

# NAVY DECOMMISSIONS SINDHUDHVAJ

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Final adieu: The traditional decommissioning ceremony held by the Indian Navy on Saturday. Special Arrangement

The Navy's Kilo class submarine *INS Sindhudhvaj* was decommissioned from service on Saturday at Visakhapatnam after 35 years in service. With this, the Navy now has 15 conventional submarines in service.

"The traditional ceremony was conducted at sunset, with an overcast sky adding to the solemnity of the occasion when the Decommissioning Pennant was lowered and the submarine was paid off after a glorious patrol of 35 years," the Navy said in a statement on Sunday. The event was attended by 15 of the former Commanding Officers, including Commander S.P. Singh (Retd.), the Commissioning CO, and 26 Commissioning crew veterans.

The decommissioning of the submarine had been delayed by about a year.

## Many firsts

"She had many a firsts to her credit, including operationalisation of the indigenised sonar USHUS, indigenised satellite communication systems Rukmani and MSS, inertial navigation system and indigenised torpedo fire control system," the Navy said. She also successfully undertook mating and personnel transfer with Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel and was the only submarine to be awarded Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) rolling trophy for Innovation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it stated.

Commissioned into the Navy in June 1987, *Sindhudhvaj*, was one of the 10 Kilo class submarines India acquired from Russia between 1986 and 2000. Of these, *Sindhurakshak* was lost in an accident in Mumbai harbour in August 2013, while *Sindhuvir* was transferred to Myanmar in 2020, making it the Southeast Asian nation's first underwater platform.

The Navy's sub-surface fleet now includes seven Russian Kilo class submarines, four German HDW submarines, four French Scorpene submarines and the indigenous nuclear ballistic missile submarine *Arihant*. The last two of the Scorpene class submarines are in various stages of trials and outfitting.

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