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DRDO Tests ADC-150 Air-Droppable Container; INS Taragiri Commissioning Announced

26 March 2026

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Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator •

linkedin.com/in/epicbharat

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- **ADC-150 Air-Droppable Container**
- Boeing P-8I Neptune — India's Maritime Eyes
- INS Taragiri (F41) — Project 17A Stealth Frigate

WHY IN NEWS

DRDO and the Indian Navy successfully tested the ADC-150 air-droppable container from a P-8I aircraft off Goa, while the Navy announced that stealth frigate INS Taragiri (F41) will be commissioned on April 3, 2026.

ADC-150 Air-Droppable Container

Trial Details

FEATURE	DETAIL
System	ADC-150 (Air-Droppable Container)
Trials	4 in-flight release tests (February 21 – March 1, 2026)
Aircraft	Boeing P-8I Neptune (Indian Navy)
Location	Off Goa coast
Payload capacity	Up to 150 kg
Purpose	Deliver equipment, medical supplies, rations to ships at sea

Development Team

- **Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL)**, Visakhapatnam — system design and integration
- **Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE)**, Agra — parachute system

- **Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC)**, Bengaluru — airworthiness certification

Strategic Significance

The ADC-150 allows the Indian Navy to resupply warships at sea without requiring them to break patrol for port calls. This is critical for sustained operations in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), especially amid the ongoing Iran-US conflict which has increased India's naval deployment tempo in the Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden.

Boeing P-8I Neptune — India's Maritime Eyes

FEATURE	DETAIL
Base platform	Boeing 737-800 ERX airframe
Role	Long-range maritime patrol and anti-submarine warfare (ASW)
Ordered	12 aircraft (8 in 2009 + 4 in 2016); all delivered
Sensors	AN/APY-10 radar, acoustic sensors (sonobuoys), ESM suite
Weapons	Harpoon anti-ship missiles, Mk 54 torpedoes, depth charges
Endurance	~10 hours; range ~2,200 km
Stationed at	INS Rajali, Arakkonam (Tamil Nadu)

The P-8I is the Indian Navy's primary long-range maritime patrol asset and has been deployed extensively for surveillance over the Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal, and Arabian Sea.

INS Taragiri (F41) — Project 17A Stealth Frigate

Specifications

FEATURE	DETAIL
Ship	INS Taragiri (pennant number F41)
Class	Nilgiri-class (Project 17A)
Number in class	4th of 7 planned
Builder	Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), Mumbai
Displacement	6,670 tonnes
Length	~149 metres
Indigenous content	Exceeds 75%
Armament	BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, Barak-8 SAM, torpedo tubes
Commissioning	April 3, 2026 by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

Project 17A — Complete Ship List

SHIP	PENNANT	BUILDER	STATUS
INS Nilgiri	F39	MDL Mumbai	Commissioned (Aug 2024)
INS Udaygiri	F40	MDL Mumbai	Commissioned (2025)
INS Dunagiri	—	GRSE Kolkata	Under trials
INS Taragiri	F41	MDL Mumbai	April 3, 2026
Ship 5	—	GRSE Kolkata	Under construction
Ship 6	—	MDL Mumbai	Under construction
Ship 7	—	GRSE Kolkata	Under construction

BrahMos Missile

The BrahMos supersonic cruise missile — a joint India-Russia venture (BrahMos Aerospace) — is the primary anti-ship weapon of the Nilgiri-class:

- Speed: Mach 2.8 (nearly 3 times the speed of sound)
- Range: 290 km (extended variant: 450 km)
- Variants: Ship-launched, submarine-launched, air-launched (Su-30MKI), land-based

- Named after: **Brahmaputra** (India) + **Moskva** (Russia) rivers

UPSC RELEVANCE

P-8I aircraft, NSTL, ADRDE, CEMILAC, Project 17A, BrahMos range and speed, MDL and GRSE

Defence indigenisation, Make in India in defence, India's naval modernisation strategy

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

ADC-150 & P-8I:

ADC-150: Air-droppable container; payload up to 150 kg

P-8I Neptune: 12 aircraft in Indian Navy; stationed at INS Rajali, Arakkonam

NSTL: DRDO lab, Visakhapatnam — naval weapons and systems

ADRDE: DRDO lab, Agra — parachutes and aerial delivery systems

CEMILAC: Bengaluru — military airworthiness certification

PROJECT 17A (NILGIRI-CLASS):

Total: 7 frigates (4 MDL + 3 GRSE)

Displacement: 6,670 tonnes; length: ~149 m

Design: Directorate of Naval Design (DND)

Indigenous content: >75%; supply chain: 200+ Indian MSMEs

Stealth features: Reduced RCS, IR signature suppression, acoustic quieting

BRAHMOS:

Joint venture: India (DRDO) + Russia (NPOM)

Speed: Mach 2.8 (supersonic); Range: 290 km (extended: 450 km)

First tested: June 12, 2001

Variants: Ship, submarine, air (Su-30MKI), land-based

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

DRDO Chairman: Dr. Samir V. Kamat (since 2022)

Indian Navy strength: ~130 warships; target 175 by 2035

MDL: Also building 6 Scorpene-class submarines (Project 75)

Exercise Sea Dragon 2026: India deploying P-8I near Guam for ASW drills with US, Australia, Japan, NZ

Sources: [PIB](#), [Indian Navy](#), [DD News](#)

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

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