

AHOOY!



**INTERNATIONAL
FLEET REVIEW**
MILAN
VISAKHAPATNAM, INDIA



2026

“Our vision for the Global South will be MAHASAGAR, that is, Mutual And Holistic Advancement for Security And Growth Across Regions.”

Shri Narendra Modi | Hon'ble Prime Minister of India





FOREWORD

The oceans are the enduring connectors of our world, shaping the destiny of nations and sustaining global prosperity. Their openness, stability, and inclusivity depend on the collective resolve of maritime forces that safeguard them. Across this vast and interconnected domain, navies and maritime security agencies play a pivotal role in ensuring order at sea, fostering cooperation, and promoting collective security. Through collaboration anchored in trust and common purpose, we ensure that the seas remain secure highways of opportunity for all.

The upcoming International Fleet Review (IFR) and MILAN, hosted by the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam in February 2026, embody this spirit of maritime collaboration. Guided by Indian Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's vision of *MAHASAGAR* – Mutual And Holistic Advancement for Security And Growth Across Regions – these marquee events endeavour to bring together friendly navies and maritime agencies from across the world, to build partnerships that strengthen maritime security, resilience, and growth across the oceans.

IFR reflects a time-honoured maritime tradition among seafaring nations, symbolising the unity that oceans inspire beyond borders. In its third edition at Indian shores, with the enduring theme '*United Through Oceans*', IFR-26 stands as a testament to the collective stewardship for common good by navies and maritime agencies, of the global commons.

MILAN translates this tradition into purposeful action by fostering professional dialogue, operational engagement, and the exchange of ideas and best practices. The biennial event, now in its thirteenth edition, aptly advances the theme *Camaraderie, Cooperation and Collaboration*, strengthening bonds that shape a secure and prosperous maritime future.

Together, these landmark maritime events provide vibrant platforms to share maritime wisdom and enhance interoperability, whilst also providing an opportunity to build bonds and engage in cultural exchanges, among the participating nations.

India, and the Indian Navy, look forward to welcoming navies and maritime security agencies from around the world to Visakhapatnam, the *City of Destiny*, for IFR and MILAN 2026. We invite you to be a part of these milestone events, to experience India's maritime heritage, culture, and hospitality, and to contribute to the shared spirit that defines them. The pages that follow offer an overview of the programme and venues, along with a sense of the overall atmosphere that will shape these events.

We look forward to seeing you at Visakhapatnam in Feb 26!

Sam No Varunah! Jai Hind!

