

# Navy's third indigenous destroyer commissioned

INS Imphal is first Indian warship named after a city in the Northeast

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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday commissioned INS Imphal, the third of four indigenous Visakhapatnam class destroyers, into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.

The four guided missile destroyers, built under Project 15B, were designed by the navy's Warship Design Bureau and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai.

The navy chief, Admiral R Hari Kumar, said the fourth Project 15B destroyer, INS Surat, would be commissioned in 2024. Prior to the commissioning of INS Imphal, two Project 15B destroyers, INS Visakhapatnam and INS Mormugao, were commissioned into the Navy in 2021 and 2022, respectively.

INS Imphal is the first Indian warship named after a city in the north-east. The time taken to build INS Imphal has been the shortest for any indigenous destroyer.

Its keel was laid on May 19, 2017 and the ship was launched on April 20, 2019. It sailed for her maiden sea sortie on April 28, 2023, and is being delivered on October 20, 2023 after completing sea trials in less than six months. The ship has a total crew complement of 315 personnel.

Describing the new warship as a shining example of 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence, Singh said: "INS Imphal is a symbol of India's growing maritime power and it will strengthen it further. It will bolster our principle of 'Jalmev Yasya, Balmev Tasya' (One who controls the sea is all powerful) in the Indo-Pacific region."

Describing INS Imphal as a conglomeration of the nation's multiple strengths, the defence minister said: "Brahmos Aerospace installed Brahmos missiles on the ship. Torpedo tube launchers are of

## Will find ship attackers even from 'depths of seas': Rajnath



PHOTO: PTI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned the guided missile destroyer — INS Imphal into the Indian Navy in Mumbai on Tuesday. Speaking at the commissioning, Singh said India had taken the incidents very seriously. The minister vowed to ferret out the perpetrators of the attacks on merchant navy ships MV Chem Pluto and MV Sai Baba even from the "depths of the seas" and take tough action against them. "India's growing economic and strategic power has filled some forces with

jealousy and hatred," he said. India plays the role of a net security provider in the entire Indian Ocean Region and will ensure that maritime trade in this region touches greater heights, Singh said. "For this, together with our friend countries, we will keep the sea lanes secure. We have full confidence in the ability and strength of our Navy," he said. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar said the Indian Navy will take robust action, including boarding and searching all suspicious vessels. **PTI**

Larsen & Toubro (L&T). The Rapid Gun Mount has been installed by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, and medium range missiles by Bharat Electronics Limited. In addition, many startups and MSMEs are involved in its construction."

Measuring 163 metres in length, 17 metres in breadth, and displacing 7,400 tonnes, the new destroyer is among the most potent warships built in India. It is propelled by four powerful gas turbines, in a "combined gas and gas" (COGAG) configuration, and is capable of

speeds in excess of 30 knots (55 kilometres per hour).

Reiterating the government's equal emphasis on modernising all three Services, Singh stated that earlier governments focused only on protecting the country from land-based threats. He pointed out that with the Himalayas in the north and Pakistan's hostile behaviour in the west, India was an island country from the perspective of trade.

The navy chief said the Navy aims to induct at least one Agniveer from each district, each block and each village of the country.