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INS Anjadip — Fourth ASW-SWC Vessel Commissioned at Chennai

28 February 2026

SUBJECTS COVERED**SECURITY & DEFENCE****SCIENCE & TECH****CURATED & WRITTEN BY****Bharat Choudhary**

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INS Anjadip — Fourth ASW-SWC Vessel Commissioned at Chennai

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WHY IN NEWS

INS Anjadip, the fourth vessel of India's Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) programme, was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Chennai Port on February 27-28, 2026, by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi — marking a milestone in India's indigenous naval construction.

ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE — WHY IT MATTERS

Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) is the complex of naval tactics, technologies, and strategies designed to detect, track, and neutralise hostile submarines. As India's maritime environment grows more contested — particularly with the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) expanding its submarine operations in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) — ASW capability is a national security priority.

SHALLOW WATER COMPLEXITY

Shallow water ASW (in littoral zones — coastal waters up to ~200 metres deep) is significantly more difficult than deep-water ASW because:

- Sound propagates differently in shallow water (refracts off the seabed)
- Background noise from shipping, marine life, and coastal activity is higher
- Traditional deep-water ASW sonar is less effective
- Dedicated shallow-water platforms with specialised sonar suites are required

The ASW-SWC programme was designed specifically for this littoral environment.

THE ASW-SWC PROGRAMME

The **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** programme is an Indian Navy initiative to build a fleet of **16 indigenous vessels** for coastal and shallow-water submarine detection.

BUILD PARTNERS

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata** — Lead shipyard; public sector
- Larsen & Toubro Shipbuilding, Kattupalli** (near Chennai) — Private sector partner

This dual-yard approach maximises build rate and promotes both public and private sector shipbuilding capacity — aligned with the ‘**Make in India**’ defence manufacturing policy.

FLEET NAMING CONVENTION

ASW-SWC vessels are named after Indian islands:

INS Arnala (Arnala Island, Maharashtra) — 1st vessel

INS Androth (Androth Island, Lakshadweep) — 2nd vessel

INS Akshay (Andaman & Nicobar Islands) — 3rd vessel

INS Anjadip (Anjadip Island, near Karwar, Karnataka) — 4th vessel

INS ANJADIP — TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Parameter	Specification
Length	77 metres
Displacement	~1,400 tonnes
Indigenous content	Over 80%
Mission	Shallow water ASW
Builders	GRSE + L&T Shipbuilding

SYSTEMS ONBOARD

Advanced ASW suite: Hull-mounted sonar and towed array sonar for underwater threat detection

Combat Management System (CMS): Integrates sensor and weapon data for real-time threat assessment

Weapon systems: Torpedo launchers, depth charges, and light naval gun

Propulsion: Designed for sustained coastal patrol speeds

COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

Location: Chennai Port (Tamil Nadu) **Presiding officer:** **Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi** — Chief of Naval Staff **Host commander:** Vice Admiral **Sanjay Bhalla** — Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command

INS Anjadip operates under **Flag Officer Commanding Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Naval Area (FOTNA)**.

INDIA'S NAVAL INDIGENISATION DRIVE

SHIPBUILDING ACHIEVEMENTS (2014–2026)

The government has consistently pushed naval indigenisation under the **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020**, which mandates minimum indigenous content thresholds for defence procurement. Notable milestones:

INS Vikrant (IAC-1) — First indigenous aircraft carrier (commissioned 2022)

INS Nilgiri — First P17A stealth frigate (2024)

INS Vela, INS Vagir — Indigenous Scorpene-class submarines (Kalvari class)

ASW-SWC fleet (ongoing)

GRSE — KEY FACTS

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) is a Kolkata-based **PSU under Ministry of Defence**. It is India's leading warship builder, having delivered over 100 naval vessels. It also builds Bailey bridges and deck machinery.

UPSC RELEVANCE

ASW-SWC programme, GRSE, INS Anjadip, INS Arnala, Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, littoral warfare.

MAINS GS-3:

Indigenous defence manufacturing; naval modernisation; Make in India in defence; IOR security.

INTERVIEW:

India's submarine threat perception in the Indian Ocean Region.

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA
INS ANJADIP — CORE DATA:

Programme: **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)**

Sequence: **4th vessel** in the programme

Named after: **Anjadip Island, near Karwar, Karnataka**

Commissioned: **February 2026 at Chennai Port**

Length: **77 m**; Displacement: **~1,400 tonnes**

Indigenous content: **>80%**

Builders: **GRSE Kolkata** (public) + **L&T Shipbuilding Kattupalli** (private)

ASW-SWC FLEET:

INS Arnala (1st, Arnala Island, Maharashtra), INS Androth (2nd, Lakshadweep), INS Akshay (3rd, Andaman & Nicobar), INS Anjadip (4th, near Karwar, Karnataka)

Total programme: **16 vessels** planned

Purpose: Detect/neutralise submarines in shallow coastal waters

KEY PERSONNEL:

CNS: **Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi**

Eastern Naval Command: Vice Admiral **Sanjay Bhalla**

FOTNA: Flag Officer Commanding Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Naval Area

GRSE — KEY FACTS:

Full form: Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers

Location: **Kolkata**, West Bengal

Type: **PSU under Ministry of Defence**

Notable: Over 100 warships delivered; also builds Bailey bridges and deck machinery

INDIA NAVAL MILESTONES:

INS Vikrant (IAC-1): First indigenous aircraft carrier, commissioned **2022**

INS Nilgiri: First P17A stealth frigate (**2024**)

Kalvari class: 6 Scorpene-class submarines (indigenous build, DCNS design)

DAP 2020: Defence Acquisition Procedure mandating indigenous content thresholds

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

Littoral zone: Coastal waters generally up to 200 m depth; complex ASW environment

IOR (Indian Ocean Region): India's strategic sphere; PLAN (China) increasing submarine patrols

PLAN has world's largest navy by number of vessels; growing blue-water capability

India's "Make in India" defence target: 70% procurement from domestic sources by 2025

Sources: PIB, Indian Navy

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