Dinesh Kumar Tripathi

Admiral

Chief of the Naval Staff



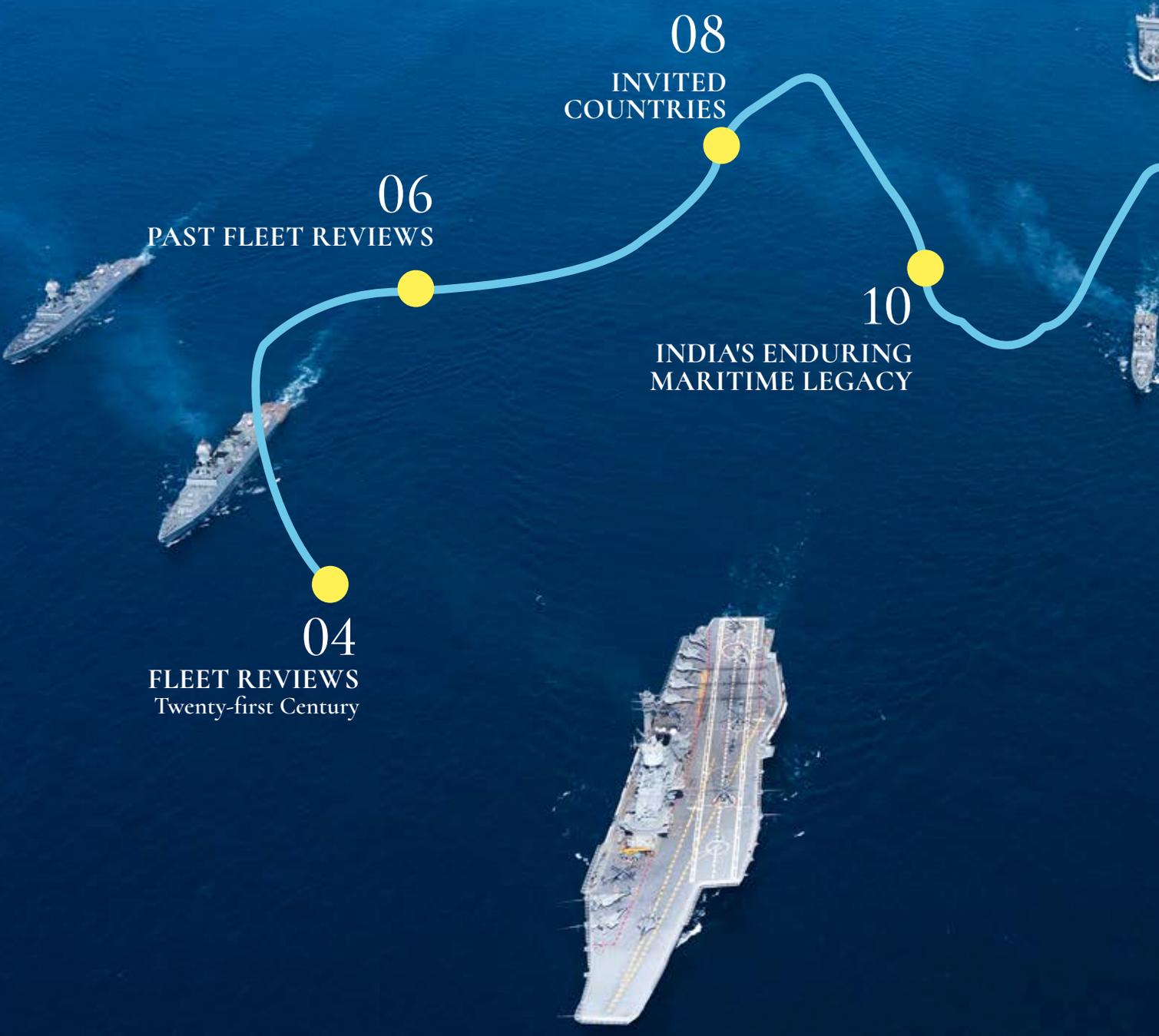
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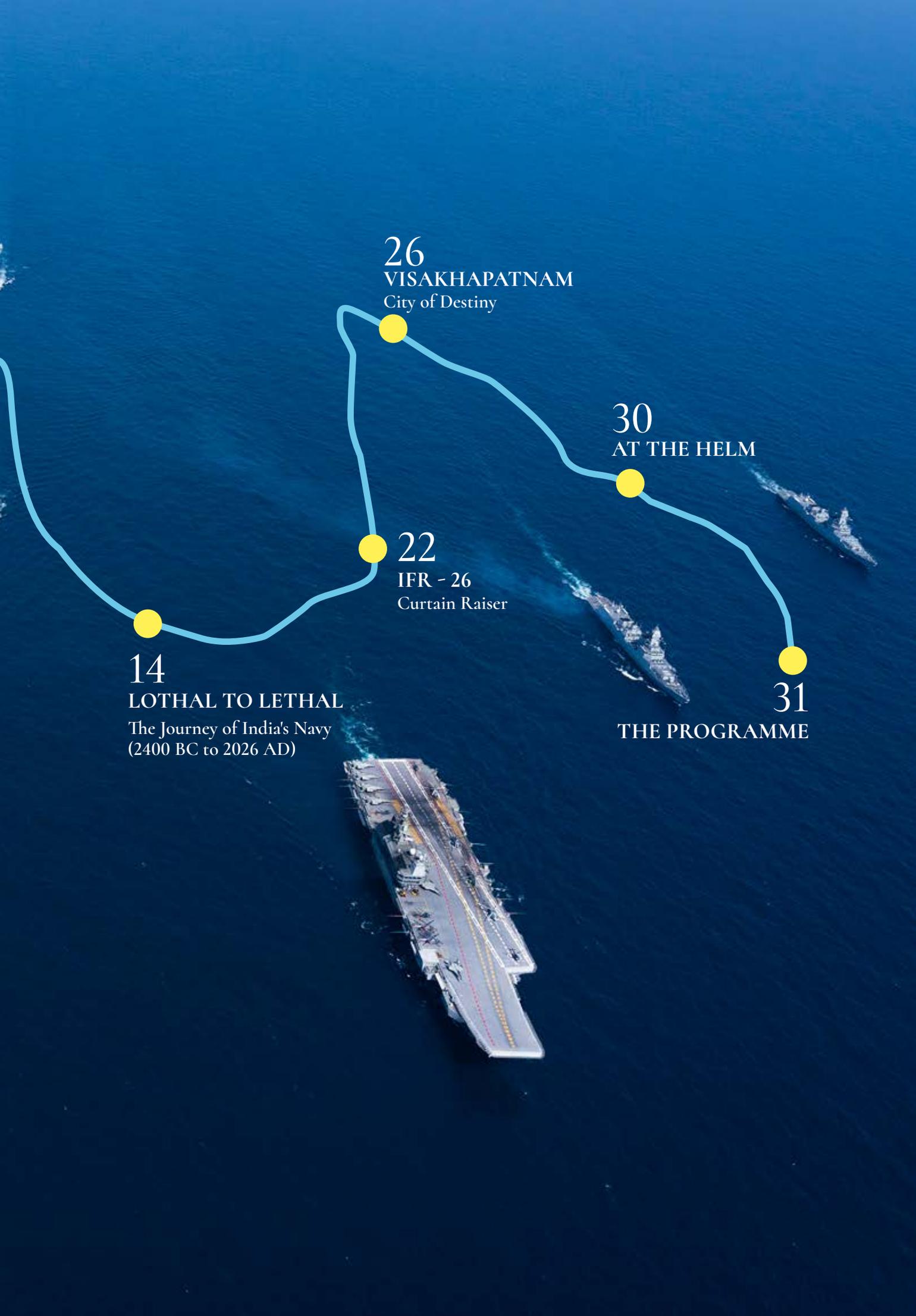
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THE PROGRAMME



Naval sailors cheer Dr Rajendra Prasad, India's first President, during the maiden Fleet Review, at Mumbai, on 10 October 1953

FLEET REVIEWS | Twenty-first Century

Historically, a Fleet Review is an assembly of ships at a pre-designated place for the purpose of paying respects to the sovereign of a nation and to display their commitment to him/her. In turn, the sovereign, by reviewing the ships, reaffirms his/her faith in the fleet and its ability to defend the nation's maritime interests.

In our country, the President of India, as the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, reviews the Fleet. Over a period of time Fleet Reviews in India have seen participation by ships, submarines, and aircraft to emphasise the three-dimensional nature of the Indian Navy. Ships of the other government agencies such as the Coast Guard, government research vessels, and Indian owned (flagged) merchant ships have also joined in paying respects to the President.

The earliest recorded Indian Fleet Review was in the 18th Century by the powerful Maratha Fleet consisting of 'Gurabs' and 'Gallivats' under the renowned Sarkhel (Grand Admiral) Kanhoji Angre at the coastal fortress of Ratnagiri. Independent India has witnessed twelve Fleet Reviews till date; with the last one held on 21 February 2022. This includes the first ever International Fleet Review in 2001, which saw large participation from foreign and Indian ships.



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, on the bridge of INS Delhi at Queen Elizabeth's Coronation Review in June 1953

The thirteenth review, which is the third International Fleet Review hosted by India, will be a mega event drawing participation from across the globe, at Visakhapatnam, in February 2026.

During the Review, the President is received by a Guard of Honour prior to embarking the Presidential Yacht. This is followed by a 21 Gun Salute, after which the

President, on board the Presidential Yacht, steams past the fleet of anchored ships from the various Commands of the Indian Navy along with ships of the Indian Coast Guard and Merchant Marine. In addition to the anchored ships, a mobile column of warships, and submarines, steam past the Presidential column, offering similar salutations. IFR-26 will also witness warships, sail ships and delegations from Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs) joining the ceremony and the accompanying festivities.

