

# *INS Kalvari* to join Navy by July

It is the first of the six French Scorpene submarines being built in India

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NEW DELHI

The first of the six Scorpene submarines, being built in India under technology transfer from France, is likely to join the Navy by July or August, the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Sunil Lanba, said here on Wednesday.

“*Kalvari* is going through the final phase of trials, and we are hopeful that in July-August, we will take delivery,” he told presspersons on the sidelines of a seminar, “Building India’s future Navy: technology imperatives”, organised by the Navy and the FICCI.

*Kalvari* is named after a deep-sea tiger shark.

Six Scorpene submarines are being built under Project-75 by Mazagon Docks



**‘Tiger shark’:** Workers of Mazagon Docks Ltd. in front of *INS Kalvari*, the first Scorpene built in India. ■ FILE PHOTO

Ltd. with technology transfer from DCNS, a French naval shipbuilder.

## **Trial for Khanderi**

The second Scorpene submarine *Khanderi* – named after an island fort of

Maratha ruler Chhatrapati Shivaji – was launched in the sea in January and will begin sea trials on June 1. “*Khanderi* will go into sea on Thursday and, if weather permits, will carry out its first dive,” a defence source

said. The Navy hopes to complete the trials by year-end.

Asked about Sri Lanka’s decision to deny a Chinese submarine permission to dock at Colombo, Admiral Lanba said: “We have no dialogue on this with the Sri Lankans. It was a decision they have taken on their own.” It coincided with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to that country. Chinese submarines on anti-piracy patrols had in the past docked in Sri Lanka, causing concerns in New Delhi.

As for the construction of the first indigenous aircraft-carrier *Vikrant*, Admiral Lanba said the Navy hoped it would start trials in 2019 and “we take delivery in 2020”.