INDIAN NAVY **MONTHLY**

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INTRODUCTION

October 2026 witnessed significant developments in the Indian Navy's operational engagements, capability enhancement, indigenous shipbuilding and international maritime cooperation. The commissioning of new naval platforms, launch of indigenous vessels and progress in advanced technologies reflected the Navy's continued emphasis on modernisation and self-reliance.

The month saw extensive overseas deployments and bilateral and multilateral exercises with partner navies across the Indo-Pacific, Europe and Africa. These engagements strengthened interoperability, professional cooperation and maritime partnerships. The successful completion of the Indian Navy's maiden command of Combined Task Force 154 further underscored its contribution to multinational maritime security and capacity building.

Humanitarian assistance operations in the aftermath of Cyclone Arnab, institutional engagements, infrastructure expansion and innovation initiatives, including Swavlamban 2026, highlighted the Navy's commitment to operational readiness, national service and building a combat-ready, future-ready and Aatmanirbhar maritime force.



INS TRISHUL STRENGTHENS MARITIME PARTNERSHIPS



INS Trishul undertook extensive operational engagements during its deployment to the Mediterranean, Atlantic and adjoining maritime regions. The ship participated in Exercise VARUNA 2026 with the French Navy at Toulon, involving anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare drills, live firing and helicopter operations. It subsequently participated in Exercise KONKAN-26 alongside HMS Sutherland off Plymouth, UK, strengthening tactical interoperability. Continuing its deployment, INS Trishul concluded a port call at Lisbon, Portugal, on 21 October, before arriving at Civitavecchia, Italy, on 25 October after conducting a PASSEX with Italian Navy ship Carlo Margottini.

INS SAHYADRI AND INS KULISH ADVANCE MARITIME COOPERATION IN INDO-PACIFIC



Indian Naval Ships Sahyadri and Kulish undertook operational engagements across the Indo-Pacific during October 2026. INS Sahyadri participated in bilateral Exercise INDRA 2026 with the Russian Federation Navy at Vladivostok. The exercise comprised harbour and sea phases, featuring professional exchanges, coordinated manoeuvres, communication drills and helicopter operations. Both ships participated in the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME 2026) in the Philippines under the theme 'Anchored in Trust, United at Sea'. Activities included Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, Visit-Board-Search-Seizure, replenishment, helicopter operations and casualty evacuation drills. INS Sahyadri also visited Busan, South Korea, for professional exchanges and bilateral maritime engagements with the Republic of Korea Navy. Meanwhile, INS Kulish undertook an operational turnaround in Singapore on 06 October.

INS TARKASH PARTICIPATES IN TRILATERAL EXERCISE IBSAMAR IX 2026



INS Tarkash participated in the ninth edition of the India–Brazil–South Africa Maritime Exercise (IBSAMAR IX), which concluded at Simon's Town, South Africa, on 20 October 2026. Conducted over ten days, the exercise brought together naval units from the three countries for professional exchanges, operational interactions and coordinated training across harbour and sea phases. The participating forces included surface ships, a submarine and embarked helicopters. Activities focused on improving communication, operational coordination and the exchange of best practices.

SIMBEX 2026 STRENGTHENS INDIA-SINGAPORE NAVAL INTEROPERABILITY



The 33rd edition of the Singapore–India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX 2026) was conducted at Visakhapatnam and in the Bay of Bengal from 21 to 26 October 2026. The Indian Navy participated with INS Nilgiri and INS Kamorta, alongside RSS Supreme of the Republic of Singapore Navy. The harbour phase included professional exchanges, joint planning and interactions between participating personnel. The sea phase featured advanced drills in anti-submarine, anti-air and anti-surface warfare, maritime interdiction and cross-deck flying operations.

INDIAN NAVY UNDERTAKESAKES HADR OPERATIONS IN CYCLONE ARNAB-AFFECTED ODISHA

Indian Navy responded to the flooding in Ganjam district, Odisha, by providing aerial relief to stranded communities. At the request of the district administration, Eastern Naval Command mobilised helicopters from INS Dega, pre-positioned at Bhubaneswar, to support relief efforts. With 21 villages across eight blocks affected and approximately 14,300 people stranded, naval helicopters conducted multiple sorties within a 35-nautical-mile radius of Gopalpur. A Sea King and an Advanced Light Helicopter delivered approximately 1,800 kg of relief supplies, comprising food and drinking water, to Sara Bhimpur village. The operations demonstrated Indian Navy's rapid response capability and close coordination with civil authorities.



