

INDIAN NAVY **MONTHLY**

# NEWSLETTER

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# INTRODUCTION

August 2026 marked a month of significant capability enhancement, maritime cooperation and professional excellence for the Indian Navy. The commissioning of INS Nipun, the second Nistar-class Diving Support Vessel, together with the delivery of 'Mangrol' and 'Samarthak', strengthened the Navy's specialised and multi-mission capabilities. The launch of the Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Shruti' and the fifth Diving Support Craft further demonstrated progress in indigenous naval shipbuilding.

Maritime partnerships and operational preparedness remained central to the month's engagements. Bilateral interactions and professional exchanges with partner nations reinforced cooperation and interoperability. INS Sudarshini's port calls in Portugal during Lokayan 2026 strengthened maritime ties, while the Chief of the Naval Staff undertook a four-day official visit to Mauritius. The IN–USN Explosive Ordnance Disposal Exercise enhanced operational synergy and facilitated the exchange of expertise. The Indian Navy also mounted a rapid search-and-rescue response for MV Ocean Winner in the Bay of Bengal. Vice Admiral Manish Chadha assumed charge as Director General Naval Operations, while Vice Admiral Vivek Dahiya assumed charge as Director General Project Seabird. Gallantry awards and notable sporting achievements brought further distinction to Indian Navy personnel.



# GALLANTRY AWARDS CONFERRED ON INDIAN NAVY PERSONNEL ON THE EVE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

President Smt Droupadi Murmu approved gallantry awards for Indian Navy personnel on the eve of Independence Day 2026. Lieutenant Commander Shivam Kumar was awarded the Shaurya Chakra, while Commander Yuvraj Kumar, Commander Vineet Sharma and C Avinash Annaso, POA (FD), received the Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry). Commander Nikhil Chugh, Lieutenant Ajay Jose N Joseph, Abhishek Dhanawade, SEA I (CD) and Ashwin Santhosh, AVR SEA (CD), were Mentioned in Despatches. The awards recognised acts of gallantry and bravery by the personnel.




# CHIEF OF THE NAVAL STAFF VISITED MAURITIUS TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL MARITIME COOPERATION



Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Chief of the Naval Staff, undertook a four-day official visit to Mauritius from 10 to 13 Aug 2026 to strengthen bilateral maritime cooperation and defence ties. During the visit, the CNS called on Prime Minister Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam and interacted with senior officials, including the Commissioner of Police and the Secretary for Home and Defence Affairs. Discussions focused on maritime-security cooperation, capacity building, training and information exchange, joint Exclusive Economic Zone surveillance and the enhancement of operational linkages. The CNS also reaffirmed the Indian Navy's continued support for the capability enhancement and capacity-building efforts of the Mauritius National Coast Guard and the Mauritius Police Force.

# INS SUDARSHINI CONCLUDED THREE-DAY PORT CALL AT LISBON DURING LOKAYAN 2026

INS Sudarshini, the Indian Navy's sail training ship, concluded her three-day port call at Lisbon, Portugal, on 25 Aug 2026 as part of Lokayan 2026. During the visit, the Commanding Officer interacted with the senior leadership of the Portuguese Navy, while Indian Navy trainees visited the Portuguese Naval Academy and engaged with their Portuguese counterparts. A deck reception was also hosted on board for senior Portuguese military officials, diplomats and members of the Indian diaspora. Earlier, INS Sudarshini had visited Ponta Delgada, where she celebrated India's 80th Independence Day. The port calls reinforced maritime cooperation and camaraderie between India and Portugal.



# INS NIPUN COMMISSIONED INTO THE INDIAN NAVY




Indian Navy commissioned INS Nipun, the second indigenously designed and constructed Diving Support Vessel (DSV), at Mumbai on 31 Aug 2026. The ceremony was presided over by Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Chief of the Naval Staff, in the presence of Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command. The vessel's induction significantly enhances the Navy's specialist diving, salvage and submarine rescue support capabilities. Built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), INS Nipun marks another milestone in indigenous shipbuilding and strengthens the Indian Navy's specialised maritime capabilities.

# ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE SHALLOW WATER CRAFT 'MANGROL' DELIVERED TO THE INDIAN NAVY

'Mangrol', the third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft built by Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi, was delivered to the Indian Navy on 21 Aug 2026. The ship features over 80 per cent indigenous content and is equipped to undertake underwater surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare operations in coastal waters, Low-Intensity Maritime Operations and mine-warfare missions. Propelled by waterjets, the ship is fitted with torpedoes, anti-submarine rockets, advanced radars and sonars. Named after the coastal town and minor port of Mangrol in Gujarat, the ship also carries forward the legacy of the erstwhile INS Mangrol, which served until 2004.



