

Project 75 India (everything you need to know)



INS Kalvari at sea

Other than the aircraft carrier, if any platform took a significant role in changing the course of war during World War 2, it is the submarine. Quickly comprehending the importance and potential in maintaining the sovereignty of India, the newly independent Indian Navy focused on rapid modernisation with the induction of aircraft carriers and submarines from the beginning. According to the first 15 year refurbishment plan, a fleet of 16 submarines was desired. Unfortunately, for various reasons, the Indian Navy would get the first submarine only in 1967, when the Soviet Project 641 Foxtrot class got inducted as Kalvari class. In due course, 8 platforms were inducted within 1974. But this was not enough to maintain the security of Indian interests. Sanction of the proposal of procurement of four new and more capable diesel electric submarines was accorded in 1982, which later was increased to a total number of six. HDW Type 209/1500 of the West German origin was selected to serve as Shishumar class in the navy. According to the original

plan, two platforms were directly procured from Germany, while the rest four were to be manufactured by Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) following the transfer of technology (ToT) and material packages. However, only two boats were constructed following political turmoil in the late 1980s.

At the same time, India signed a deal with the Soviet Union for the procurement of Project 877EKM Kilo class. Subsequently, a total of 10 such submarines entered into the service as Sindhughosh class. As the older Foxtrot-class platforms came closer to their retirement, India became concerned about the eventual fall of underwater capability. So, India restarted the programme to construct the two left submarines designed by the Submarine Design Group (SDG) of the Indian Navy, based on the Shishumar class under P-75 (Project-75), with the collaboration of a foreign agency for the validation of the design. Eventually, TCDF of France was roped in. France offered SM 39, a submarine launched variant of the Exocet anti-ship