Smt Droupadi Murmu, Hon'ble President of India, and senior political, military, and official dignitaries, along with the naval heads of the participating nations, are expected to attend the International Fleet Review on 18 February 2026. The extravaganza planned for IFR-26 includes Parade of Sails, Air Power Demo, illumination of anchored ships off RK Beach, an International City Parade, an International Maritime Seminar, multi-cultural performances, and city

tours among other events. An overview of the activities being planned for the mammoth event is presented in the later sections.



Naval Fleet Reviews

When a review consists of only Indian ships, the event is termed as a President's Fleet Review (PFR). Conversely, when it also includes foreign warships, it is called an International Fleet Review (IFR).

IFR 2001



President Shri KR Narayanan inspecting the parade and reviewing the neatly anchored formation of ships - 12 Feb 2001 in Mumbai



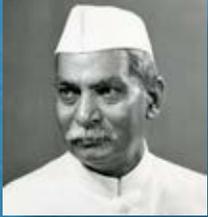
IFR 2016



President Shri Pranab Mukherjee on board Presidential Yacht INS Sumitra - 06 Feb 2016 in Visakhapatnam



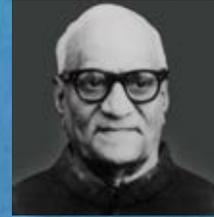
PAST FLEET REVIEWS



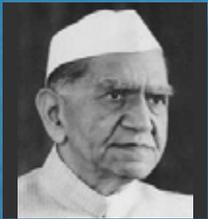
Dr Rajendra Prasad
10 October 1953, Mumbai



Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
10 February 1966, Mumbai



Shri VV Giri
28 December 1969, Mumbai



Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed
11 January 1976, Mumbai



Shri Giani Zail Singh
12 February 1984, Mumbai



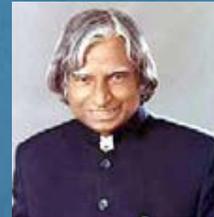
Shri R Venkataraman
15 February 1989, Mumbai



Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma
09 March 1997, Mumbai



Shri KR Narayanan
17 February 2001, Mumbai



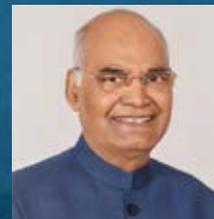
Dr APJ Abdul Kalam
12 February 2006, Visakhapatnam



Smt Pratibha Devisingh Patil
20 December 2011, Mumbai



Shri Pranab Mukherjee
06 February 2016, Visakhapatnam



Shri Ram Nath Kovind
21 February 2022, Visakhapatnam



Smt Droupadi Murmu
Hon'ble President of India
18 February 2026, Visakhapatnam



INVITED COUNTRIES | IFR-26





The ancient Indian text, the Rig Veda, written around 150 BCE, records our earliest maritime activities. In fact, the motto of the Indian Navy, ‘Sam no Varunah’, meaning ‘May the Lord of the Oceans be auspicious unto us’, has been taken from this ancient text.

INDIA'S ENDURING MARITIME LEGACY

India, having a coastline of 11,098.81 kilometers, has always been an epicentre of maritime trade and cultural activities for over four millennia. The literary sources of India's maritime activities can be traced back thousands of years through texts like Vedas, Yuktikalpataru, Satapatha Brahmana and Jatakas that give detailed accounts of sea voyages, maritime activities, and their importance during earlier times. The Arthashastra, an ancient Indian Sanskrit work on politics, economics, military strategy and statecraft, written by Kautilya during the Mauryan Empire, also discusses strict regulations and bureaucracy required for shipping and maritime activities. India's maritime activities are not only documented by people living in the sub-continent but also through several foreign accounts like The Periplus of the Erythrean Sea, Indica, and Geographia of Ptolemy. These ancient scholarly accounts discuss ancient Indian ports, maritime ventures, and shipbuilding activities in the sub-continent. These strong maritime foundations also led to the formation of robust naval traditions which are carried forward today by the Indian Navy. The Indian Navy traces this rich maritime legacy through culture, architecture, shipbuilding tradition, and honours these practices in modern times.

Maritime Traditions of India: Cultural Practices

All coastal regions of India continue to follow and honour the maritime customs and traditions even today. Near the world's earliest tidal dock at Lothal, Gujarat, a stone-like structure indicates one of such customs where sailors and traders of that time used to worship Vanuvati/Sikotramata

- the Goddess of Sea for their safety and protection during voyages. The name Sikotramata was adopted from Socotra Island situated in the Gulf of Aden. For nearly two thousand years, this island served as an important midpoint, where the Indian seafarers used to take halt and offer prayers to shrines on the island before resuming their further sea voyage towards East Africa and Middle East. This belief led to construction of the Sikotramata temples predominantly along the seacoast of Gujarat region during that period. In 2020-21, during an excavation, a similar idol was found in Vadnagar, Gujarat. This showcases India's profound maritime heritage, where the sea wasn't just a trade route but an integral part of our culture and customs.



Modern depiction of Sikotramata; the Goddess of Sea

Boita Bandana, also known as Bali Yatra, is a widely celebrated festival in Odisha. During the ancient period, seafaring traders migrated to Bali and Java in order to set up trade in these distant islands. In order to harness the prevailing winds, these sailors would set sail from the Odisha coast in October/November. To respect and honour this significant event, in the present times, women and girls float boats in the river made out of Sholapith (plant) or paper that has a lighted lamp inside the boat on the day of Kartik Pournima (full moon day in the month of Kartik – October/November). A similar tradition observed in Bali is called *Masakapan ke Tukad* and *Loi Krathong* or *Loy Brah Prabdip*, being a testimony for relations between Odisha and Bali and other East Asian countries. Considering the historical significance of the Bali Yatra, and in an effort to revitalise Odisha's maritime heritage, INSV Samudra was sailed from India to Bali by the Indian Navy in collaboration with the Government of Odisha. This initiative 'Kalinga Bali Yatra-1992' was undertaken to trace the sea



Bali Yatra festival

trade route which was used for travel between Odisha & Indonesia during the ancient period. Over the course of around 17 weeks, INSV Samudra travelled 5,810 nautical miles commemorating Kalinga's magnificent transoceanic journey.

