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## Indian Navy Is a Key Tool for National Power Projection: Vice Admiral Deshmukh

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The Indian Navy has emerged as an essential instrument of national power projection, diplomacy, and regional stability, said Vice Admiral Kiran Deshmukh, Chief of Materiel of the Indian Navy, during the launch of the eighth and final Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata.

The vessel, named *Ajay*, is the last in a series of eight ships built by GRSE for the Indian Navy. The launch ceremony was graced by Priya Deshmukh, wife of Vice Admiral Deshmukh, who carried out the ceremonial duties.

Speaking at the event, Vice Admiral Deshmukh highlighted the growing role of the Navy amid changing global dynamics. “In an age of rising strategic competition, resource control, and emerging security challenges, the Indian Navy has become an essential instrument of national power projection, diplomacy, and regional stability,” he stated.

He emphasized the importance of maintaining India’s role as a preferred security partner in the Indo-Pacific region. According to Deshmukh, the Indian Navy’s focus on indigenous manufacturing and self-reliance aligns with the government’s broader defense goals. “As part of our vision for Atmanirbharta (self-reliance), the Navy has been steadfast in enhancing indigenous capabilities and strengthening India’s maritime posture,” he added.

The Vice Admiral also noted the significance of the region through which nearly 80 percent of global maritime trade passes, reinforcing the need for a capable and agile naval force. He praised GRSE and other Indian shipyards for their continued commitment to delivering advanced warships and support vessels to the Navy.

GRSE has delivered more than 110 ships to the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard, making it one of the key contributors to India’s naval strength. The ASW-SWC ships are designed for anti-submarine operations in coastal waters and are part of India’s effort to modernize its fleet with domestically built vessels.