# MULTI-PURPOSE VESSEL 'SAMARTHAK' DELIVERED TO THE INDIAN NAVY



'Samarthak', the first Multi-Purpose Vessel of the Indian Navy, was delivered on 27 Aug 2026 by Larsen & Toubro Limited, Kattupalli. Featuring over 75 per cent indigenous content, the vessel is conceived as a versatile trial and evaluation platform. It is also designed to undertake maritime surveillance and reconnaissance, offshore patrolling, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operations, when required. The name 'Samarthak', meaning 'The Proponent', signifies the vessel's role as a dependable enabler for multiple missions. Its delivery has further advanced the Indian Navy's indigenous shipbuilding efforts.

# NEXT GENERATION OFFSHORE PATROL VESSEL 'SHRUTI' LAUNCHED

Yard 3037, named 'Shruti', a Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel, was launched at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata, on 11 Aug 2026 by Mrs Manika Sadhu, in the presence of Vice Admiral Sanjay Sadhu, Controller of Warship Production and Acquisition. Vessels of the class are being constructed concurrently at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata, and Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa. Indigenously designed and built, the vessels are intended to augment Navy's offshore patrol fleet and undertake maritime surveillance, search and rescue, protection of offshore assets, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, and anti-piracy operations.



# FIFTH SHIP OF THE DIVING SUPPORT CRAFT PROJECT LAUNCHED




DSC A24, the fifth and final ship of the five-ship Diving Support Craft Project, was launched at Titagarh, Kolkata, on 01 Aug 2026 by Mrs Kamal Singh, in the presence of Vice Admiral Gurcharan Singh, Chief of Personnel. Constructed by Titagarh Rail Systems Limited, Kolkata, the craft features a catamaran hull form and a displacement of approximately 300–400 tonnes, providing enhanced stability, deck area and sea-keeping characteristics for diving operations. The craft is designed to augment Navy's diving support, underwater inspection, salvage assistance and coastal operational capabilities.

# EIGHTH EDITION OF IN-USN EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL EXERCISE CONDUCTED AT KOCHI

The eighth edition of the IN–USN Explosive Ordnance Disposal Exercise 2026 was conducted at Southern Naval Command, Kochi, from 10 to 14 Aug 2026. The bilateral exercise featured professional interactions, exchanges of best practices and demonstrations by teams from both navies. Subject Matter Expert Exchanges covered Improvised Explosive Device threats, render-safe procedures, mine neutralisation and the employment of unmanned underwater systems. Cross-training included wreck location and salvage, the employment of specialist equipment and slithering operations. The exercise enhanced the professional competence of the diving teams and strengthened mutual understanding, interoperability and operational synergy between the two navies.




# INDIAN NAVY P-8I AIRCRAFT COORDINATED SEARCH-AND-RESCUE OPERATION FOR MV OCEAN WINNER




On 22 Aug 2026, following a distress alert concerning MV Ocean Winner, approximately 700 km east of Visakhapatnam, an Indian Navy P-8I aircraft on a surveillance sortie was rapidly redeployed for a search-and-rescue mission in coordination with the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre at Sri Vijaya Puram. The aircraft located liferafts in the search area and coordinated with the merchant tanker MT Aisopos to render assistance. By late evening, the merchant vessel had rescued two crew members from separate liferafts. The Indian Navy thereafter continued to coordinate closely with the Indian Coast Guard in the search for the remaining crew members.

# COMMANDER OF THE SRI LANKA NAVY VISITED INDIA TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL MARITIME COOPERATION

Vice Admiral Damian Fernando, Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy, undertook an official visit to India from 26 to 29 Aug 2026, his first visit since assuming charge. He was accorded a Guard of Honour at South Block, New Delhi, and laid a wreath at the National War Memorial. He held discussions with Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Chief of the Naval Staff, on maritime cooperation, including training and maritime security. In Kochi, he visited training establishments, including Headquarters FOST and INS Jamuna. He held discussions with Vice Admiral Sameer Saxena, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command, on enhancing training linkages.



# 17TH INDIAN NAVY-ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY STAFF TALKS HELD IN SYDNEY



The 17th Indian Navy–Royal Australian Navy Staff Talks were held in Sydney from 11 to 12 Aug 2026. The talks were co-chaired by Rear Admiral Sachin Reuben Sequeira, ACNS (FCI), and Rear Admiral Christopher Smith, COMAUSFLT. Discussions focused on enhancing operational interoperability, increasing the complexity of bilateral exercises and advancing cooperation in capability building and training. The engagement reaffirmed the commitment of both navies to strengthening their maritime partnership and operational linkages, and underscored the growing depth of India–Australia defence cooperation.

