

he Government is deeply conscious of the requirements of the Armed Forces and remains committed in providing requisite focus and financial support for its modernisation", stated Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on 28 September 2019 at the commissioning ceremony of indigenously-built submarine INS Khanderi in Mumbai. Mr. Rajnath Singh said that due impetus had been given for timely acquisition of state-of-the-art weapons, sensors and platforms, adding that the Government had given more freedom and support to armed forces in taking decisions in the nation's interest. "We are committed to far-reaching changes in our defence preparedness. You cannot buy a confident Navy. A confident Navy is always built by a confident Government", the Raksha Mantri said, adding that the Indian Navy had the confidence which no other country in the Indian Ocean possessed.

Describing INS *Khanderi* as a "potent combatant", Mr. Rajnath Singh congratulated the Navy and the Western Naval Command on its induction and for achieving very high levels of operational

preparedness prior its commissioning. He said it was a matter of great pride that India was one of the few countries capable of constructing their own submarines.

INS *Khanderi* is the second of *Kalvari*-class diesel electric attack submarines of the Indian Navy. It has been built in India to the French *Scorpene* design (by Naval Group) and is the second submarine of the Project-75. Built indigenously by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, INS *Khanderi* is designed for silent and stealthy sub-surface operations.



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