FIRST TRAINING SQUADRON STRENGTHENS REGIONAL NAVAL ENGAGEMENTS



The First Training Squadron, comprising INS Tir, INS Sujata and Indian Coast Guard Ship Sarathi, undertook training deployments to Seychelles, Maldives and Sri Lanka during October 2026. In Seychelles, engagements included cross-training, firefighting, small-arms training, and a Passage Exercise with Seychelles Coast Guard Ship Andromache. In the Maldives, the squadron interacted with the Maldives National Defence Force and conducted a PASSEX with Maldives Coast Guard Ship Imaduddin. At Colombo, activities included mutual ship visits, professional exchanges and training interactions with the Sri Lanka Navy.

INDIAN NAVY COMPLETES MAIDEN COMMAND OF COMBINED TASK FORCE 154



The Indian Navy successfully completed its maiden command of Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154) of the Combined Maritime Forces, with the formal handover in Manama, Bahrain, on 14 October 2026. During its eight-month tenure, the Indian Navy-led task force conducted 20 Staff Enhancement Training engagements, two major multinational exercises and the inaugural Subject Matter Expert Exchange on Piracy and Armed Robbery (SPAR 2026). These activities generated over 7,800 training hours, with participation by personnel from 39 countries. The tenure also included Operation Southern Readiness 26-2, hosted at Kochi, reinforcing India's leadership in multinational maritime training, capacity building and cooperative maritime security.

INDIAN NAVY HOSTS INAUGURAL BIMSTEC MARITIME SECURITY EXERCISE



The Indian Navy hosted the inaugural BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise at Sri Vijaya Puram, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, commencing on 30 October 2026. Conducted from 30 October to 03 November, the exercise brought together seven BIMSTEC member nations — Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand — to strengthen regional maritime cooperation. The exercise comprised harbour and sea phases, focusing on professional exchanges, maritime domain awareness, operational coordination and interoperability. Participating ships included SLNS Gajabahu of the Sri Lanka Navy and UMS King Aung Zeya of the Myanmar Navy.

LOKAYAN 2026: INS SUDARSHINI ADVANCES INDIA'S MARITIME OUTREACH



Indian Navy sail training ship INS Sudarshini continued its transoceanic expedition, Lokayan 2026, during October. During its visit to Oman, the ship undertook professional interactions and sporting engagements with the Royal Navy of Oman, strengthening bilateral maritime ties and fostering camaraderie. The expedition concluded with INS Sudarshini's return to Kochi on 02 November 2026, marking the culmination of a ten-month deployment across international waters. The voyage carried the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and India's MAHASAGAR vision, furthering India's maritime outreach and international cooperation.

MAIN PLANNING CONFERENCE FOR EXERCISE SEA VIGIL 26 HELD IN NEW DELHI



The Main Planning Conference for Exercise Sea Vigil 26 was held in New Delhi on 27 October 2026 under the chairmanship of Vice Admiral A. N. Pramod, Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff. The conference brought together representatives from central ministries, the Armed Forces, security agencies, maritime organisations and coastal states to coordinate preparations for the nationwide coastal defence exercise. Deliberations focused on strengthening maritime surveillance, inter-agency coordination, operational synergy and preparedness across the coastal security architecture. The conference reaffirmed the whole-of-government approach towards strengthening India's coastal defence mechanisms and ensuring a coordinated response to emerging maritime security challenges.

SWAVLAMBAN 2026 ADVANCES INDIGENOUS DEFENCE INNOVATION



The fifth edition of the Indian Navy's Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Seminar, Swavlamban 2026, was held at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, on 26–27 October 2026, under the theme 'Strength & Power through Innovation and Indigenisation'. The seminar brought together the Armed Forces, industry, start-ups, MSMEs and academia to accelerate indigenous defence innovation. The technology exhibition showcased developments in maritime surveillance, counter-UAS, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies and operational efficiency. Addressing the seminar, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh emphasised 'Aatmanirbharta 2.0', highlighting advanced technologies, research and resilient supply chains. Deliberations focused on strengthening the iDEX ecosystem and translating innovation into operational capabilities.

