



Indian Navy commissions Made-in-India advanced stealth frigate 'INS Mahendragiri' in Raksha Mantri's presence at Visakhapatnam

With 75% indigenous content, advanced weapons systems & stealth features, this sixth Project 17A frigate to protect the nation from aerial, surface & underwater threats

This frontline warship is another symbol of Aatmanirbhar Bharat & nation's commitment to building a technologically-advanced and combat-ready Navy: Shri Rajnath Singh

"INS Mahendragiri to extend India's blue-water reach & further consolidate its presence in Indian Ocean Region"

"Indian Navy's timely and effective operational response has made it First Responder & Preferred Security Partner in Indo-Pacific"

Govt is committed to invest in next-gen tech while strengthening conventional capabilities: RM

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The Indian Navy inducted the indigenously-built advanced stealth frigate 'INS Mahendragiri' into its Eastern Fleet during a ceremony presided over by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on July 11, 2026. Raksha Mantri, in his address, described this frontline warship as a reflection of India's growing self-reliance in shipbuilding, underpinned by exceptional design capabilities, manufacturing excellence, the rapid growth of the naval-industrial ecosystem, and its ability to deliver state-of-the-art platforms in a timely manner.



‘INS Mahendragiri’ is the sixth Project 17A indigenous stealth frigate to be inducted into the Indian Navy in a span of just 1.5 years. The first ship of the series ‘INS Nilgiri’ was commissioned in January 2025, followed by ‘INS Udaygiri’ & ‘INS Himgiri’ in August, ‘INS Taragiri’ in April this year and ‘INS Dunagiri’ last month. Designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai, the ship is capable of undertaking the full spectrum of maritime operations, including fleet air defence, anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, maritime interdiction, surveillance and humanitarian assistance & disaster relief (HADR).



The warship, with over 75 percent indigenous content, has a displacement of approximately 6,670 tonnes and the capability to reach speeds of up to 28 knots. It is equipped with supersonic surface-to-surface missiles, medium-range surface-to-air missiles, anti-submarine warfare capabilities and an embarked multi-role helicopter, as well as advanced stealth features, modern sensors, network-centric combat systems and state-of-the-art weapon suites.



“INS Mahendragiri can be equipped with the BrahMos surface-to-surface missile, one of the world's fastest and most lethal cruise missiles. It also features a combination of multifunction radar and Surface-to-Air Missiles capable of detecting and neutralising aerial threats at extended ranges. Its arsenal also includes an indigenous rocket launcher, torpedo launchers, an Integrated Anti-Submarine Defence System, an Electronic Warfare suite and a Close-In Weapon System. All these capabilities make the warship formidable and resilient,” said Shri Rajnath Singh, exuding confidence that the “blue-water ship” will safeguard India’s maritime interests not just near the coast but far out in the deep oceans as well.

Raksha Mantri emphasised that while emerging technologies such as drones, artificial intelligence, cyber warfare, space-based capabilities, hypersonic weapons and unmanned systems have significantly transformed the nature of warfare, conventional military capabilities continue to form the bedrock of effective defence. “Future wars may be fought with Artificial Intelligence, but they will still be won by national resolve, trained soldiers and credible military power,” he said while stressing that advanced technologies and conventional platforms complement one another rather than act as competitors.

Shri Rajnath Singh voiced Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi-led Government’s commitment to maintaining a balanced approach by investing in next-generation technologies while continuing to strengthen its conventional capabilities. "Operation Sindoor was a prime example of the effective integration of conventional and modern capabilities to safeguard national security,” he said, adding that INS Mahendragiri is a symbol of the nation's commitment to building a technologically advanced and combat-ready Navy.

Raksha Mantri asserted that maritime and economic security are closely linked to each other, and the seas are vital not only for national security but also for trade, supply chains, energy security and economic growth. Highlighting the strategic importance of the Indo-Pacific region, he reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to the vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).