Narli Pournima is yet another festival celebrated on the Konkan coast of India. The word Narli means coconut and Pournima means full moon day. This auspicious day is celebrated by the Koli, a local fishermen community of Maharashtra, by offering coconut to the sea in order to seek blessings and protection from Lord Varuna (God of Sea).



Celebration of Narli Pournima festival

Tangible Heritage

India's rich maritime heritage can be distinctly traced through an array of tangible evidences that span across its vast coastline and historical timelines. Kingdoms like Vanga, Satavahanas, and Pallavas had coins with boat depictions over them. There are also detailed sculptures and paintings that depict boats, maritime activities, and sea deities. Architectural remnants, like coastal forts and navigational landmarks, highlight the long-standing tradition of seafaring and coastal navigation. Some of the marvels include the Sindhudurg and Vijaydurg Forts.



Sculpture of incarnation of Lord Shiva (Martanda Bhairava) dancing on a boat at Sun Temple, Konark, India



Boat relief on Brahmeshwar Temple, Bhubaneswar, India



Painting of sail ship in Ajanta Caves



Sculpture of Lord Varuna (God of Sea)

Similarly, the Shore Temple of Mahabalipuram, in Tamil Nadu, and Lord Jagannath Puri Temple, in Odisha, are a few of the structures which were used as navigational landmarks due to their tall rising Shikharas/Vimanas. An interesting architectural element which is found in the Somnath Temple, in Gujarat, is Baan Stambh; a pillar adorned with an arrow that points out to sea. An inscription found on the pillar in Sanskrit states: *Aasamudranth Dakshin Dhruv, Paryanth Abadhita Jyotirmarg* which translates to, 'there is no earth terrain from this point of the sea to the South Pole'. The profound understanding of ancient Indian astronomers is demonstrated through the Baan Stambh's precise alignment with the cardinal directions.



Hero stone or Virgal depicting a naval battle, Mumbai

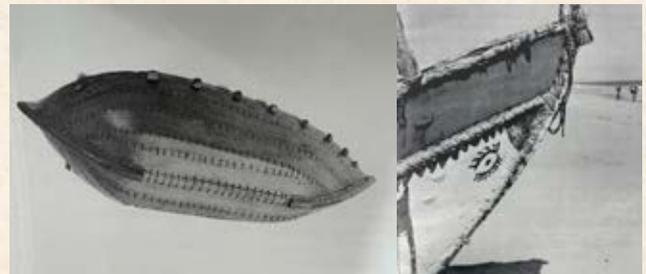
Shipbuilding



A Sindhu Saraswati Civilisation seal depicting a boat

The Indian sub-continent has engaged in the tradition of shipbuilding since the Sindhu Saraswasti Civilisation. The tradition kept evolving with the emergence of new sources of raw materials, ideas, and technology. One of the seals, from the Sindhu Saraswasti Civilisation period, depicts a reed boat which could have primarily been used for riverine transportation. The later boats of the civilisation also featured a small cabin in the middle of the vessel. These were constructed using materials like timber and were typically used for sea voyages. The Rig Veda period also provides strong evidence of shipbuilding traditions. The next significant evidence on India's shipbuilding activities can be found in Kautilya's *Arthashastra* wherein it mentions different kinds of boats. Another important literary source on India's shipbuilding ability would be the *Yukti Kalpataru*, which talks about various types of boats, and natural resources, as well as techniques used in shipbuilding.

The use of iron objects in shipbuilding in the earlier times was not preferable as it was prone to rust, bringing in the technique of 'stitched ship' or 'sewn ship'. This technique involved drilling holes in the wooden planks and then stitching them together using coconut coir dipped in fish oil. Usage of natural adhesives from plants was also in vogue. This traditional technique was passed down through generations. It has been kept alive even today amongst a handful of practitioners.



Traditional Stitched Ships

INSV Kaundinya: Revival of India's Stitched Ship Tradition

In order to keep alive this legacy of stitched shipbuilding, the Indian Navy has recently collaborated with the Ministry of Culture to launch INSV Kaundinya, a stitched ship. The project was formally announced on 08 Nov 2022 during the Samudra Manthan event in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The ship was named after Kaundinya, a legendary Indian mariner known to have established the foundation of the first 'Indianised' kingdom in the Southeast Asia region.

This project was conceptualised by Shri Sanjeev Sanyal, a member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council. A team of skilled craftsmen were involved in the construction of the ship which was led by Shri Babu Shankaran, a master shipwright, under the supervision of naval architects from the Indian Navy. Besides this, Captain Dilip Donde (Retd), the first Indian circumnavigator, was approached for providing guidance on operating the vessel.

One of the obstacles of the project was a lack of physical references of the historic boats. The only possible sources available were coins, carvings, sculptures, and literary texts. The primary source for the project was a 5th Century painting of a ship from the Ajanta Caves. Various parts of the boat were crafted from locally sourced woods like Anjili, Karimarathu, Pilavu, and Teak. Each of the types were carefully selected for its unique properties and suitability for specific components of the ship. The keel was laid in September 2023, which was subsequently followed by the construction of other components of the ship, including the stem, stern, and hull. All the components were then stitched together by the traditional technique using the coconut coir rope. The waterproofing of the boat was done using natural resources like kundroos resin and the gaps were filled with coir plugs. The ship also embodies various traditional features like the Gandabherunda motif on the sails with sculpted Simha Yali and Harappan style stone anchors.

- **Siddhi Mayekar**
Research Associate, Maritime History Society



Construction of INSV Kaundinya



INSV Kaundinya

INSV Kaundinya is planned to sail along various traditional sea routes in the Indian Ocean. It will undertake its first transoceanic voyage with a 15-member crew in January 2026, retracing historic trade routes from Gujarat to Oman. By reviving this ancient art of shipbuilding and navigation, the Indian Navy seeks to pay tribute to India's rich maritime traditions and its seafaring past.



An artist's impression of Lothal Dock in present-day Gujarat, meaning 'the mound of the dead', was discovered in 1954. It was a well planned town and a sea-port of the Indus (Harappa) civilisation that flourished between 2400 and 1900 BCE.