# REPUBLIC OF GUINEA NAVY DELEGATION VISITED INDIAN NAVY TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS AT KOCHI

A four-member delegation of the Republic of Guinea Navy visited Indian Navy training establishments at Southern Naval Command, Kochi, from 17 to 18 Aug 2026. The delegation witnessed Indian Navy's training capabilities, including damage-control and firefighting simulators and Visit, Board, Search and Seizure drills. The engagement highlighted the role of professional training in enhancing operational readiness and maritime cooperation between two navies. The visit further strengthened India–Guinea maritime engagement and Indian Navy's commitment to sharing professional expertise and training capabilities with partner nations



# THIRD INDIA-NIGERIA NAVY SUB-GROUP MEETING HELD IN NEW DELHI




The third India–Nigeria Navy Sub-Group Meeting was held in New Delhi from 18 to 20 Aug 2026. The meeting was co-chaired by Rear Admiral Sachin R Sequeira, ACNS (FCI), and Rear Admiral Anthony Victor Kujoh, Deputy Commandant, AFCSC, Nigeria. The two sides reviewed progress in bilateral naval cooperation and explored new avenues for collaboration in training, maritime security and operational engagements. The meeting reaffirmed the shared commitment of the Indian and Nigerian Navies to strengthening bilateral cooperation and promoting a safe, secure and inclusive maritime domain.

# VICE ADMIRAL MANISH CHADHA ASSUMED CHARGE AS DIRECTOR GENERAL NAVAL OPERATIONS




Vice Admiral Manish Chadha, AVSM, VSM, assumed charge as Director General Naval Operations on 03 Aug 2026. Commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 Jul 1991, he is a Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist and an alumnus of the National Defence Academy and the Defence Services Staff College. During a career spanning over 35 years, he has held key command and staff appointments, including command of CGS-05 and Indian Naval Ships Veer, Kirpan and Mysore. He served as Naval Attaché at the Embassy of India, Moscow. On promotion to Flag Rank, he tenanted the appointments of Flag Officer Commanding Gujarat Naval Area, Assistant Chief of Personnel (Administration and Civilian), Flag Officer Commanding Maharashtra Naval Area, and Assistant Chief of Personnel (Human Resource Development). On elevation to the rank of Vice Admiral, he was appointed as the Commandant, Indian Naval Academy. He was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal in 2017 and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2025.

# VICE ADMIRAL VIVEK DAHIYA ASSUMED CHARGE AS DIRECTOR GENERAL PROJECT SEABIRD



Vice Admiral Vivek Dahiya, NM, assumed charge as Director General Project Seabird on 01 Aug 2026. An alumnus of the Naval Academy, Goa, the Joint Services Command and Staff College, Shrivenham, United Kingdom, and the Naval War College, Goa, the Flag Officer has held several operational, command and staff appointments. His sea commands have included INS Karmuk and INS Chennai. He has also served as Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff (Staff Requirements) at Naval Headquarters and, immediately prior to his new appointment, as Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet at Mumbai.

# INDIAN NAVY PERSONNEL NAMED ARJUNA AWARDEES FOR 2025

Surjeet Singh, MCPO II, and Muhammed Ajmal V, CPO, of the Indian Navy have been selected for the prestigious Arjuna Award 2025 for their achievements in kabaddi and athletics, respectively. The selection recognises their outstanding sporting performances and distinguished contributions to Indian sport. Their achievements have brought distinction to the Indian Navy and the nation, and reflect the Service's continued contribution to Indian sport through athletes whose excellence and dedication have earned recognition at the national level.



# INDIAN NAVY PERSONNEL SECURED GOLD AND BRONZE AT FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP




Suraj Chand, PO, made history by becoming the first Indian to win a gold medal at the FISU World University Squash Championship in Mumbai. Om Semwal, PO, secured the bronze medal, marking a double-podium finish for Indian squash. Their performances highlighted the sporting excellence of Indian Navy personnel and added another significant achievement to India's record in squash at the international university level.

# INDIAN NAVY ATHLETES SECURED SILVER AND BRONZE AT WORLD ATHLETICS U20 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Indian Navy athletes delivered notable performances at the 2026 World Athletics U20 Championships, held at Hayward Field, Eugene, Oregon, USA, from 05 to 09 Aug 2026. Basant Kumar Meghwal, PO, won silver in the Men's High Jump with a clearance of 2.21 m, becoming the first Indian high jumper to win a medal at the World Athletics Championships across any age group. Shahnavaz Khan, PO, secured bronze in the Men's Long Jump with a leap of 7.84 m, completing a double-podium finish for India and the Indian Navy.




# NAVAL FENCERS SECURED 10 MEDALS AT COMMONWEALTH FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026



Indian Navy fencers secured ten medals—seven gold, one silver and two bronze—at the Commonwealth Fencing Championships 2026 in Lagos, Nigeria. Taniksha Khatri, CPO (PT) won two gold medals in Women's Épée, while Prachi Lohan, PO (PT) secured one gold and one bronze in Women's Épée, and one gold in the U-23 category. Sherjin RS, PO (PT) won two gold medals in Men's Épée and Karan Singh, CPO (PT) won two gold medals in Men's Sabre. Vishal Thapar, MCA (AH) won team silver in Men's Sabre, while Dev, PO COM (TEL) secured team bronze in Men's Foil.




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