



INS Imphal

For Prelims: INS Imphal, Indian Navy, [INS Surat](#), [BrahMos cruise missile](#), [Project 15B](#).

For Mains: Defence technologies, Maritime security

Source: [HT](#)

Why in News?

Recently, INS (Indian Naval Ship) Imphal (Pennant D68) has been **commissioned into the [Indian Navy](#)**.



What is INS Imphal?

▪ About:

- INS Imphal **is the third of the four 'Project 15 Bravo Vishakhapatnam class' guided missile destroyers.**
 - The **fourth will be named [INS Surat](#).**
- INS Imphal is among "the **most technologically advanced guided missile destroyers** in the world.
- It was launched and "christened" as 'Imphal' on 20th April, 2019.

▪ Features:

- The ship measures 163m in length, and 17m in breadth with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes and is amongst the most potent warships built in India.
- It is propelled by **four powerful Gas Turbines**, in a Combined Gas and Gas configuration,

and is capable of speeds in excess of 30 knots.

- It is capable of launching the [BrahMos cruise missile](#), the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile.
- The ship is also **equipped to fight under Nuclear, Biological and Chemical warfare conditions**.
- It is armed with **sophisticated state-of-the-art weapons and sensors**, including Surface-to-Surface Missiles, Surface-to-Air Missiles, Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) rocket launchers and Torpedo launchers, ASW helicopters, radars, sonar and **Electronic Warfare systems**.

▪ **Significance:**

- The ship reinforces the principle of "Jalmev Yasya, Balmev Tasya," signifying that **controlling the seas grants immense power**. In the [Indo-Pacific region](#), where multiple powers vie for influence, INS Imphal contributes to India's efforts to establish itself as a significant maritime player.
- India heavily relies on **sea routes for international trade** due to geographical barriers like the Himalayas and challenges from neighboring countries.
 - INS Imphal aids in **securing these crucial sea lanes**, ensuring safe passage for trade vessels and thereby safeguarding India's economic interests.

What is Project 15B?

- 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**), following the success and technological advancements achieved in [Project 15A](#).
- Project 15B aimed to build the advanced variants of Kolkata class destroyers as **Visakhapatnam class destroyers**.
 - The class is identified by the name of **its lead ship, hence known as the Visakhapatnam class**.
- Under Project 15B, a contract was signed in January 2011 with the **objective to build on the capabilities of the earlier ships while incorporating technological advancements** and improvements in weaponry, electronics, and other systems.
- The lead ship of **Project 15B is [INS Visakhapatnam \(Pennant No D66\)](#)**, which was commissioned in November 2021.
 - [INS Mormugao \(D67\)](#) is the second ship commissioned in December 2022, and [INS Surat](#) (to be designated D69 upon commissioning) was launched in May 2023.
- These ships are designed by the **Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau** and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL) in Mumbai.