LOTHAL TO LETHAL | The Journey of India's Navy 2400 BC - 2026 AD

Cultural Dimensions of India's Maritime Tradition

India has always been, and will continue to be, a maritime nation. The oceans are an integral part of her mythology and history, and find repeated mention in the Mahabharata and Vedas. While the Indian Navy has been the guardian of India's maritime bounty for over seven decades, this Navy is not a new entity. Rather, it is a culmination, as well as resurgence, of a sea-faring tradition which harks back to ancient times.

The inhabitants of Indus Valley, from whom India derives her name, traded with Mesopotamia and the Greco-Roman Empires many millennia ago. Intrepid Harappan engineers also built the world's first tidal dock for sea-going vessels at Lothal (2400 BC). Incidentally, India's National Maritime

Heritage Museum is now being built at Lothal, presently located at Saragwala Village, Dholka Taluka of Ahmedabad District; a fitting tribute not only to the navies of ancient India, but indeed of the entire world.

Prior to colonial disruptions, Indian kingdoms were dominant. Thalassocracies (Cholas, 900-1300AD) and the sub-continent was a thriving sea-trade hub. However, the threat of invasions from the North required large armies, which led to a gradual decline of India's sea-power. This period also coincided with the arrival of foreign sea-faring nations to India's shores in the 15th Century, resulting in colonisation for many centuries.

The Indian Navy has today come a long way from what it was during Independence, and has transformed into a multi-



dimensional force; ready to address threats and challenges in the maritime domain in pursuance of its leitmotif 'Combat Ready, Credible, Cohesive and Future Ready'.

India in the Indian Ocean

The Indian Ocean covers nearly a quarter of the world's oceanic surface and its waters lap the shores of over 40 nations, constituting one-third of the world's population. Further, half of all global shipping and nearly three-quarters of all oil trade transits through this Ocean. There are an average of 12,000 - 13,000 ships transiting within this vast expanse at any given time.

Although smaller than the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, the Indian Ocean has witnessed a resurgence, and its unfolding dynamics will be a crucial factor in 21st Century geopolitics. While the rise of India is a significant geo-political driver, it is India's engagement with the Indian Ocean that will define India's trajectory in the coming decades. The Indian Navy, as the principal manifestation of the nation's maritime power, is hence poised to play a significant role towards shaping the destiny of our nation, as indeed, of the entire Indian Ocean Region.

India's Maritime Outlook

Surrounded by the seas on three sides, and high mountains on the fourth, India's civilisational connect with the rest of the world was historically effected primarily through the medium of the oceans. Today, the drivers of modern India's maritime outlook are a unique and advantageous geography, the need for sustained economic growth, the dynamic geo-strategic environment, the need to ensure safety and security of SLOCs (Sea Lines of Communication), and the security of Indian investments and other interests overseas; including a large Indian diaspora. India's relationship with her neighbours, and the threats to national security, are the key contributors towards shaping her maritime outlook. India also has overwhelming reliance on the oceans for external trade and sustaining growing energy needs. This dependence on the oceans for sustaining growth necessitates that the Navy ensure uninterrupted pursuit of economic activities, which in turn requires peace, security and stability in the maritime domain.

Kolkata and Visakhapatnam Class ships operating in close formation conducting precise manoeuvres





A Rajput Class Destroyer firing a BrahMos; India's first supersonic Surface to Surface Missile

Roles of the Indian Navy

The Indian Navy has four classical roles; namely military, diplomatic, constabulary, and benign, with their associated objectives, missions and tasks, to attain the final aim - '*Safeguard India's national maritime interests at all times*'.

Thanks to the vision of perspicacious forebears, today's Indian Navy has acquired adequate capability to meet all challenges in its Primary and Secondary Areas of Interest. Here, it is pertinent to highlight that a mere bean count of any navy's total number of ships, either by net tonnage or numbers, is only a partial metric of its capability. Comparisons of number of ships or platforms of competing navies do not account for their core missions, area of operations, cultural ethos, and national responsibilities, which can significantly affect their net combat potential.

India's central position astride the main International Shipping Lanes (ISLs) also accords distinct advantages with respect to force, space, and time; critical factors for maritime operations. The outer fringes of the Indian Ocean and most choke points are almost equidistant from the Indian peninsula, thereby facilitating reach, sustenance, and mobility of the Navy's platforms across the region.



Indian Navy has relentlessly contributed towards eliminating the scourge of piracy. Here, pirates apprehended by IN ship on anti-piracy patrol in the IOR.



Indian Navy personnel engaged in HADR Ops displaying camaraderie, cohesion and collaboration with Myanmar





INS Nistar, the first indigenously designed and constructed Diving Support Vessel, commissioned in Visakhapatnam in the presence of Raksha Rajya Mantri, Shri Sanjay Seth



INS Sandhayak, the first Survey Vessel Large ship, commissioned into Indian Navy in the presence of Indian Defence Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh in Visakhapatnam



INS Arnala, the first of sixteen indigenously built Anti-Submarine Shallow Water Crafts packed with state-of-the-art ASW weapons and sensor suite



Multi-mission stealth frigates – INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri – commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Indian Defence Minister in Visakhapatnam



The silent warrior surfaces, watched over by nature's escort. As dolphins leap in salute, the submarine answers in silence. Strength beneath, serenity above - man and nature united in eternal watch.

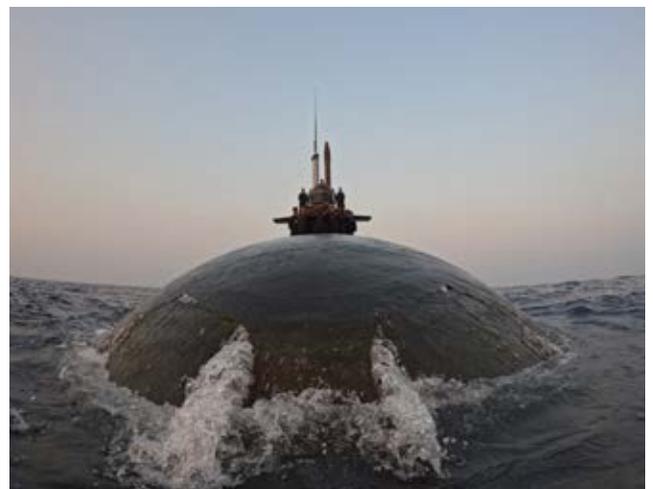
Navies also have to operate wherever the national and maritime interests of the country demand. Using organic and cooperative capabilities, the Indian Navy has developed the capability for extended reach and sustenance away from own shores, thereby ensuring security of energy and trade, which is its prime responsibility.

