



Ships built by GSL & other Indian yards are floating symbols of India's sovereignty, says Raksha Mantri ahead of commissioning of Pollution Control Vessel 'Samudra Pratap' into ICG

“Aatmanirbharta in defence is not a luxury, but a strategic necessity”

“Equipping ships with state-of-the-art equipment, AI-enabled maintenance & cyber-secure platforms is key to gaining edge over adversaries”

“India is a proactive maritime nation, ensuring stability, cooperation & rule-based order throughout the Indian Ocean Region”

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“The ships built by the Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) and other Indian yards for the Indian Navy & the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) are the floating symbols of India's sovereignty, representing our presence, capability, and resolve on the high seas,” said Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh during his visit to the GSL on January 04, 2026, on the eve of the commissioning of Pollution Control Vessel (PCV) 'Samudra Pratap' into the ICG. *Samudra Pratap*, the first of two PCVs built by the GSL, will be commissioned in the presence of Raksha Mantri in Goa on January 05, 2026.

Shri Rajnath Singh described *Aatmanirbharta* in defence as not a luxury, but a strategic necessity, lauding institutions like the GSL for transforming this necessity into reality. The GSL is developing capabilities, absorbing technology, and strengthening indigenous design, which have resulted in the timely delivery of equipment to the Armed Forces and accelerated the pace towards making the nation self-reliant, he said.

Underlining the critical role played by the Indian shipyards in today's complex security environment, Raksha Mantri asserted that non-traditional threats are constantly increasing alongside traditional challenges in the maritime domain. “We face numerous challenges at sea, such as narcotics trafficking, illegal fishing, human trafficking, environmental crimes, and grey-zone challenges. In such a situation, the role of shipyards becomes even more critical. Located in a city which is the center of the country's maritime history, naval heritage, and strategic foresight, the GSL is one of the pillars of India's defence ecosystem, bearing the responsibility for maritime security,” he said.

Shri Rajnath Singh emphasised that a ship is not just an amalgamation of steel, machinery, and technology, it is a symbol of the trust of the people and the expectations & needs of the Armed Forces. The GSL has fulfilled this trust and expectations for years, he said.

Raksha Mantri stressed that India is emerging as a proactive maritime nation, and its role in ensuring stability, cooperation, and rule-based order throughout the Indian Ocean Region is increasing constantly. He exhorted the institutions such as the GSL to further support India's credibility in the future. "In view of the growing importance of technology in the defence sector, we will have to adapt to this changing landscape. We must focus on equipping the ships with state-of-the-art equipment, AI-enabled maintenance, and cyber-secure platforms to gain an edge over our adversaries. I am confident that the GSL will demonstrate leadership in this transformation as well," he added.

Appreciating the efforts of the GSL towards building a high-technology dredger for Belgium, Shri Rajnath Singh endorsed enhanced focus on increasing defence exports with an aim to make India a self-reliant nation as well as a net defence exporter. "To realise the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, we must ensure continuous progress through hard work and commitment," he said, extending the Government's full support to the capability enhancement of institutions such as GSL.

Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Director General, ICG DG Paramesh Sivamani, Chairman & Managing Director, GSL Shri Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay and personnel of the shipyard were present on the occasion.

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