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# INS Taragiri Commissioned — Project 17A and India's Stealth Frigate Programme

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# INS Taragiri Commissioned — Project 17A and India's Stealth Frigate Programme

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## WHY IN NEWS

INS Taragiri (F41), the fourth stealth frigate under Project 17A of the Indian Navy, was formally commissioned at Visakhapatnam Naval Base on April 3, 2026, in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), it is the fourth of seven Project 17A frigates and follows a remarkable streak of naval inductions, with four ships inducted in just 48 hours on March 30–31, 2026.

## WHAT IS PROJECT 17A?

Project 17A is the Indian Navy's programme to build seven next-generation guided-missile stealth frigates — the Nilgiri class — based on an improved design derived from Project 17 (Shivalik class). It is one of the largest and most complex indigenisation projects undertaken by Indian shipyards.

PARAMETER	DETAILS
Class	Nilgiri class (P-17A)
Total ships	7 (4 at MDL, Mumbai + 3 at GRSE, Kolkata)
Design authority	Warship Design Bureau (WDB), Indian Navy
Displacement	~6,670 tonnes
Propulsion	CODOG (Combined Diesel or Gas)
Indigenous content	>75%
Contract signed	February 2015

## Ships of the Class

SHIP	YARD	STATUS
INS Nilgiri (F33)	MDL	Commissioned 2025
INS Udaygiri (F35)	MDL	Commissioned 2025
INS Himgiri (F37)	MDL	Commissioned 2025–26
<b>INS Taragiri (F41)</b>	<b>MDL</b>	<b>Commissioned April 3, 2026</b>
INS Dunagiri (F43)	GRSE	Commissioned March 2026
INS Vindhyagiri	GRSE	Fitting out
INS Mahendragiri	GRSE	Under construction

## KEY CAPABILITIES OF INS TARAGIRI

### Weapons:

- **BrahMos** supersonic cruise missiles (range ~290–500 km; Mach 2.8–3)
- **MRSAM** (Medium Range Surface to Air Missile) – Israel-India co-developed air-defence system (70 km range)
- **76mm Super Rapid Gun Mount (SRGM)** – fast-firing primary gun
- **Lightweight torpedoes** and ASW rocket launchers for anti-submarine warfare

- Close-In Weapon System (CIWS) for last-ditch missile defence

### Sensors and Systems:

- **MFSTAR** (Multifunction Surveillance and Threat Alert Radar)
- **Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS)** — automates machinery, damage control
- **Advanced Combat Management System (CMS)**
- Stealth features: curved hull surfaces, reduced radar/infrared signature

## FOUR SHIPS IN 48 HOURS — SIGNIFICANCE

Between March 30–31, 2026, the Indian Navy simultaneously inducted:

SHIP	TYPE	YARD
INS Dunagiri	P-17A frigate	GRSE
INS Sanshodhak	Survey Vessel (Large)	GRSE
INS Malwan	ASW Shallow Water Craft	Cochin Shipyard
INS Agray	ASW Shallow Water Craft	GRSE

This unprecedented pace of inductions demonstrates the maturity of India’s defence production ecosystem under **AtmaNirbhar Bharat** in defence.

## UPSC RELEVANCE

### GS Paper 3 — Internal Security and Defence:

- India’s naval indigenisation strategy; role of MDL and GRSE as Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)
- BrahMos, MRSAM as examples of India-Russia and India-Israel joint defence production
- Maritime domain awareness in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)
- Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 — “Buy Indian-IDDm” category emphasis

## UPSC RELEVANCE

“India’s naval induction pace reflects the outcomes of the Defence Production Policy 2020 and the shift from import-dependence to a credible domestic manufacturing ecosystem.”

## FACTS CORNER

- **INS Taragiri namesake:** Named after Taragiri hills in Odisha (previous INS Taragiri was a Leander-class frigate decommissioned in 2003)
- **CODOG propulsion:** Diesel engines for cruising; gas turbines for high speed; gives flexibility and fuel efficiency
- **WDB:** Warship Design Bureau — the navy’s in-house design authority, responsible for all Nilgiri-class designs
- **GRSE:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Kolkata — a DPSU building P-17A frigates and ASW crafts
- **MDL:** Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai — premier Indian naval shipyard; listed on NSE/BSE
- **AtmaNirbhar Bharat in Defence:** 75% indigenous content target for all future naval platforms
- **IOR strategy:** India seeks to be the “net security provider” in the Indian Ocean — primary driver for fleet expansion

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