“India is a net security provider and a trusted partner dedicated to ensuring security and development across the region,” said Shri Rajnath Singh, while praising the Indian Navy for consistently demonstrating this commitment through its role in HADR operations, anti-piracy missions and the evacuation of Indian and foreign nationals from crisis-hit areas. The Indian Navy has earned the recognition as both a First Responder and a Preferred Security Partner in the Indo-Pacific through its timely & effective operational response, he added.

Referring to the Indian Navy’s role during the West Asia conflict, Raksha Mantri stated that under Operation Urja Suraksha, it safely escorted 18 merchant vessels carrying essential cargo valued at over Rs 9,000 crore. These efforts, he stressed, reflect the Navy’s role not only as a fighting force but also as a key protector of India’s economic interests. He expressed confidence that INS Mahendragiri will further strengthen this overall maritime strategy, as it will enhance the strength of the eastern seaboard, extend India’s blue-water reach, and further consolidate its presence in the Indian Ocean Region.

Shri Rajnath Singh highlighted that indigenous warship construction goes beyond creating combat platforms as it strengthens design capabilities, technological expertise, skilled manpower and the overall maritime industrial ecosystem. He added that shipbuilding drives growth across multiple sectors, including steel, electronics, sensors, propulsion systems, software, precision engineering and logistics, generating employment, fostering innovation and contributing to economic growth.



Raksha Mantri underlined the Government's vision to establish India as a global hub for shipbuilding and maritime defence innovation, stating that the country is progressing through initiatives such as the Maritime India Vision 2030, which aim to modernise ports, expand inland waterways, strengthen logistics networks and develop a world-class maritime ecosystem. He also enumerated key measures, including the Maritime Development Fund, Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme and Shipbuilding Development Scheme that aim to enhance industrial capacity, strengthen self-reliance and safeguard economic interests.

Shri Rajnath Singh exhorted the nation's young entrepreneurs, engineers, innovators, researchers and investors to contribute to nation-building by developing technologies that shape the course of future warfare; and create systems that make India self-reliant.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Krishna Swaminathan termed INS Mahendragiri as a symbol of India's growing maritime capability and technological self-reliance. He stated that the commissioning of the sixth Project 17A frigate marks another milestone in indigenous warship construction, significantly enhancing the Indian Navy's operational capability. He reaffirmed that the Indian Navy remains a combat-ready, credible, cohesive and future-ready force.



The Chief of the Naval Staff added that alongside achieving over 75% indigenous content, MDL and the Navy have set several new benchmarks in this project, including reduction of the timeframe from launch to delivery by approximately 50%, dropping from 63 months to 31 months. He further stated that the total construction time has decreased by approx. 20%, falling from 95 months to 75 months, and all technical analyses have been completed in just a single sea trial instead of the usual five to seven sea trials. These achievements, he said, reflect the collaborative efforts of MDL, Indian manufacturers, MSMEs, the Warship Overseeing Team, trial agencies, and the crew.





The ceremony included the traditional breaking of the Commissioning Pennant and maiden hoisting of the National Flag onboard. Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, CMD, MDL Captain Jagmohan (Retd), senior naval officers, veterans, representatives of the shipbuilding industry and other invited guests were present on the occasion.

About INS Mahendragiri

Named after the Mahendragiri mountain range in the Eastern Ghats, INS Mahendragiri symbolises strength, steadfastness and indomitable resolve, and bears the motto ‘Mighty, Majestic, Matchless’. Built through the contribution of more than 200 Indian industries, including numerous MSMEs, the ship reflects India's growing defence manufacturing capability. The frigate features advanced stealth characteristics, a Combined Diesel or Gas propulsion system, an Integrated Platform Management System and advanced indigenous combat systems.

Upon joining the Eastern Fleet, the Indian Navy's Sunrise Fleet, INS Mahendragiri will significantly enhance India's maritime combat capability and operational reach in the Indian Ocean Region, reinforcing India's commitment to a future-ready Navy under the vision of MAHASAGAR.



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