



# Project 17A and INS Taragiri

## Why in News?

Recently, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), which is under the Ministry of Defence, launched **Taragiri**, the third stealth frigate of **Project 17A**.

## What is Project 17A?

### ▪ About:

- 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**.
- The first stealth ship launched under Project 17A was the [Nilgiri](#), which was launched in 2019.
- [Udaygiri](#), the second ship, was launched in May 2022, and will likely be commissioned in 2024.

### ▪ Present Status: Further, **seven P17A Frigates are under various stages of construction** at MDL and GRSE.

### ▪ Benefits:

- It provides additional benefits such as **economic development, and employment generation for Indian Shipyards**, their sub-contractors and the ancillary industry.
- Around 75% of the orders of Project 17A have been placed on indigenous firms including MSMEs, thus reinforcing the country's quest for [Atma Nirbhar Bharat](#).
  - Indigenous construction of complex frontline ships such as Stealth Frigates has catapulted the nation to a **higher pedestal in the arena of shipbuilding**.

## What are the Key Highlights of Taragiri?

- Taragiri is named after a hill range in the Himalayas located at Garhwal.
- The ship has been built using an **integrated construction methodology** which involves hull block construction in different geographical locations.
- The ship will have **state-of-the-art weapons, sensors, an advanced action information system**, an integrated platform management system, world-class modular living spaces, a sophisticated power distribution system and a host of other advanced features.
- It will be fitted with a **supersonic surface-to-surface missile system**.
- The ship's air defence capability, designed to counter the threat of enemy aircraft and anti-ship cruise missiles will revolve around the vertical launch and long-range surface-to-air missile system.

**UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)**

**Prelims**

**Q. Which one of the following is the best description of 'INS Astradharini', that was in the news recently? (2016)**

- (a) Amphibious warfare ship
- (b) Nuclear-powered submarine
- (c) Torpedo launch and recovery vessel
- (d) Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier

**Ans: (c)**

**Exp:**

- **INS Astradharini is an indigenously built Torpedo Launch and Recovery Vessel. It was commissioned on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015.**
- The design of the Astradharini was a collaborative effort of Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Shoft Shipyard and IIT Kharagpur.
- It is an advanced replacement for Astravahini which was decommissioned on 17th July 2015.
- It has a unique design of a catamaran hull form that significantly reduces its power requirement and is built with indigenous steel.
- It can operate at high sea states and has a large deck area with Torpedo Launchers for deploying and recovering various kinds of Torpedos during the trials.
- The ship also has modern power generation and distribution, navigation and communication systems.
- 95% of the systems of the ship are of indigenous design, thus demonstrating the Navy's continued adherence to the 'Make in India' philosophy.
- INS Astradharini will be used to carry out the technical trials of underwater weapons and systems developed by NSTL, a naval systems laboratory of DRDO. **Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

**Source: IE**

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