

# Indian Navy Launched Mahendragiri Last Stealth Frigate Under Frigate 17 A

## Why In News

- Mahendragiri, the last Project 17A Frigate, launched by Dr (Smt.) Sudesh Dhankhar, wife of Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, at M/s Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai on 01 Sep 23.



## Curtain Raiser: Launch Of Y - 12654 (Mahendragiri)

- Mahendragiri, named after a mountain peak in Eastern Ghats located in the state of Orissa, is the **seventh ship of the Project 17A Frigates**. These warships are follow-ons of the **Project 17 Class Frigates** (Shivalik Class), with improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors.
- Under the **Project 17A program**, a total of four ships by **M/s MDL** and three ships by M/s GRSE are under construction. The first six ships of the project have been launched so far by **MDL & GRSE**, between 2019-2023.



## Design

- Project 17A ships have been designed in-house by Indian Navy's **Warship Design Bureau**, the pioneer organization for all warship design activities. Aligning with the country's resolute commitment to 'AatmaNirbharata', a substantial **75%** of the orders for equipment and systems of Project 17A ships have been ordered on indigenous firms, including MSMEs.



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**Aatmanirbharta in Defence**  
Building a stronger naval force

**Launch of Mahendragiri (Y - 12654)**  
The indigenous advanced warship - Last one of the Project 17A Frigate

**Mahendragiri**

- Multi-role stealth warship
- Advance technological features, improved weapons & sensors, and platform management systems
- Designed in-house by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau

**Launch by-**  
Dr Sudesh Dhankhar, wife of Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar,  
at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd, Mumbai  
01 September 2023

@SpokespersonMoD @DefenceMinIndia MinistryofDefenceGovernmentofIndia

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## Here are the top points on the warship:

- The warship has a length 149 metre, a width of 17.8 metre, and will have a top speed of 28 knots, the officials said.

- Mahendragiri is the last stealth frigate of Project 17A – four warships are being built at Mazagon Dock and the rest at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, under the project.
- All Project 17A warships are currently in different stages of construction and are expected to be delivered to the navy from 2024-26. The warships have a displacement of 6,670 tonne.
- A warship’s launch marks a significant milestone in its construction and refers to the vessel entering the water for the first time. In a statement, the Navy said, “The newly christened Mahendragiri is a technologically advanced warship and stands as a symbol of India's determination to embrace its rich naval heritage while propelling itself towards a future of indigenous defence capabilities.”
- This launch comes at a time when self-reliance in defence is a top priority for the government, and when the power dynamics in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) are changing with the Chinese People’s Liberation Army-Navy (PLAN) making concerted efforts to increase its footprint.



## Project 17A

- Project 17 Alpha frigates (P-17A) were launched by the Indian Navy in 2019 to construct a series of stealth guided-missile frigates.
- These are currently being constructed by two companies - **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL)** and **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**.
- These guided-missile frigates have been constructed with a specific stealth design, which has radar-absorbent coatings and is **low-observable** which can make its approach **undetectable for the enemies**.
- The new technology also **reduces the infrared signals of the ship**.

# PROJECT 17A

The ships are being  
**constructed**  
by two major  
shipbuilding  
companies:  
**GRSE and MDL**



**Project-17 Alpha**  
frigates (P-17A) was  
cleared by the govt in  
2015 to construct warships  
and frigates for the Indian  
Navy. It involves the  
**development of**  
**seven advanced guided-**  
**missile frigates**



## Total 7 Ships Are

- Nilgiri
- Udaygiri
- Taragiri
- Mahendragiri
- Himgiri
- Dunagiri
- Vindhyagiri

