**1 Defence**

**1.1 Commissioning of INS Androth**

The commissioning of **INS *Androth*** is a significant development for the Indian Navy and India's defense sector, particularly in the context of the **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** program. This event highlights India's progress toward achieving **'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'** (self-reliant India) in maritime defense.

**Key Points for UPSC Prelims (Defence)**

* **INS *Androth*** is the **second** ship of the **Arnala-class** of Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW-SWC). The first ship in this class was INS *Arnala*, commissioned earlier. A total of 16 such ships are planned, with eight being built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)** and the other eight by Cochin Shipyard Limited.
* The ship was built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)** in Kolkata, a public sector shipyard.
* Its commissioning ceremony took place at the Naval Dockyard in **Visakhapatnam**.
* **Purpose:** The ASW-SWCs are designed to replace the aging fleet of *Abhay*-class corvettes. Their primary role is to conduct **anti-submarine operations** in coastal and shallow waters (littorals). They are equipped with advanced sonar systems, anti-submarine rockets, and lightweight torpedoes to detect, track, and neutralize underwater threats.
* **Indigenous Content:** The ship has over **80% indigenous content**, a testament to India's growing domestic defense manufacturing capabilities. This includes indigenously developed sonar systems and other onboard technology.
* **Versatility:** Beyond its primary anti-submarine role, INS *Androth* is also capable of other missions, including **maritime surveillance, search and rescue, and coastal defense**.
* **Name:** The ship is named after **Androth Island**, the largest island in the Lakshadweep archipelago, which holds historical and strategic significance for India.
* **Modernisation Drive:** The commissioning of INS *Androth* is part of a broader, balanced modernization drive of the Indian Navy, which has seen the recent induction of other warships like *Arnala*, *Nistar*, *Udaygiri*, and *Nilgiri*.