the ship began in November 2009 at Fincantieri 's Sestri Ponente shipyard in Italy .

The sea trials started in December 2010 . The ship was formally handed over to the Indian Navy on 23 September 2011 , in under two years . Admiral Nirmal Verma , the chief of the Naval Staff , commissioned the tanker at Visakhapatnam , the home of the Eastern Naval Command , saying that the ship enhanced the reach of the navy well beyond the limits of the Indian Ocean .

INS Shakti is the third tanker of the same name of the navy . The first Shakti had a displacement of 3 @,@ 000 tonnes and was commissioned during World War II . She was in service with the Indian Navy from 29 January 1954 and decommissioned on 31 December 1967 ; whilst the second Shakti , a large ship built by a German yard , was commissioned on 21 February 1976 and decommissioned on 21 July 2007 , after more than 31 years of naval service .

= = = 2012 = = =

Malabar 2012 In April 2012 , Shakti took part in the Indian navy 's annual maritime exercise with the US Navy , Malabar 2012 , in the Bay of Bengal . During these exercises , the ship replenished USS Carl Vinson , flagship of the US Navy 's Carrier Strike Group 1 .

South China Sea and the North @-@ West Pacific In May 2012 , Shakti , as part of a battle group of four ships , began a sustained operational deployment to the South China Sea and the North West Pacific Ocean . The other three ships were INS Rana , a Rajput @-@ class guided missile destroyer , INS Shivalik , a stealth frigate , and INS Karmuk , a Kora @-@ class corvette . This battle group was under the command of Rear Admiral P Ajit Kumar , Flag Officer Commanding , Eastern Naval Command . According to the Ministry of Defence , the two @-@ month deployment , far from India 's usual area of operations , along with naval exercises with a number of countries , aimed to demonstrate the Indian navy 's operational reach .

During the deployment , the battle group participated in passage exercises with the navies of the countries visited . The ' Passage Exercises ' focussed on maritime security cooperation , which included humanitarian aid and disaster relief (HADR) operations and ' Visit , Board , Search and Seizure ' (VBSS) drills for anti @-@ piracy operations . These exercises aimed to increase naval inter @-@ operability , enabling the two navies to function with enhanced coordination during possible HADR operations . In addition , during the port visits , the Fleet Commander along with the Commanding Officers of the ships met high @-@ ranking officials of the navy , state administration , port management , coastal security organisation , police , and other stakeholders of maritime security in the countries visited , to share professional experiences and exchange best practices in areas of mutual interest .

JIMEX 2012 The ship was deployed in the North West Pacific for JIMEX 2012 (Japan @-@ India Maritime Exercise) with the four ship group , and took part in India 's first bi @-@ lateral maritime exercise with Japan . The Japanese Maritime Self @-@ Defence Force (JMSDF) was represented by two destroyers , one maritime patrol aircraft and a helicopter .

The four ships entered Tokyo on 5 June 2012 after visiting Singapore , Vietnam , Philippines and Republic of Korea . They stayed in Tokyo for three days . This visit coincided with the commemoration of 60 years of diplomatic relations between India and Japan . Vice Admiral Anil Chopra , Flag Officer Commanding @-@ in @-@ Chief Eastern Naval Command also visited Tokyo to witness the first JIMEX .

South @-@ east Asia After the deployment in the North pacific , the battle group was deployed in the South China Sea . As part of India 's Look East policy , the ships visited the Shanghai port on 13 June 2012 , for a five @-@ day goodwill tour . INS Shakti served as the fuel and logistics tanker to the three destroyers . The ships left the port on 17 June 2012 . Before leaving the port , the ships conducted routine passage exercise with the People 's Liberation Army Navy .

After the visits to Singapore , Vietnam , Philippines , Japan , South Korea and China , the ships visited Port Klang , Malaysia . This was the last port call of the battle group , after which it returned to the Eastern fleet of the Indian Navy , after being on a two @-@ month @-@ long deployment which started in May 2012 .

