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GRSE Delivers INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak & INS Agray — Three Naval Platforms in One Day

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WHY IN NEWS

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, simultaneously delivered three frontline naval platforms on March 31, 2026 — INS Dunagiri (stealth frigate), INS Sanshodhak (survey vessel), and INS Agray (anti-submarine warfare craft) — taking its total warship tally to 118 and reaffirming India's growing indigenisation in shipbuilding.

INDIA'S NAVAL SHIPBUILDING MILESTONES

GRSE — Backbone of India's Naval Build

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE), headquartered in Kolkata, is a Ministry of Defence Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) that has been the principal builder of surface warships for the Indian Navy since independence. The simultaneous delivery of three vessels on a single day — a rare logistical and engineering achievement — takes GRSE's cumulative tally to **118 naval platforms**, of which 80 have been delivered to the Indian Navy.

INS DUNAGIRI — PROJECT 17A STEALTH FRIGATE

The Nilgiri-Class Programme

INS Dunagiri is the **fifth vessel** in the Nilgiri-class stealth frigates under **Project 17A** — India's most ambitious frigate programme. Project 17A is an upgrade over the earlier Project 17 Shivalik-class frigates, incorporating significantly greater stealth, automation, and weapons integration.

Key Specifications — INS Dunagiri

PARAMETER	SPECIFICATION
Class	Nilgiri-class (Project 17A)
Position in class	5th (2nd GRSE-built)
Length	149 metres
Displacement	6,670 tonnes
Propulsion	CODAG (Combined Diesel and Gas)
Primary weapon	BrahMos supersonic cruise missile
Stealth features	Superstructure shaping, reduced radar cross-section

Project 17A Programme Overview

Project 17A involves the construction of **7 frigates** split between two shipyards:

- **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), Mumbai:** 4 frigates (lead ship INS Nilgiri commissioned 2026)
- **GRSE, Kolkata:** 3 frigates

BrahMos missile carried by INS Dunagiri is a joint venture between India and Russia — a supersonic cruise missile with a range of ~300 km (export version) and ~500+ km (domestic). It is the world's fastest operationally deployed anti-ship cruise missile.

INS SANSHODHAK — SURVEY AND OCEANOGRAPHIC VESSEL

INS Sanshodhak is the fourth in its class of survey vessels, designed for:

- **Hydrographic surveys** of harbours, ports, and coastal waters
- **Oceanographic data collection** for navigation safety and research
- Support to the **National Hydrographic Office (NHO)**, Dehradun

Survey vessels play a critical dual role in the Navy: operational (mine-laying, covert insertion) and scientific (charting undersea terrain critical for submarine operations).

INS AGRAY — ASW SHALLOW WATER CRAFT

Anti-Submarine Warfare in Shallow Waters

INS Agray is an **Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Shallow Water Craft** — designed to hunt submarines in coastal and littoral zones, the most complex operational environment for ASW.

Key Features

- **Indigenisation:** ~88% indigenous content — one of the highest among all naval platforms
- **Armament:** Lightweight torpedoes + ASW rockets
- **Operational domain:** Coastal defence, harbour protection, shallow-water ASW
- **Strategic value:** As adversary submarine activity increases in the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean littorals, shallow-water ASW craft are increasingly critical

INDIA'S SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRIAL POLICY

Maritime India Vision 2030 and Amrit Kaal

India's **Maritime India Vision 2030** and the **National Maritime Security Coordinator** framework target making India one of the world's top five maritime nations by 2047. Key shipbuilding objectives:

METRIC	CURRENT	TARGET (2047)
Global shipbuilding market share	~0.06%	Top 5
Maritime sector GDP contribution	~4%	12%
Indian seafarers (global share)	12%	25%
Cargo at Indian ports (FY24)	819.22 Mt	Significant growth

Key Shipbuilding PSUs

SHIPYARD	LOCATION	SPECIALTY
Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL)	Mumbai	Submarines + frigates (P17A)
GRSE	Kolkata	Frigates + survey + patrol vessels
Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL)	Visakhapatnam	Repair + fleet support vessels
Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL)	Kochi	Aircraft carrier (INS Vikrant)

INS Vikrant – India’s first indigenous aircraft carrier, built by CSL, commissioned in 2022.

DTTI and Naval Indigenisation

India’s **Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI)** with the USA and the broader **Atmanirbhar Bharat** push in defence aim to:

- Reduce import dependency from 70% to 30% of defence procurement
- Develop a domestic defence industrial base capable of export
- GRSE’s ~88% indigenisation on INS Agray is a benchmark for the programme

UPSC RELEVANCE

Project 17A details; GRSE warship count; INS Dunagiri class and propulsion; BrahMos specifications; CODAG propulsion; Nilgiri-class vs Shivalik-class; India's top five maritime nation target.

MAINS GS-3:

“How does India's defence shipbuilding ecosystem contribute to strategic autonomy and the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision?” Discuss challenges and achievements.

MAINS GS-2:

India's maritime security posture in the Indian Ocean Region — GRSE's role and linkage to **SAGAR** doctrine.

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GRSE MILESTONE:

Total warships delivered: 118 (80 for Indian Navy)

Location: Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Kolkata

Ministry: Ministry of Defence (PSU)

INS DUNAGIRI (PROJECT 17A):

Class: Nilgiri-class stealth frigate

Position: 5th vessel; 2nd GRSE-built under P17A

Length: 149 m; Displacement: 6,670 tonnes

Propulsion: CODAG (Combined Diesel and Gas)

Weapon: BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

P17A total ships: 7 (MDL: 4 + GRSE: 3)

BRAHMOS MISSILE:

Joint venture: India (DRDO/BDL) + Russia (NPO Mashinostroyeniya)

Speed: Mach 2.8–3.0

Range: ~300 km (export); 500+ km (domestic variant)

World's fastest operationally deployed supersonic cruise missile

INS AGRAY:

Type: ASW Shallow Water Craft

Indigenisation: ~88%

Armament: Lightweight torpedoes + ASW rockets

INDIAN SHIPBUILDING TARGETS (2047):

Global market share target: Top 5 (currently 0.06%)

Maritime GDP target: 12% (current ~4%)

Seafarers (global share target): 25% (current 12%)

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

INS Vikrant: India's first indigenous aircraft carrier; built by Cochin Shipyard; commissioned September 2022

INS Nilgiri: Lead ship of Nilgiri-class (P17A); built by MDL

Project 17 (Shivalik-class): Predecessor; 3 frigates (INS Shivalik, INS Sahyadri, INS Satpura)

Maritime India Vision 2030 launched at Maritime India Summit 2021

DTTI: Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (India-USA); launched 2012

Sources: [Indian Navy](#), [PIB](#), [GRSE](#)

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