



Project-15B Class Destroyer Ship: Visakhapatnam

Why in News

Recently, the **first ship of the four Project-15B state-of-the-art stealth guided missile destroyers** i.e. **'Y 12704 (Visakhapatnam)'**, was delivered to the Navy.

- The ship is constructed using **indigenous steel DMR 249A** and is **amongst the largest destroyers constructed** in India.

Key Points

▪ India's Destroyer Construction Programme:

- India's indigenous Destroyer construction programme **commenced in the late 1990s with the three Delhi class (P-15 class) warships** and this was **followed by three Kolkata class (P-15A) destroyers** commissioned a decade later.
- Presently, under the **P-15B (Visakhapatnam Class)**, a total of four warships are planned (Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal, Surat).
- The Destroyers **come next only to an Aircraft Carrier (INS Vikramaditya)** in terms of their reach and endurance.

▪ Project-15B:

- **Four Guided missile Destroyers of Project 15B (P 15B)** are under construction at M/s Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai. The contract for construction of these four ships was signed in 2011.
- These ships are **amongst the most technologically advanced Guided Missile Destroyers** of the world, with **state-of-the-art weapon/sensor package**, advanced stealth features and a high degree of automation.

▪ Features of the P-15B Ships:

- These ships are equipped with [BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles](#) and long-range **Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAM)**.
- The ship has several indigenous weapons systems like **medium range Surface-to-Air Missile (SAMs)**, indigenous torpedo tube launchers, anti-submarine indigenous rocket launchers and 76-mm super rapid gun mount.

▪ Other Three Ships of Project 15B:

- The **second ship of P15B, Mormugao was launched in 2016**, and is being readied for harbour trials.
- The **third ship (Imphal) was launched in 2019**, and is at an advanced stage of outfitting.
- The **fourth ship (Surat) is under block erection** and will be launched within this current financial year (2022) .

▪ Role of P-15B:

- The **Indian Navy's responsibilities** to safeguard a large coastline of 7516 Kms and about 1100 offshore islands along with 2.01 million sq km [Exclusive Economic Zone \(EEZ\)](#)

have been enhanced in the present geopolitical scenario.

- Destroyers like the P-15B class shall **play an important role** in the larger oceans of the **Indo-Pacific**, making the Indian Navy a potent force.
- The guided missile Destroyers are deployed for various responsibilities like escort duties with the Carrier Battle Group **to protect the Naval fleet against any air, surface and underwater threats.**

▪ **Other Recent Projects:**

- **Project 75 (I)**: It envisages indigenous construction of submarines equipped with the state-of-the-art **Air Independent Propulsion system** at an estimated cost of Rs. 43,000 crore.
- **Project 75**: It is a **programme by the Indian Navy** that entails building six Scorpene-Class attack submarines. The programme has been undertaken with transfer of technology from French company Naval Group (formerly known as DCNS) at the Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL).

Source: TH

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