= = = 2013 = = =

TROPEX 2013 Shakti was part of a seven @-@ ship fleet which represented the Eastern Naval Command at Indian Navy 's annual TROPEX exercise , which concluded on 1 March 2013 . TROPEX 2013 was a month @-@ long theatre level exercise which was conducted off India 's west coast . The navy conducted manoeuvres , weapon firings and tactical evaluation .

The other ships in the flotilla were the destroyer Rana , amphibious dock INS Jalashwa , corvettes INS Kulish , Karmuk and INS Sukanya , and it was led by INS Ranvijay under the command of Admiral Ajith Kumar P , Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet . This flotilla made a port call at Kochi on 4 March 2013 , on route to its forward deployment .

South China Sea and Western Pacific The ship was part of a four @-@ vessel fleet on a regular operational deployment to the South China Sea and the Western Pacific during May ? June 2013 , which departed from India on 20 May 2013 . The fleet led by Rear Admiral Ajit Kumar consisted of stealth frigate INS Satpura , Rajput @-@ class destroyer INS Ranvijay , corvette INS Kirch and Shakti , and carried more than 800 crew members . Shakti , along with Ranvijay sailed from Port Blair , Andaman and Nicobar on 21 May and were joined by Satpura and Kirch , which arrived from Singapore after participating in a maritime exhibition and a bilateral naval exercise . The ships made a five @-@ day port call at Malaysia 's Port Klang on 25 May 2013 .

The ships will conduct passage exercises and practice both conventional wartime drills and cooperative military action against unconventional sea threats with the Malaysian Navy . They will make further port calls at Da Nang in Vietnam and Manila in the Philippines . They are expected to return to India by June 2013 . The fleet would be deployed in the South China Sea and the Western Pacific from mid @-@ May to end June to reinforce military ties with ASEAN , in addition to showcasing India 's naval capabilities .

= = = 2014 = = =

Western Pacific : In July 2014 , an Indian Navy task force comprising INS Ranvijay , INS Shivalik , and Shakti visited the Russian Pacific Fleet at Vladivostok for Indra @-@ 2014 exercises . The Russian fleet consisted of guided @-@ missile cruiser Varyag , the flagship of the Pacific Fleet ; the destroyer Admiral Vinogradov , the Peresvet and several auxiliary ships , naval aircraft and helicopters . The exercise took place from 17 to 19 July in the Peter the Great Gulf in the Sea of Japan . The ships conducted tactical maneuvering drills , artillery and missile firing drills , as well as helicopter deck @-@ landing drills . After exercising with the Russian Navy , the task force moved to the Pacific Ocean to exercise with the Japanese and the US Navy during Malabar 2014 . Aircraft carrier USS George Washington and a nuclear submarine represented the US Navy , and the Japanese Maritime Self @-@ Defence Force was represented by two destroyers , Kurama and Ashigara , and US @-@ 2 amphibious warfare aircraft . The harbour phase of the drills was conducted in Sasebo , Japan .

Bay of Bengal : Naval ships Ranjit , Shivalik , Shakti and INS Airavat were readied by the Eastern Command to transport personnel and relief material as part of the rescue and relief mission during Cyclone Hudhud .

= = = 2015 = = =

Shakti deployed with other ships of the Eastern fleet to the Andaman & Nicobar Command , to exercise in the Andaman Sea and then deployed overseas to exercise with other navies of the region from Indonesia , Malaysia , Singapore , Cambodia , Thailand and Australia , as part of India 's Act East policy . This task force sailed under the command of Flag Officer Eastern Fleet Rear Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh , VSM , who commanded from INS Satpura . The other ships in the task force were INS Sahyadri , the then @-@ newly commissioned anti @-@ submarine warfare INS Kamorta , destroyers INS Ranvir and INS Ranvijay and missile corvette INS Khukri . The ships make port calls at Jakarta (Indonesia) , Freemantle (Australia) , Kuantan (Malaysia) , Sattahip (Thailand) and Sihanoukville (Cambodia) . They exercised for four days with RSS Supreme and

submarine RSS Archer along with fighters , patrol aircraft and helicopters of the Singaporean Navy from 24 @-@ 27 May in Simbex 2015 .