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# INS Shachi and India's Naval Indigenisation – The NGOPV Programme

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# INS Shachi and India's Naval Indigenisation — The NGOPV Programme

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## 🔪 WHY IN NEWS

Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) ceremonially launched INS Shachi (Yard 1280) — the first of 11 Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs) — on March 31, 2026, under a ₹9,781 crore contract with concurrent construction at two Defence PSU shipyards (GSL and GRSE). With ~76% indigenous content, the programme is a flagship example of India's defence manufacturing transformation.

## THE NGOPV PROGRAMME — WHAT AND WHY

### Operational Gap Being Filled

India's existing fleet of Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) — most inducted in the 1990s-2000s — is ageing. These vessels perform the “grey zone” missions between major warships and coast guard boats: offshore surveillance, anti-piracy, protection of India's 200 nm Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and humanitarian assistance. With

India's EEZ covering ~2.37 million sq km (one of the world's largest), 11 new vessels significantly enhance maritime domain awareness.

## INS Shachi – Technical Specifications

FEATURE	DETAIL
Vessel type	Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV)
Yard number	1280 (first of 11)
Shipyard	Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), Vasco-da-Gama, Goa
Length	~110 metres
Displacement	2,900 tonnes
Speed	25+ knots
Range	8,500 nautical miles
Indigenous content	~76%
Aviation	Helicopter deck up to 15-tonne class; hangar
Navigation	Integrated Bridge System

**Concurrent build:** 6 vessels at GSL (Goa) + 5 at GRSE (Kolkata). This dual-yard approach accelerates delivery and builds both shipyards' capacity simultaneously.

## GSL Also Delivered ICGS Achal

On the same day, GSL delivered ICGS Achal — a Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) for the Indian Coast Guard. Achal is part of the Coast Guard's coastal surveillance modernisation, reflecting the increasing overlap between naval and coast guard indigenisation under the broader Atmanirbhar Bharat framework.

## INDIA'S DEFENCE INDIGENISATION ARCHITECTURE

### The Legislative + Policy Framework

**Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020** replaced DPP 2020 and is the primary framework for defence procurement. It mandates escalating indigenisation across categories:

CATEGORY	MINIMUM INDIGENOUS CONTENT
Buy (Indian–IDDM)	50% (design + development in India)
Buy (Indian)	50%
Buy & Make (Indian)	50%
Buy (Global–MII)	50% (manufactured in India)
Buy (Global)	No minimum

NGOPVs qualify under **Buy (Indian–IDDM)** — designed and developed indigenously. The 76% indigenous content exceeds the DAP minimum.

### Positive Indigenisation Lists (PILs)

MoD has issued four Positive Indigenisation Lists (PIL I–IV) banning import of increasingly sophisticated defence items — forcing domestic industry to supply them. PIL IV (2024) added 98 items including certain ship systems, aerospace components, and missile sub-systems.

**Ships and systems now mandated domestic:** Diesel engines, marine gearboxes, radar systems, combat management software, fire control systems — all components that NGOPVs will source indigenously.

### Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)

The NGOPV programme involves two of India’s eight DPSUs:

#### GSL (Goa Shipyard Limited):

- Speciality: offshore patrol vessels, survey ships, fast patrol vessels
- Recent delivery: INS Sujata (survey vessel), ICGS ships

#### GRSE (Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Kolkata):

- Speciality: frigates, corvettes, ASW craft, landing ships
- Key deliveries: Project 17A frigates (INS Taragiri, INS Dunagiri), INS Agray (ASW craft)

## INDIA'S NAVAL SHIPBUILDING ECOSYSTEM — CURRENT STATUS

### Active Programmes (2026)

PROGRAMME	VESSELS	SHIPYARD	STATUS
P17A Frigates	7	GRSE + Mazagaon Dock (MDL)	4 delivered; 3 under construction
NGOPV	11	GSL + GRSE	INS Shachi launched; under construction
Aircraft Carrier (IAC-2)	1	Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)	Design stage
Submarines (P75I)	6	TBD	Procurement ongoing
INS Vikrant (IAC-1)	1	CSL	Commissioned September 2022

### The Blue Water Ambition

India's naval strategy — captured in documents like the **Indian Maritime Security Strategy (2015)** and successive naval doctrine — aims for a genuine blue-water capability: power projection beyond the Indian Ocean, in line with India's role as the **Net Security Provider** of the Indo-Pacific (articulated since PM Manmohan Singh, 2005, and continued under PM Modi).

NGOPVs are not blue-water platforms — they are the **enabling layer** that frees frigates and destroyers for high-end missions by handling routine maritime security tasks.

**UPSC RELEVANCE**

NGOPV; INS Shachi; GSL; GRSE; ₹9,781 crore contract; 76% indigenous content; DAP 2020; PIL IV; INS Vikrant.

**MAINS GS-3:**

“Critically evaluate India’s Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 in accelerating defence indigenisation. What structural barriers remain?”

**MAINS GS-2 (IR):**

“India as Net Security Provider in the Indo-Pacific — assess the gap between doctrine and capability.”

**INTERVIEW:**

“India is building its own aircraft carrier but still imports jet engines. Where should India focus its defence R&D investment?”

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### INS SHACHI / NGOPV PROGRAMME:

Yard: 1280; first of 11 NGOPVs; launched March 31, 2026

Shipyards: GSL (6 vessels) + GRSE (5 vessels) — concurrent

Contract: ₹9,781 crore; Ministry of Defence–GSL–GRSE; signed March 2023

Specs: 110m length; 2,900 tonnes; 25+ knots; 8,500 nm range; 15-tonne helicopter deck

Indigenous content: ~76%

Launch ceremony: Mrs Shagun Sobti; VAdm Tarun Sobti (DCNS) presided

### INDIA'S DEFENCE PSUS (8 TOTAL):

HAL (aircraft), MDL (submarines/destroyers), GRSE (frigates/OPVs), GSL (OPVs/FPVs), BEL (electronics), BDL (missiles), OFB (now DPSUs), BEML (vehicles)

All under Ministry of Defence

### KEY NAVAL MILESTONES (2022-2026):

INS Vikrant (IAC-1): commissioned September 2022 (CSL, Kochi); India's first domestic aircraft carrier; 45,000 tonnes; 30+ aircraft

INS Dunagiri (P17A): delivered March 2026 (GRSE)

INS Agray (ASW craft): delivered March 2026 (GRSE)

INS Shachi (NGOPV): launched March 2026 (GSL)

### DEFENCE INDIGENISATION TARGETS:

DAP 2020: mandatory minimum 50% indigenous content for Indian-category procurements

MoD target: 70% of defence procurement from domestic sources by 2027

Defence exports: ₹21,083 crore (FY 2023-24) — up from ₹686 crore in 2013-14

### INDIA'S MARITIME DOMAIN:

Coastline: 7,516 km

EEZ: ~2.37 million sq km

Island territories: 1,382 islands (Andaman & Nicobar + Lakshadweep)

Key choke points monitored: Strait of Malacca, 10-degree Channel, Six-degree Channel

### OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

ICGS Achal: Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV); delivered to Indian Coast Guard by GSL (same day as Shachi launch)

Indian Coast Guard: established 1978; under MHA; 156+ ships, 60+ aircraft

Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL, Mumbai): builds Scorpene submarines (P75) and destroyers

iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence): launched 2018; defence startup challenge programme

Sources: [Ministry of Defence](#), [PIB](#), [IDRW](#), [GKToday](#)

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