Naval shipbuilding projects launched at Visakhapatnam

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News

On **6 October 2026**, at one event at **HSL**, Visakhapatnam, Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** launched Surya (FSS-1), **laid the keel of the fifth Fleet Support Ship (FSS-5)**, and opened the upgraded **Slipway-4** and a new **300-tonne Goliath crane**. 'When all of these take place at the same location, on the same occasion, their importance increases even more,' he said.

Key facts

Keel laying	**FSS-5**, the formal start of the ship's construction
Slipway-4	Lengthened and strengthened to build and launch ships up to **45,000 DWT**
Goliath crane	**300-tonne** lift, joins large ship blocks in one go
Present	Chief of the Naval Staff **Admiral Krishna Swaminathan**, Andhra Pradesh Minister Janardhan Reddy
Message	Navy, HSL, DRDO, academia, industry, MSMEs and start-ups must work as one team

Background

- **Stages of shipbuilding:** design → steel cutting → **keel laying** → **launch** → sea trials → delivery → **commissioning**.

- **DWT (deadweight tonnage)** is the total weight a ship can carry (fuel, cargo, water); **displacement** is the ship's total weight.
- **Naval commands:** Western – **Mumbai**, Eastern – **Visakhapatnam**, Southern – **Kochi** (training). The Andaman and Nicobar Command is India's only tri-service command.
- **Shipbuilding goals:** 'Maritime India Vision 2030' and 'Amrit Kaal Maritime Vision 2047' aim to put India among the world's top 10 shipbuilders.

Tamil Nadu link: The **Coast Guard's Eastern Region HQ is in Chennai**. The **L&T shipyard at Kattupalli** is near Chennai, and the State plans a shipbuilding cluster at **Thoothukudi**.

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