MARINE Warriors
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Indian Navy to Induct 30+ Warships by 2027, Set to Cross 165-Vessel Fleet Strength

Heightened productivity across India's major shipyards, including MDL, GRSE, GSL, CSL, and several rising private-sector facilities, now form an integral part of India's defence manufacturing ecosystem

The Indian Navy is poised for one of its most significant expansion phases in decades, with more than 36 new warships and auxiliary vessels scheduled for induction by December 2027.

This sweeping modernisation effort, anchored in the Government of India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, is expected to push the Navy's overall force level beyond 165 combat and support vessels, placing India firmly among the world's leading maritime powers and strengthening its influence across the Indo-Pacific.

Vice Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan recently confirmed that 19 warships are slated for induction in 2026, followed by another 13 in 2027. These two years will mark the peak of India's indigenous shipbuilding momentum, complementing the ongoing deliveries in 2025. By October 2025 alone, the Navy had already commissioned ten vessels, with four more expected before the year ends.

These achievements reflect the heightened productivity across India's major shipyards, including Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Cochin Shipyard Limited, Goa Shipyard Limited, and several rising private-sector facilities that now form an integral part of India's defence manufacturing ecosystem.

Several categories of warships are in various stages of construction or sea trials as part of the ambitious delivery programme through 2027. A key component of this growth is the induction of Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (SWC), entrusted to both CSL and GRSE.

These compact but highly capable vessels will expand the Navy's capacity to detect and neutralise hostile submarines in shallow waters, an operational requirement that has grown more urgent amid increasing Chinese submarine traffic in the Indian Ocean Region.

INS Mahe, the first SWC delivered by Cochin Shipyard, has already entered service, with multiple follow-on vessels lined up for handover between 2025 and 2027.

Their role in strengthening India's coastal defence architecture and base protection grid is expected to be significant as maritime threats in the region evolve.

Among the Navy's most sophisticated upcoming platforms are the seven stealth frigates under Project 17A, being built at MDL and GRSE. These multi-role ships represent a substantial technological leap in India's warship-building capability.

The P17A frigates incorporate advanced stealth design, superior automation, long-range BrahMos strike capability, multi-layered air defence systems, and high-end anti-submarine warfare suites.

Construction on all seven vessels is at an advanced stage, with the remaining ships scheduled for induction between 2026 and 2027. Their entry into service will significantly enhance the Navy's ability to undertake blue-water operations, protect carrier battle groups, and maintain sea control in the wider Indo-Pacific.

Complementing the combat-focused vessels are two indigenous Diving Support Vessels being built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited. These ships, expected to be fully operational by 2026, will enable deep-sea diving operations, submarine rescue missions, underwater repairs, and deployment of specialist submersibles.

With India increasing its submarine fleet in the coming decade, the development of robust underwater rescue and support infrastructure has become a strategic necessity. The DSVs will fill this critical capability gap.

Alongside these, the Navy is progressing with the Survey Vessels Large (SVL) project, awarded to GRSE, the third of which was commissioned as INS Ikshak recently. These modern hydrographic survey platforms are designed to conduct complex ocean mapping, seabed profiling, and deep-water survey missions using advanced sensors and autonomous underwater vehicles.

With two ships of the class already undergoing trials and additional vessels nearing completion, the Navy expects at least three SVLs to join service by 2027. Their deployment will modernise India's hydrographic operations and support both naval missions and national maritime development initiatives.

AS THE INDO-PACIFIC BECOMES THE WORLD'S FOREMOST GEOPOLITICAL ARENA, THE INDIAN NAVY'S ENHANCED FLEET WILL ENABLE IT TO SECURE VITAL SEA LANES, SAFEGUARD NATIONAL INTERESTS, COUNTER CHINESE NAVAL EXPANSION, SUPPORT REGIONAL PARTNERS, AND PROJECT POWER ACROSS THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION

Another major future addition is the Next Generation Missile Vessel (NGMV) programme. These fast, heavily armed missile combatants are intended to replace older missile corvettes and strengthen India's sea-denial and coastal strike capabilities.

The first NGMVs are likely to be inducted by 2027, marking a new phase in India's surface warfare readiness, as these platforms will come equipped with supersonic BrahMos missiles and advanced air defence systems.

The Navy will also bolster its coastal security grid and Exclusive Economic Zone monitoring through the induction of multiple Offshore Patrol Vessels and Fast Patrol Vessels currently being built at CSL, GSL, and private shipyards.

These ships are intended for missions such as anti-smuggling operations, piracy deterrence, maritime surveillance, intelligence gathering, and humanitarian assistance. Several FPVs have already been delivered in 2025, with more expected in the following two years.

Auxiliary and logistics vessels form another significant component of the expansion plan. Fleet tankers, multi-purpose support ships, high-speed interceptor craft, tugs, and other harbour support vessels will continue to be inducted through 2027, substantially improving the Navy's operational endurance and mobility across the Indo-Pacific.

These platforms are crucial for sustaining long-duration deployments, enabling the Indian Navy to maintain a persistent presence in key maritime chokepoints, island territories, and distant waters.

The year 2026 is expected to be the single biggest year for naval inductions in recent history. With nineteen ships scheduled for delivery, it marks a peak in domestic shipbuilding output and reflects the maturity of India's naval production ecosystem.

This surge includes major frontline combatants, next-generation corvettes, ASW vessels, survey ships, diving support platforms, and a variety of auxiliary craft.

The momentum will continue into 2027, when thirteen additional ships, including the final Project 17A frigates and the initial Next Generation Missile Vessels, will enter service.

With these additions, the Indian Navy's fleet strength will rise to around 167 ships by December 2027, up from approximately 135 ships at the end of 2025.

This expansion aligns with the Navy's long-term objective of achieving a 175-ship force by 2035, a target that includes both combat vessels and essential support platforms.

Achieving this goal depends on the steady progress of over 60 ships currently under construction in Indian shipyards, a figure unmatched in India's naval history.

The scale of this effort underscores India's confidence in indigenous shipbuilding capabilities and signals a future in which India is self-reliant not only in small and medium naval platforms but increasingly in large capital warships as well.

As the Indo-Pacific becomes the world's foremost geopolitical arena, the Indian Navy's enhanced fleet will enable it to secure vital sea lanes, safeguard national interests, counter Chinese naval expansion, support regional partners, and project power across the Indian Ocean Region.

The addition of 36 ships by 2027 represents more than numerical growth; it marks the emergence of a more modern, capable, and versatile Indian Navy ready for the strategic demands of the coming decades.