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INS Malvan and India Anti-Submarine Shallow Water Fleet

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INS Malvan and India Anti-Submarine Shallow Water Fleet

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✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

On , the **Indian Navy** commissioned **INS Malvan**, the **second Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)**, at **Karwar** in **Karnataka**. It is the **first ship ever commissioned at Karwar**, home to the Navy's expanding western base under *Project Seabird*. The ship carries **over 80 per cent indigenous content** and reflects the Government of India's firm commitment to **Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliance)** in defence shipbuilding.

A PURPOSE-BUILT COASTAL DEFENDER

INS Malvan is designed for the demanding conditions of **shallow, littoral (near-coast) waters**, where large warships cannot operate effectively but where enemy submarines can hide. These craft form a critical layer of India's **coastal and littoral security** shield.

The ship was built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)**, a public-sector shipbuilder, underscoring the strength of India's **indigenous naval design and shipbuilding ecosystem**.

Ship Profile

FEATURE	DETAIL
Name	INS Malvan
Class	Mahe-class ASW-SWC
Position in class	2nd of 8 Mahe-class vessels
Builder	Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)
Commissioned	July 22, 2026
Commissioning venue	Karwar, Karnataka (a first)
Indigenous content	over 80 per cent
Named after	Malvan, Maharashtra

ROLES AND CAPABILITIES

The Mahe-class craft are multi-mission platforms tailored for operations close to the coast. INS Malvan's primary roles include:

- **Underwater surveillance** in coastal waters
- **Anti-submarine warfare (ASW)** to detect and neutralise submarines near the shore
- **Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO)**
- **Mine warfare** duties

The vessel is fitted with an **Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS)**, which allows centralised, automated control and monitoring of the ship's machinery and systems, improving efficiency and reducing crew workload.

STRATEGIC AND NAMING SIGNIFICANCE

The ship is named after **Malvan**, a coastal town in **Maharashtra** associated with the maritime legacy of **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**, whose Maratha navy pioneered India's coastal defence traditions. The naming links a modern, indigenous platform to India's own seafaring heritage.

Where the Mahe Class Fits

PROGRAMME DETAIL	FIGURE
Mahe-class vessels planned	8
Total ASW-SWC programme (planned)	16 craft
Lead ship of class	INS Mahe
Indigenous content target	over 80 per cent

The Mahe class is part of a larger plan of **16 Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft**, built to progressively replace older platforms and to counter the growing presence of foreign submarines in the Indian Ocean Region. Commissioning INS Malvan at Karwar signals the maturing of the western naval base and reinforces India's ability to secure its long coastline through home-built platforms.

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 3: Security, defence, indigenisation of defence technology, and India's naval modernisation.

Prelims pointers:

- **INS Malvan** is the **2nd Mahe-class ASW-SWC**, commissioned **July 22, 2026** at **Karwar**, the first commissioning there.
- Built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** with over **80 per cent** indigenous content.
- Part of a class of **8** Mahe-class vessels within a planned **16** ASW-SWC programme.
- Roles: **underwater surveillance, ASW, Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO), mine warfare**; fitted with an **Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS)**.
- Named after **Malvan, Maharashtra**, linked to Chhatrapati Shivaji's maritime legacy.

★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA

ASW-SWC stands for Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, designed to hunt submarines in coastal, shallow waters where larger warships cannot manoeuvre easily.

Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) is a major Indian public-sector shipbuilder that also built the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant.

Karwar in Karnataka hosts INS Kadamba, developed under Project Seabird, India's largest naval infrastructure project on the west coast.

LIMO (Low Intensity Maritime Operations) cover tasks like coastal patrol, anti-infiltration, and protection of maritime assets short of full-scale conflict.

The Government of India's Atmanirbhar Bharat push in defence aims to raise domestic content and reduce reliance on imported military platforms.

Sources: PIB, Ministry of Defence and Indian Navy

Source: INS Malvan and India Anti-Submarine Shallow Water Fleet — Ujjayi.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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