Although traditional threats are the *raison d'être* of the Navy, in recent years, non-traditional security threats such as terrorism, piracy, robbery, IUU fishing (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated), human/arms/drugs trafficking, etc have necessitated that the Indian Navy adapt and create fresh paradigms for maritime security. Towards this, the Navy transitioned to Mission Based Deployments in 2017, which has facilitated deployment of mission-ready ships and aircraft to maintain near continuous presence in critical shipping lanes and choke points. Additionally, post 26/11, the Indian Navy has also been made responsible for overall maritime, coastal and offshore security of the nation; a mandate being fulfilled on 24x7 basis in synergy with over twenty other government agencies.

Naval Diplomacy

Ancient India's naval diplomacy is recorded by Greek historian Megasthenes, who, in his seminal work *Indika* mentions that Ashoka the Great (250BC) may have used the Mauryan Navy for some part of the journey of

his diplomatic missions to Greece, Syria, Egypt, Cyrene (Libya), Macedonia, Epirus and the Malay Peninsula. Over four millennia later, under the Prime Minister's vision of Mutual And Holistic Advancement for Security And Growth Across Regions (MAHASAGAR), Indian Navy continues to assist friendly maritime nations in capacity building and undertaking flag-showing visits to friendly countries (Indian Navy warships have visited over 100 nations since Independence).



A Kalvari Class submarine stands poised, and so do her men. United in silence, undefeated in spirit.



Further, given that oceans are considered as global commons, the national interests of India and like-minded nations often converge. This gives rise to multifarious cooperative engagements to harness resources, process information, and jointly execute missions to achieve a common end-state. The Indian Navy today conducts maritime operations and exercises with nearly 30 nations, such as the recently concluded MALABAR – 2025 with Australia, Japan and USA. Further, the Navy has also conducted two International Fleet Reviews, in 2001 and 2016, which have enhanced India's stature as a global maritime power.

As a multi-dimensional force capable of operating above, below and on the ocean surface, on land, across the electronic spectrum, and also in space, the Indian Navy undoubtedly has some of the world's finest personnel. Trained across nearly forty institutions within the country, including at the eponymous Indian Naval Academy, the Navy's women and men are second to none. The spirit of adventure, infused by the sea-breeze of the Indian Ocean, has led fearless personnel of the Indian Navy from the heights of Mount Everest to the depths of the oceans. In a tribute to India's ancient mariners, two woman naval officers recently brought laurels to the nation by undertaking Navika Sagar Parikrama II; using a sail-vessel to circumnavigate the globe, sailing 48,000 kilometres in 238 days across three oceans.

There has also been a higher incidence of natural disasters and regional instabilities over the past few decades, necessitating increased deployment of the Indian Navy for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations. Recent missions being – Tsunami (Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia, 2004), Op Sahayta (Mozambique floods, 2019), UNWFP escort (Somalia, 2018-2020), Mission SAGAR I&II (COVID-19 assistance to IOR and African countries), Op Karuna (2023) and Op Brahma (Myanmar post cyclone Mocha and earthquake relief respectively, 2024). Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) such as Op Sukoon (Beirut, 2006) Op Rahat (Yemen, 2015), Op Samudra Setu I & II (COVID-19 repatriation of 3992 citizens from Maldives, Sri Lanka and Iran, 2020) and Op Kaveri (Sudan, 2023), have reassured our citizens that their Navy has the ability to extricate them from distant, war-torn shores.

Rising Tide Lifts All

The nation's first indigenously built warship (INS Ajay, 1961) put the Indian Navy on the path of self-reliance. Today the Navy remains at the forefront of the nation's indigenisation efforts and *Atma Nirbhar Bharat* through close association with Defence PSUs and private industry, developing capabilities in emerging cyber and space domains, and leapfrogging the technology curve by investing in artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, autonomous vessels, big data, and directed energy weapons.



Launch of GSAT-7R on 02 Nov 2025 – the heaviest and most advanced communication satellite for the Indian Navy. Strengthening space-based communications, connectivity, and maritime domain awareness across IOR.

Maritime domain awareness, battle-space transparency, and connectivity is facilitated by a slew of high-tech measures ranging from satellites to networked sensors, conceptualised and built within our domestic ecosystem.

As on date, over 150 warships of the Indian Navy have been constructed at Indian shipyards, saving precious foreign exchange and ploughing back its budget to boost the local economy. Presently, over 50 ships and submarines are on order from public and private sector Indian shipyards. The nation also commissioned its first domestically constructed aircraft carrier INS Vikrant in 2022, built to an indigenous design - a capability which only a handful of countries can boast of. In coming years, the Indian Navy is likely to induct stealth destroyers and frigates, submarines, diving support vessels, next generation missile vessels and corvettes, amphibious ships, and aircraft constructed in India; while state-of-the-art P8I aircraft, multi-role helicopters and HALE RPAs are being procured from overseas.

Lothal to Lethal

Today, the Indian Navy is the pre-eminent stabilising force in the Indian Ocean, and is likely to remain so in coming decades. It operates a wide-range of cutting-edge platforms bristling with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors and has nearly seven decades' experience of operating aircraft carriers, including undertaking carrier-borne combat operations over East Pakistan in 1971. As one of only six navies operating nuclear submarines, the Indian Navy completes the nation's nuclear triad, providing strategic deterrence, and assured second-strike capability. Given its professionalism and prominence in the Indian Ocean, many major navies see the benefit of associating and exercising with the Indian Navy for mutual learning; which is in itself an acknowledgement of the Navy's global standards.



As India takes steady steps towards reacquiring her rightful place in the world order, the nation has justifiably recognised that *'To be Secure on Land, we must be Supreme at Sea'*. Apropos, given the current geo-political flux and instability in our neighbourhood, the Indian Navy stands as a bulwark, defending the nation's maritime boundaries and economic progress against foreign aggressors. The Indian Navy's decisive actions during the recent Op Sindoor 2025 further highlighted the pivotal role of maritime power in modern conflicts.

