Vindhyagiri – Final Project 17A Stealth Frigate Joins the Navy

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Why in News?

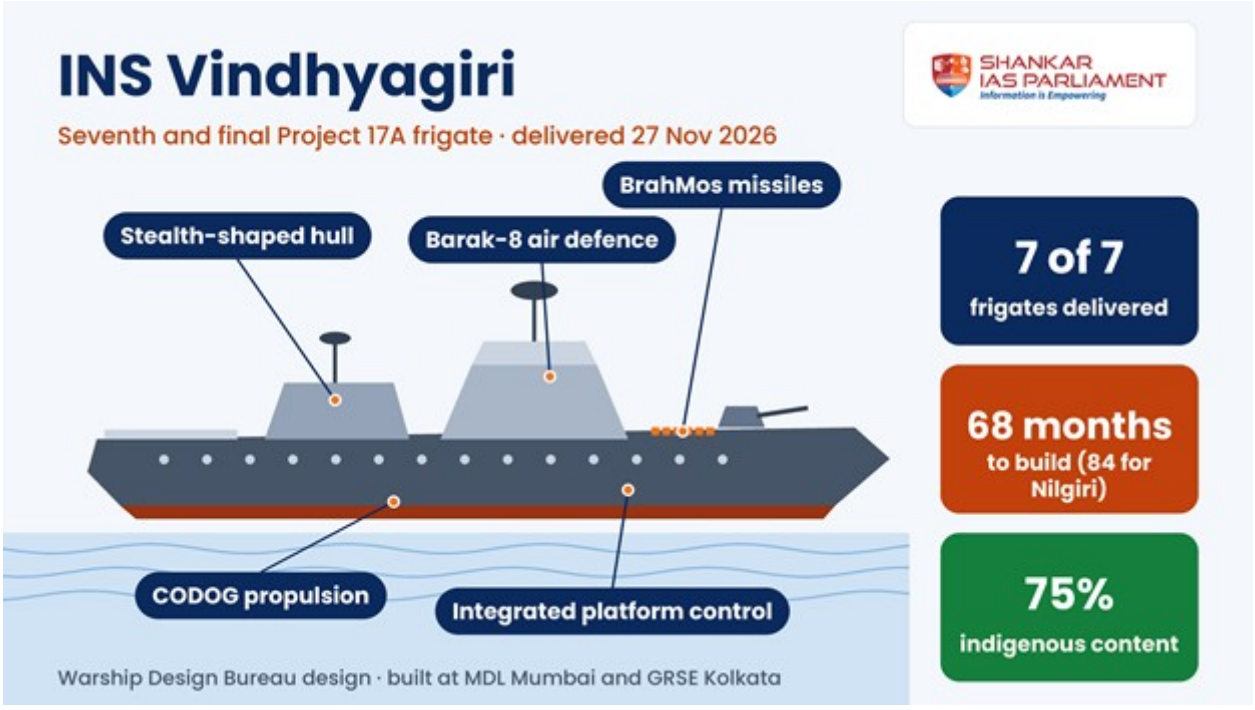
INS Vindhyagiri, the seventh and final **Project 17A (Nilgiri-class) stealth frigate**, *was delivered to the Indian Navy at GRSE, Kolkata, on November 27, 2026.*

About Project 17A

- **Project** – The follow-on to Project 17 (Shivalik class): seven guided-missile frigates, four from Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL), Mumbai, and three from **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**, Kolkata.
- **Design** – By the Navy's Warship Design Bureau, overseen by the Warship Overseeing Team, Kolkata.
- **Platforms (delivery order)** – Nilgiri (MDL, lead ship, December 20, 2024), Udaygiri (MDL), Himgiri (GRSE), Taragiri (MDL, November 28, 2025), Dunagiri (GRSE, March 30, 2026), Mahendragiri (MDL, April 30, 2026) and Vindhyagiri (GRSE); each is named after a hill range.

About INS Vindhyagiri

- **Name** – After the Vindhyagiri range in Karnataka; it revives the Leander-class frigate INS Vindhyagiri (1981–2012).
- **Propulsion** – Combined diesel or gas (CODOG) plant with an integrated platform management system.
- **Weapons** – **BrahMos and Barak-8 missiles** and advanced sensors for anti-surface, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare.
- **Stealth** – Hull shaped to reduce radar, infrared and acoustic signatures.



Significance for Defence

- **Speed** – All seven ships were delivered within 23 months of Nilgiri (December 20, 2024); Vindhyagiri took 68 months to build, against 84 for Nilgiri.
- **Self-reliance** – 75% indigenous content, over 200 MSMEs and about 4,000 direct and 10,000 indirect jobs.
- **Capability** – A "generational leap" in stealth, firepower and survivability over the Shivalik class, strengthening multi-mission naval power.

Quick facts

Indigenous Navy Projects
• **Destroyers** – Project 15A (Kolkata class) and 15B (Visakhapatnam class). • **Frigates** – Project 17 (Shivalik class) and 17A (Nilgiri class); Project 17B is the next-generation follow-on. • **Corvettes** – Project 28 (Kamorta class, anti-submarine). • **Submarines** – Project 75 (Kalvari class, Scorpène design).

Reference

The Hindu | Project 17A: Final Warship Of Nilgiri-Class Frigates 'Vindhyagiri' Delivered To Navy



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