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# INS Arnala

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**Why is in news?** Indian Navy launches INS Arnala; first ship of ASW SWC Project

Arnala, the first ship of the ASW SWC Project, being built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, GRSE for the Indian Navy was launched, December 20 at Kattupalli, Chennai.

The ship has been named Arnala to signify the strategic maritime importance accorded to the **island of Arnala** located about 13 Km north of Vasai, Maharashtra by the great Maratha warrior, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

This is the first of eight such ships being built by GRSE for the Navy. Eight more ASWSWC are being built by Cochin Shipyard Ltd.

Arnala class of ships **will replace the Abhay class ASW Ships** of the Indian Navy and are designed to undertake anti-submarine operations in coastal waters and Low Intensity Maritime Operations including **subsurface surveillance in littoral waters**.

They were also designed to provide secondary duties – including defense against intruding aircraft, minelaying and search-and-rescue (SAR).

They will also be capable of carrying out coordinated anti-submarine operations with aircraft.

These ships will have combat management systems on board and will be armed with lightweight torpedoes as well as anti-submarine warfare rockets. These ships will have a complement of 57 personnel, including seven officers.

The greatest advantage is that these vessels will require a draft of only 2.7 metres, allowing them to access the coasts easily in search of sub-surface threats.

The ASW SWC ships will have **over 80 per cent indigenous content**, ensuring that large-scale defence production is executed by Indian manufacturing units. It will generate employment and capability build up within the country.

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