GRSE delivers anti-submarine shallow water craft 'Ashank' to Navy

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News

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata delivered 'Ashank', an Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), to the Indian Navy on 23 Nov 2026; Rear Admiral Gautam Marwaha, Chief Staff Officer (Technical), Eastern Naval Command, accepted it. It is the sixth of eight Arnala-class craft being built by GRSE and GRSE's 120th warship (82 of them for the Navy). With nearly 88% indigenous content and a GRSE-made 30 mm naval gun, it is meant for coastal anti-submarine operations and for guarding ports and harbour approaches, and can carry torpedoes, anti-submarine rockets and mines.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Type	Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft
Builder	GRSE, Kolkata (a Defence PSU)
Delivered	23 Nov 2026 (sixth of GRSE's eight Arnala-class craft; the fifth, Amini, on 5 Nov)
Programme	16 craft: 8 by GRSE, 8 by Cochin Shipyard (CSL)
Replaces	Ageing Soviet-origin Abhay-class corvettes

Point	Details
Indigenous content	Nearly 88%
Size	Length 77.6 m

Background

- Contracts for the 16 ASW-SWCs were signed in 2019 (eight each with GRSE and Cochin Shipyard). The first of the class, INS Arnala, was commissioned at Visakhapatnam on 18 June 2025. The craft use water-jet propulsion, suited to shallow waters.
- The Eastern Naval Command is headquartered at Visakhapatnam. Navy Day (4 December) marks Operation Trident (1971), the attack on Karachi harbour.

Tamil Nadu link: Larsen & Toubro's Kattupalli shipyard near Chennai builds ships for the Navy and Coast Guard, and Chennai hosts the Coast Guard's Eastern Region headquarters.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Type: Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft; Builder: GRSE, Kolkata (a Defence PSU); Delivered: 23 Nov 2026 (sixth of GRSE's eight Arnala-class craft; the fifth, Amini, on 5 Nov); Programme: 16 craft: 8 by GRSE, 8 by Cochin Shipyard (CSL).

What is the background to this news?

Contracts for the 16 ASW-SWCs were signed in 2019 (eight each with GRSE and Cochin Shipyard). The first of the class, INS Arnala, was commissioned at Visakhapatnam on 18 June 2025.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which shipyard built and delivered 'Ashank' to the Indian Navy?

A) Hindustan Shipyard, Visakhapatnam

B) GRSE, Kolkata

C) Cochin Shipyard

D) Mazagon Dock, Mumbai

Answer: B – Explanation: Ashank is GRSE's 120th warship; of the 16 ASW-SWCs, GRSE builds 8 and Cochin Shipyard 8.

2. 'Ashank' belongs to which category of warship?

A) Scorpene submarine

B) Fleet support ship

C) Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft

D) Guided-missile destroyer

Answer: C – Explanation: It hunts submarines in shallow coastal waters, does surveillance and lays mines; it replaces the old Abhay-class corvettes.

3. Which was the first ship of this class, commissioned in June 2025?

A) INS Nilgiri

B) INS Vikrant

C) INS Vagsheer

D) INS Arnala

Answer: D – Explanation: INS Arnala was commissioned at Visakhapatnam on 18 June 2025; Ashank is the sixth of the class built by GRSE.

4. Navy Day (4 December) commemorates which operation?

A) Operation Vijay (1961)

B) Operation Cactus (1988)

C) Operation Trident (1971)

D) Operation Meghdoot (1984)

Answer: C – Explanation: In the 1971 war the Indian Navy struck Karachi harbour in Operation Trident.

5. Where is the headquarters of the Indian Navy's Eastern Naval Command?

A) Port Blair

B) Visakhapatnam

C) Chennai

D) Kolkata

Answer: B – Explanation: Western Command is at Mumbai and Southern at Kochi; Ashank was accepted by the Eastern Naval Command's Chief Staff Officer (Technical).