'Amini', fifth anti-submarine shallow water craft, delivered to the Navy at Kattupalli, Tamil Nadu

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News

'Amini', an Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, was delivered to the Indian Navy at Kattupalli, Tamil Nadu, on 5 November 2026. Rear Admiral Gautam Marwaha, Chief Staff Officer (Technical), Eastern Naval Command, accepted the vessel. It is the fifth of eight ASW SWCs being built by GRSE, and GRSE's 119th warship (81st for the Navy). About 77.6 m long with a draught of about 2.7 m, it runs on diesel engines coupled to waterjets. It carries lightweight torpedoes, indigenous ASW rockets, sonars, a combat management system and a GRSE-made 30 mm naval surface gun, and can also lay mines. It has over 80% indigenous content and is named after Amini Island in Lakshadweep. It revives the name of the earlier INS Amini, a Petya-class anti-submarine corvette decommissioned in 2002.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Vessel	Amini – ASW Shallow Water Craft (Arnala class)
Builder	GRSE, Kolkata (Navratna DPSU)
Delivered	5 November 2026, Kattupalli (Tiruvallur district)
Series	5th of GRSE's 8; 16 in all (8 GRSE + 8 CSL)

Point	Details
Size	Length ~77.6 m; draught ~2.7 m
Weapons	Lightweight torpedoes, ASW rockets, 30 mm gun, sonars
Indigenous content	Over 80%
Contract	29 April 2019 (GRSE); replaces Abhay-class corvettes
Launched	16 November 2023, L&T Kattupalli

Background

- Defence: ASW SWCs are built to detect and attack submarines in shallow coastal waters, and for coastal surveillance, search and rescue and mine-laying. In 2019 contracts were signed for 16 craft – 8 with GRSE and 8 with Cochin Shipyard (CSL). Hull construction and part-outfitting of 4 of GRSE's 8 were subcontracted to L&T Shipbuilding; Amini is one of them.
- The first of the class, INS Arnala, was commissioned at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam, on 18 June 2025 in the presence of CDS Gen Anil Chauhan. It is named after the historic Arnala sea fort off the Maharashtra coast. These are the largest Indian naval warships driven by a diesel engine–waterjet combination.
- Geography: Lakshadweep is a Union Territory of coral islands in the Arabian Sea (capital Kavaratti). The Amindivi group (Amini, Kadmat, Kiltan, Chetlat, Bitra) is in the north, the Laccadives in the middle and Minicoy in the south. The Nine Degree Channel separates Minicoy from the other islands and the Eight Degree Channel separates Minicoy from the Maldives. Many Navy ships are named after these islands.
- Science: Because radio and other electromagnetic waves are quickly absorbed in water, submarines are detected by SONAR (Sound Navigation and Ranging), which uses echoes of sound (ultrasonic) waves. Bats and dolphins use the same principle of echolocation.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu: Amini was launched on 16 November 2023 at L&T's shipyard at Kattupalli in Tiruvallur district (near Ennore–Pulicat), and was also handed over at Kattupalli. This highlights Tamil Nadu's role in defence manufacturing alongside the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor (Chennai, Hosur, Coimbatore, Salem, Tiruchirappalli).

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

'Amini', an Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, was delivered to the Indian Navy at Kattupalli, Tamil Nadu, on 5 November 2026.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Vessel: Amini – ASW Shallow Water Craft (Arnala class); Builder: GRSE, Kolkata (Navratna DPSU); Delivered: 5 November 2026, Kattupalli (Tiruvallur district); Series: 5th of GRSE's 8; 16 in all (8 GRSE + 8 CSL).

What is the background to this news?

Defence: ASW SWCs are built to detect and attack submarines in shallow coastal waters, and for coastal surveillance, search and rescue and mine-laying.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which shipyard designed the anti-submarine shallow water craft 'Amini' and delivered it to the Navy?

A) MDL, Mumbai

B) CSL, Kochi

C) GSL, Goa

D) GRSE, Kolkata

Answer: D – Explanation: GRSE – a Navratna DPSU; Amini is its 119th warship. The other 8 craft of this type are being built by Cochin Shipyard (CSL).

2. Which channel separates Minicoy island from the rest of Lakshadweep?

A) Ten Degree Channel

B) Nine Degree Channel

C) Eight Degree Channel

D) Palk Strait

Answer: B – Explanation: Nine Degree Channel. Eight Degree – Minicoy/Maldives; Ten Degree – Andaman/Nicobar. Amini lies in the northern Amindivi group.

3. Kattupalli shipyard, where Amini was handed over, is in which Tamil Nadu district?

A) Chengalpattu

B) Kancheepuram

C) Tiruvallur

D) Thoothukudi

Answer: C – Explanation: Tiruvallur district (near Ennore–Pulicat); L&T's shipyard. Amini was launched here on 16 November 2023.

4. SONAR, used by ships to detect submarines, works with which waves?

A) Radio waves

B) Microwaves

C) Infrared rays

D) Sound (ultrasonic) waves

Answer: D – Explanation: Sound Navigation and Ranging. Electromagnetic waves are quickly absorbed in water, so sound echoes are used; bats and dolphins use the same principle.

5. INS Arnala, the first ASW shallow water craft, is named after a fort on which State's coast?

A) Goa

B) Gujarat

C) Maharashtra

D) Karnataka

Answer: C – Explanation: Arnala fort – Maharashtra (near Vasai). INS Arnala was commissioned at Visakhapatnam on 18 June 2025.

Sources: News On AIR; ThePrint (PTI); Swarajya; Maritime Gateway; Devdiscourse (PTI); PIB (Arnala, 18.06.2025, mirror). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.