Transforming itself from oared galleys, to the age of sail, to its modern avatar as defender of the maritime interests of the world's largest democracy, the transformation of the Indian Navy has been remarkable. As the stabilising maritime force for the IOR and beyond, the Indian Navy seeks partnerships, co-existence, and adherence to the rules based order, above all else. Ergo, not only mariners, but indeed all descendants of our ancient sea-faring civilisation should be conscious of our vast maritime domain, its unique challenges and opportunities, and the key role it will play in determining our destiny in the 21st Century. Ancient mariners of Harappa would today, over four millennia later, indeed be proud to witness the transformation of India's Navy from *Lothal to Lethal*.

- Rear Admiral Prashant Handu, NM



An indomitable spirit, superhuman strength, unyielding stamina, and a courageous heart are the functional prerequisites for a marine commando



Marine Commandos during a simulated beach assault operation as part of the Navy Day celebrations in Visakhapatnam



'Precision in Motion: Locked. Launched. Lethal'



Personnel on board INS Nilgiri, heralding IFR-26

INTERNATIONAL FLEET REVIEW - 2026

Curtain Raiser

Visakhapatnam, the headquarters of the Eastern Naval Command (ENC), continues to be the beating heart of India's maritime power on the Eastern Seaboard. The Command remains unique in its dual distinction: it spans the largest geographical area of responsibility among all Indian Armed Forces Commands – stretching from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu – and it is the only naval command operating nuclear-propelled platforms. Over the years, ENC has transformed into a truly multidimensional maritime command, comprising a formidable Eastern Fleet, a capable submarine arm, a potent naval air wing, a resilient dockyard, and forward-operating bases that together project India's presence and partnerships across the Indo-Pacific.

Four years after hosting the President's Fleet Review in 2022, and a decade after the spectacular International Fleet Review (IFR) of 2016, Visakhapatnam is once again poised to welcome the world navies for IFR-26 in February 2026. This edition will be held concurrently with Exercise MILAN 2026 and the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)



Dornier Aircraft formation flying over picturesque Visakhapatnam coastal landscape



Demonstration by a team of Marine Commandos – 'Where flames rise, bravery has already stood'

Conclave of Chiefs, making it one of the largest and most diverse maritime gatherings ever hosted by India. The choice of Visakhapatnam, as the venue once again, reflects its world-class harbour infrastructure, deep and safe anchorage, and scenic coastline that offers both operational depth and public engagement opportunities.

The event is expected to draw participation from close to seventy navies, including Friendly Foreign warships, delegations, and observers from across the Indo-Pacific and beyond. For a week, the City of Destiny will become a confluence of maritime traditions, technology, and diplomacy—showcasing India's role as a Preferred Security Partner, First Responder, and a responsible stakeholder in the region's collective security. The Fleet Review, and associated city events, will also reinforce Vizag's stature as a vibrant maritime and industrial hub of Eastern India, catalysing tourism, infrastructure, and civic renewal. IFR-26 thus promises to be not just a celebration of naval excellence but also a reaffirmation of India's enduring commitment to peace, partnership, and prosperity through the oceans.



Marine Commandos demonstrate Small Team Insertion Extraction (above) and hostage rescue operations (below) during Navy Day Operational Demo at RK Beach, Visakhapatnam



MAIN EVENTS

The International Fleet Review (IFR) 2026 at Visakhapatnam will be a grand convergence of nations, navies, and cultures. A week-long celebration blending maritime prowess with India's vibrant heritage awaits global delegates and visitors alike.



MILAN Village

On the evening of 15 Feb 26, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, AVSM, NM will inaugurate the MILAN Village; a cultural kaleidoscope for the visitors to unwind and socialise. This vibrant village, which will remain open throughout the period, will showcase India, bringing together diverse cultures from various States and Union Territories. Visitors can experience an enthralling display of folk dances, traditional musical bands, handicrafts, and exquisite crafts that reflect the country's timeless artistry. Adding to the charm, the event will also feature a wide variety of authentic regional cuisines, offering a culinary journey through India's incredible diversity of flavours. The MILAN Village is designed to be an immersive experience, blending art, culture, food, and festivity.



MILAN Opening Ceremony

The MILAN Opening Ceremony will be held on 19 Feb 26 at Samudrika Auditorium, Visakhapatnam, making the formal commencement of the multilateral naval exercise; MILAN 26. The Hon'ble Raksha Mantri (Defence Minister) of India will be the Chief Guest for the event. The Chief of the Naval Staff will deliver the Welcome Address and the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri (Defence Minister) would deliver the Keynote Address. The Chief Guest would thereafter interact with the media.

Presidential Banquet

The prestigious International Fleet Review (IFR) will formally commence with the much-anticipated Presidential Banquet on the evening of 17 Feb 26. This distinguished event will be graced by the Hon'ble President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, and will host eminent international, national, and state dignitaries, including the Heads of Delegations from over 60 participating nations. Guests will be welcomed with a captivating ceremonial band performance at the picturesque Eastern Naval Command Officer's Mess, a fitting prelude to an evening dedicated to fostering global maritime camaraderie and cultural exchange.

This exquisite banquet serves as more than just a formal dinner; it represents the official curtain-raiser for the entire IFR-26 proceedings. It provides a unique and elegant platform for high-level interaction among naval leadership and government officials from around the world. The event will underscore India's commitment to diplomacy and cooperation, allowing guests to network, build relationships, and immerse themselves in India's rich heritage through a blend of bespoke culinary experiences and traditional performances. The evening is poised to be a memorable celebration of the shared vision of 'United through Oceans' and a true highlight of the IFR-26 festivities.

International Fleet Review (IFR)

Smt Droupadi Murmu, the Hon'ble President of India, will review the International Fleet at Visakhapatnam Anchorage Area on 18 Feb 26. INS Sumedha, an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel (NOPV), will be the Presidential Yacht and lead the Presidential column. In addition to anchored ships, the review would also include a steam past by mobile columns of warships and submarines and flypast by naval aircraft. Several enthralling activities include Parade of Sailing Vessels, Search and Rescue Demonstration and Special Operations Boats display by Marine Commandos.



