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Machilipatnam Joins the Fleet: India's Shallow-Water Submarine Hunters Near Completion

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SECURITY & DEFENCE ·**GS3**

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Machilipatnam Joins the Fleet: India's Shallow-Water Submarine Hunters Near Completion

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✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

Cochin Shipyard Limited launched Machilipatnam, the seventh of eight Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) being built for the Indian Navy, on July 29, 2026, named after the historic Andhra Pradesh port city.

THE VESSEL, IN NUMBERS

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Class	Mahe-class , Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)
Sequence	7th of 8 vessels in the class
Length	78 metres
Indigenous content	Over 80 per cent
Builder	Cochin Shipyard Limited
Launched	29 July 2026
Named after	Machilipatnam , a historic port town in Andhra Pradesh

WHAT AN ASW SHALLOW WATER CRAFT DOES

Anti-submarine warfare capability is typically associated with large frigates, destroyers and dedicated ASW corvettes operating in deep water. The Mahe-class fills a distinct and often underappreciated niche: detecting and countering submarine and mine threats in the shallow coastal and littoral waters where larger, deeper-draft vessels cannot effectively operate, precisely the waters through which much of India's coastal shipping, fishing traffic and port approaches pass.

CAPABILITY	WHY IT MATTERS
Coastal ASW detection	Uses indigenous sonar systems suited to complex, noisy shallow-water acoustic conditions
Mine-warfare support	Shallow-water craft are better suited than deep-draft vessels to detect and respond to sea mines near ports and coastal choke points
Littoral security	Fills the operational gap between deep-water fleet assets and near-shore coast guard patrol craft

THE INDIGENISATION STORY

The Mahe-class programme is a direct output of India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat push in defence shipbuilding, with the class built substantially at Indian shipyards using indigenous design and a high proportion of indigenous systems and sub-systems, including the sonar suite central to its ASW role. Each vessel completed and commissioned reduces India's historical reliance on imported shallow-water ASW platforms and builds sustained order-book capacity at domestic shipyards like Cochin Shipyard, which is also a listed public-sector enterprise central to India's broader shipbuilding ambitions.

MARKER	SIGNIFICANCE
Over 80 per cent indigenous content	Places the platform well within India's defence-indigenisation targets for naval shipbuilding
Sonar suite built indigenously	ASW's core sensor capability, historically import-dependent, now substantially domestic
Sustained shipyard order book	An 8-vessel class provides Cochin Shipyard predictable, multi-year production continuity, supporting skilled-workforce retention

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 3: Science and technology, indigenisation of technology; developing new technology; achievements of Indians in science and technology; Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence.

Prelims pointers:

- **Mahe-class:** Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC); Machilipatnam is the **7th of 8** vessels.
- Built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited**; over **80 per cent indigenous content**.
- Named after **Machilipatnam**, Andhra Pradesh, a historic port town.

★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA

THE VESSEL:

INS Machilipatnam, launched 29 July 2026, Cochin Shipyard Limited.

7th of 8 Mahe-class ASW Shallow Water Craft; 78 metres; over 80 per cent indigenous content.

Named after the historic Andhra Pradesh port town of Machilipatnam.

WHY THE CLASS MATTERS:

Fills the shallow-water ASW/mine-warfare gap between deep-water fleet assets and coastal patrol craft.

Indigenous sonar suite reduces import dependence for ASW's core sensor system.

Sources: Indian Navy, Cochin Shipyard Limited, Ministry of Defence

Source: Machilipatnam Joins the Fleet: India's Shallow-Water Submarine Hunters Near Completion — Ujjyari.com

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