

= INS Kursura (S20) =

INS Kursura (S20) was a Kalvari @-@ class diesel @-@ electric submarine of the Indian Navy . She was India 's fourth submarine . Kursura was commissioned on 18 December 1969 and was decommissioned on 27 February 2001 after 31 years of service . She participated in the Indo @-@ Pakistani War of 1971 , where she played a key role in patrol missions . She later participated in naval exercises with other nations and made many goodwill visits to other countries .

After decommissioning , she was preserved as a museum for public access on Ramakrishna Mission Beach in Visakhapatnam . Kursura has the distinction of being one of the very few submarine museums to retain originality and has been called a " must @-@ visit destination " of Visakhapatnam . Despite being a decommissioned submarine , she still receives the navy 's " Dressing Ship " honour , which is usually awarded only to active ships .

= = Description = =

Kursura has a length of 91 @. @ 3 m (300 ft) overall , a beam of 7 @. @ 5 m (25 ft) and a draught of 6 m (20 ft) . She displaces 1 @, @ 950 t (1 @, @ 919 long tons) surfaced , 2 @, @ 475 t (2 @, @ 436 long tons) submerged and has a maximum diving depth of 985 ft (300 m) . The complement is about 75 , including 8 officers and 67 sailors .

The submarine has three shafts , each with a six @-@ blade propeller . She is powered by three Kolomna 2D42M diesel engines , each with 2 @, @ 000 horsepower (1 @, @ 500 kW) . She also has three electric motors , two of them with 1 @, @ 350 hp (1 @, @ 010 kW) and one with 2 @, @ 700 hp (2 @, @ 000 kW) . She can achieve a maximum speed of 16 knots (30 km / h) when on surface , 15 knots (28 km / h) when submerged and 9 knots (17 km / h) while snorkelling . She has a range of 20 @, @ 000 mi (32 @, @ 000 km) at 8 kn (15 km / h ; 9 @. @ 2 mph) when surfaced and 380 mi (610 km) at 10 kn (19 km / h ; 12 mph) when submerged . There are 10 torpedo tubes to carry 22 Type 53 torpedoes . She could lay 44 mines instead of torpedoes . She also had a snoop tray and I @-@ Band radar for surface search .

= = Operational history = =

Kursura was commissioned on 18 December 1969 at Riga , Soviet Union . She was India 's fourth submarine . Kursura 's first commander was Commander A Auditto . She began her maiden voyage to India on 20 February 1970 . During her homecoming voyage , which lasted from February to April 1970 , she visited Göteborg , La Corunna , Takoradi and Mauritius . Kursura , along with sister boat INS Karanj , were made operational under the Indian Navy 's Western Naval Command , and reported to the Flag officer Commanding @-@ in @-@ Chief Western Naval Command (FOCINWEST) . They were ordered to patrol approaches to Pakistan 's Karachi harbour and Makran Coast , for which they established waiting stations and submarine havens .

In 1970 , Karanj was badly damaged after a collision with the destroyer Ranjit when she surfaced directly below the ship . As no drawings of the damaged portions of the boat were available with the Bombay Dockyard or the Indian Navy , it was decided to use Kursura , which was already docked at Bombay , as the design template for the metal work , and Karanj was repaired within months , in time to join the Indo @-@ Pakistani War of 1971 .

= = = Indo @-@ Pakistan War of 1971 = = =

During the Indo @-@ Pakistani War of 1971 , Kursura operated in the Arabian Sea . She was given the patrol duties at two designated areas before the war started , but was ordered to operate under two restrictions : she was not to cross demarcated shipping corridors and she could attack a target only after positive identification . The aims of her patrol were to sink any Pakistani naval warships , to sink merchant shipping when specifically ordered , and to conduct general patrol and surveillance .

She started from her home port on 13 November 1971 and reached her patrol location by 18 November . She remained there until 25 November when she was shifted to a new patrol location and remained there until 30 November . On 30 November , she rendezvoused with Karanj at sea to transfer instructions and subsequently then left for Bombay and reached there by 4 December 1971 . During her patrols , she encountered fair weather and monitored a number of tankers and commercial aircraft flying on international routes . She was originally intended to lay mines but the plan was later cancelled .

= = = Later service = = =

Kursura was used for test firing the NSTL 58 torpedo in 1975 . She was laid off for many years to be cannibalised for spare parts for other submarines , but underwent a refit in the Soviet Union between September 1980 and April 1982 , and was made operational again in 1985 .

Along with INS Taragiri , she participated in the first anti @-@ submarine warfare (ASW) training exercise with the RSS Victory of Singapore off the coast of Port Blair between 21 ? 24 February 1994 . She participated in the second ASW exercise with Singapore along with INS Dunagiri , RSS Valour and RSS Vigilance . She visited Singapore and Jakarta , Indonesia , in December 1994 on a good @-@ will visit .

After a service of 31 years and traversing 73 @,@ 500 nautical miles (136 @,@ 100 km ; 84 @,@ 600 mi) , she was decommissioned on 27 February 2001 . Despite being a decommissioned submarine , she still receives the navy 's " Dressing Ship " honour , which is usually only awarded to active ships .

= = Museum ship (2002 ? present) = =

After decommissioning , the ship was towed to Ramakrishna Mission Beach in Visakhapatnam and was established as a museum ship , which is the first submarine museum in South Asia . The idea of the boat 's conversion to a museum is credited to Admiral V Pasricha . Towing the submarine 600 metres to its final location took 18 months and cost ? 55 million . It was inaugurated by the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh Chandrababu Naidu on 9 August 2002 , and it was open to the public from 24 August 2002 . Six retired naval personnel serve as guides and another one as the curator .

Kursura has the distinction of being one of the very few submarine museums to retain originality . She has become a famous tourist attraction of the city and has been called a " must @-@ visit destination " of Visakhapatnam by The Hindu . Out of the ? 10 million revenue generated every year by the museum , ? 8 million is used for the submarine 's maintenance . During the first four months of the museum 's operation , it was visited by about 93 @,@ 000 people . Daily visitors usually range between 500 and 600 and shoot up to 1 @,@ 500 during the tourist season .

In September 2007 , Vice Admiral Carol M. Pottenger of the United States Navy visited the submarine when she wrote in the guestbook " What a fantastic experience . The Indian Navy should be very proud of this awesome display " . She said that the submarine was very well preserved and they did not have anything similar to it in the United States . A major overhaul was done in December 2007 to repair her hull 's corrosion . New steel plates were arranged at a cost of ? 1 @.@ 5 million . As of August 2008 , about 1 @.@ 5 million people had visited the museum , and in 2010 , she was visited by 270 @,@ 000 people .

= = Gallery = =