



priority sectors in the 'Strategic Action Plan (SAP) of the Government of Maldives The Survey has a positive impact that cuts across all the 6 sub-sectors specified in the Blue Economy Sector of the SAP viz Tourism, Fisheries, Agriculture, SMEs, Labour and Employment, and, Economic Diversification. Therefore, beyond the obvious benefits for navigation, these hydrographic surveys map the waterways of the Maldives for a prosperous future.

The ship also carried out tidal observations at Kulhudhuffushi, Maarandhoo and Huvarafushi which will enable accurate tidal predictions in future. New benchmarks have also been set up in Maarandhoo and Huvarafushi which will facilitate accurate tidal readings and predictions.

This survey will facilitate printing of two large scale charts and one medium scale chart in the future covering Ihavandhippolhu and Thiladhanmatee atolls which are urgently required for the growing maritime activities and businesses in the region.

Four fair sheets of surveyed areas were handed over to Defence Minister H.E. Mariya Ahmed Didi on 26 February 2023 during a ceremony held onboard INS Investigator. CDF Maj General Shamaal, Head of Maldives Hydrographic Service Brig General (Retd) Mansoor, Senior officers of MNDF and representatives of Maldives Ports Limited and Ministry of Transports were also present during the ceremony.

The survey is in line with India's policy of supporting the Maldives to set up Hydrographic facilities within the MNDF. With an objective of enhancing Maldives own Hydrographic capabilities, during the joint survey on job training was imparted to MNDF personnel. Further, a set of hydrographic equipment was handed over to GoM. These equipment are in addition to the hydrographic equipment presented to GoM in March 2021, and April 2022 and it will augment the capabilities of Maldives Hydrographic Service to undertake surveys.