INS MANGROL COMMISSIONED INTO INDIAN NAVY



INS Mangrol (P82), the third Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, on 12 October 2026. Indigenously designed and constructed by Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi, the vessel incorporates over 80% indigenous content, reflecting India's growing capabilities in warship construction and systems integration. Designed for coastal and shallow-water operations, INS Mangrol is equipped to detect and counter underwater threats, undertake underwater surveillance and support mine warfare-related tasks. Named after a coastal town in Gujarat, the vessel carries forward the legacy of the erstwhile minesweeper of the same name, strengthening coastal defence preparedness.

INS SAMARTHAK COMMISSIONED AT KARWAR



INS Samarthak, the Indian Navy's first Multi-Purpose Vessel, was commissioned at Naval Base, Karwar, on 16 October 2026 in the presence of Vice President of India Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan and Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Krishna Swaminathan. Designed and built by Larsen & Toubro, the vessel represents a significant milestone in private-sector participation in indigenous warship construction, incorporating over 75% indigenous content. The versatile platform supports maritime surveillance, offshore patrolling, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, besides facilitating trials and evaluation of indigenous sensors and weapon systems. Its induction will enhance operational flexibility and support the Navy's drive towards technological self-reliance.

FIRST INDIGENOUS FLEET SUPPORT SHIP 'SURYA' LAUNCHED AT VISAKHAPATNAM



The first indigenous Fleet Support Ship (FSS-1),Surya, was launched at Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam, on 06 October 2026 by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh. He also laid the keel of FSS-5 and inaugurated the upgraded Slipway-4 and a 300-tonne Goliath Crane. The 43,500-tonne Fleet Support Ship, incorporating over 82% indigenous content, are designed to replenish warships at sea, enhancing the Navy's operational reach and endurance. The vessels will also support Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) and Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO). The upgraded infrastructure will enable HSL to construct and launch vessels of up to 45,000 DWT.

NEXT GENERATION OFFSHORE PATROL VESSELS 'SHREYAS' AND 'SRISHTI' LAUNCHED



The Indian Navy achieved two milestones in indigenous shipbuilding with the launch of Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels Shreyas and Srishti during October 2026. Yard 3040, named Shreyas, was launched at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata, on 10 October, in the presence of Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff. Yard 1283, named Srishti, was launched at Goa Shipyard Limited on 27 October, in the presence of Shri Vishvajit Sahay, Secretary (Defence Finance). The indigenously designed vessels will undertake maritime surveillance, offshore asset protection, search and rescue, HADR and anti-piracy operations, strengthening maritime security and Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

PROJECT SEABIRD PHASE IIA STRENGTHENS NAVAL INFRASTRUCTURE AT KARWAR



Additional residential, medical and support facilities under Project Seabird Phase IIA were inaugurated at Naval Base, Karwar, on 08 and 15 October 2026. General N. S. Raja Subramani, Chief of Defence Staff, and Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, inaugurated the facilities on the respective dates. The infrastructure includes accommodation for sailors and defence civilians, a kindergarten school, and medical facilities supporting expansion of INHS Patanjali to 409 beds. Supporting amenities include water storage, sewage treatment and waste management systems. With over 90% domestic sourcing, the developments emphasised sustainable infrastructure and self-reliance.

INDIAN NAVY RECORDS HISTORIC VICTORY AT INTER-SERVICES SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP



The Indian Navy emerged champion at the Inter-Services Squash Championship 2026, held at the MEG Centre, Bengaluru, from 14 to 18 October 2026. The Navy secured gold in the Team Championship, while its players claimed gold, silver and bronze medals in the Individual Championship. Winning the team title alongside all three individual medals marked a historic first in the competition. The outstanding performance reflected the players' skill, discipline, determination and competitive excellence, bringing distinction to the Indian Navy. The achievement also highlighted the importance of sports and physical fitness in fostering teamwork, resilience and a spirit of excellence among naval personnel.



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