International Maritime Seminar

On 19 Feb 26, an International Maritime Seminar will be inaugurated by Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff. This seminar will provide a platform for dialogue among gathered delegates and experts, reinforcing the shared commitment towards camaraderie, cooperation and collaboration. The seminar will have four sessions, each addressing contemporary maritime aspects.

- **MAHASAGAR:** The United Oceans: Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Maritime Security and Sustainable Growth
- **Tech for Tide:** Advancing Maritime Collaboration in a Connected World
- **Safe Seas, Shared Horizons:** Advancing Maritime Stability and Cooperation
- **Oceans of Care:** Maritime Cooperation for Humanitarian Support



Outstation Visits

Cultural visits are planned for foreign visitors on 19 and 20 Feb 26 to Agra and Bodhgaya respectively. Agra is the home of Taj Mahal, a white marble mausoleum built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal. Bodhgaya, in Bihar, is the place where Lord Gautam Buddha is believed to have attained enlightenment under the holy Bodhi tree.



International City Parade

The evening of 19 Feb 26 will witness an Air Power Demonstration by Indian Naval Aircraft, followed by the City Parade which would include marching contingents and bands from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. The City Parade will witness the participation of foreign contingents with their marching bands and will also include participation by National Cadet Corps, Sea Cadet Corps and Navy Children School. The City Parade aims to blend cultural troupes with tableaux showcasing military ceremony, culture and artistic performances. The evening would culminate with ceremonial illumination by ships at anchorage followed by fireworks, laser and drone shows.

Sea Phase – MILAN 26

The MILAN Sea Phase planned from 21 to 25 Feb 26 will be the operationally significant segment of the multinational naval exercise hosted by the Indian Navy. To be conducted in the Bay of Bengal off Visakhapatnam, this phase involves maritime operations, formation manoeuvres and various aspects of naval warfare, aimed at strengthening interoperability among participating navies. Key activities include Anti-Submarine Warfare, Surface Firings, Air Defence Exercises, Cross Deck Helicopter and Aircraft Carrier Operations. This Sea Phase of Exercise MILAN aims to enhance mutual trust, cooperation and collective capability to ensure maritime safety and security.





VISAKHAPATNAM | City of Destiny

Visakhapatnam, referred to as the 'Jewel of the East Coast', is the largest city in Andhra Pradesh and the third-largest on India's Eastern Seaboard. It has long stretches of beaches, laterite hillocks, coastline stretches, and stunning landscapes. Bordered by the Eastern Ghats, on one side, and the Bay of Bengal on the other, the city exudes a magical charm. The local language is Telugu with English and Hindi widely understood. The city's economy thrives across diverse sectors, including heavy industries, tourism, industrial minerals, petrochemical complexes, fishing, and information technology. Visakhapatnam Port ranks as the fifth busiest port in India, by cargo volume, and houses the only natural harbour on the East Coast. Additionally, the city serves as the headquarters of the Eastern Naval Command of the Indian Navy; highlighting its strategic importance.

MARITIME MUSEUMS



Submarine Museum

The INS Kursura Submarine Museum is South Asia's first, and the world's second, submarine museum. INS Kursura served in the historic Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 and numerous other naval operations. Decommissioned in 2001, it continues to receive the Indian Navy's "Dressing Ship" honour. The submarine turned museum, offers us glimpses into the torpedo rooms, crew quarters, sonar and radar systems, and the complex control panels.



Sea Harrier Museum

Housed within the 22,000 sq. ft. Rajiv Smruthi Bhavan, this museum showcases a vividly suspended Sea Harrier fighter jet from the ceiling. The museum features the Indian Navy Sea Harrier FRS 51 (IN 606), a retired jet, and the British Harrier GR3 aircraft, that can take off and land vertically (VTOL - Vertical Take-Off and Landing) which had played a remarkable role in the Falklands War (1982).

BEACHES



Ramakrishna Beach

Ramakrishna Beach is a picturesque destination with an immaculate coastline. The divine Kali Mata Temple, with its architectural beauty, faces the beach. The coastline is filled with exquisite restaurants and hotels with beach-view rooms. A popular spot, undoubtedly, it is crowded during the evenings, akin to that of a festival.



Bheemili Beach

With its wide, golden sands and calm waters, Bheemili Beach is a peaceful retreat perfect for scenic long drives and quiet walks. While the beach offers a serene natural escape, the adjacent town of Bheemunipatnam stands as a separate historical gem, housing Dutch-era cemeteries, old ruins, and the iconic St. Peter's Church.



Rushikonda Beach

With clean golden sands and clear waters, Rushikonda is one of India's first beaches to earn the Blue Flag certification. The bay itself is a wonderland of water sports and fun. From snorkelling to scuba-diving, jet-skiing, kite-surfing, and paragliding, there's a lot to keep one busy here. Outside, stalls sell invigorating street food and souvenirs to take home.



Yarada Beach

Yarada Beach, a unique destination, is located away from the city's bustle. It has a mesmerising sea view, with the Dolphin's Nose Lighthouse as one of its attractions. The beach is also close to the Gangavaram Port. The rocky cliffs are ideal for photography and remain a secluded spot for reclusive people.



Kailasagiri

Surrounded by the lush green hills, and overlooking the Bay of Bengal, the Kailasagiri Hill features iconic statues of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, scenic walking trails, and breathtaking panoramic views. The hill boasts of a toy train that goes full-circle and offers its passengers to explore its entirety. The latest addition to Kailasagiri is the Vizag Glass Skywalk, India's longest cantilever glass bridge, stretching 55 metres and perched 262 metres above sea level. The best way to reach the hill top is through a 375-metre-long ropeway in a glass cabin that offers you a bird's eye view of the sea and the city. Alternatively, one can opt for a short drive with a number of viewpoints enroute.



TU-142 Museum

The Tupolev TU-142 is a Russian maritime surveillance, and an anti-submarine warfare aircraft, that served for 29 years. Decommissioned in 2017, the aircraft was transported from the Indian Navy's Arakkonam base and then dismantled, reassembled, and transformed into a stunning museum. The museum stands as a proud tribute to naval aviation.



UH-3H Helicopter Museum

The UH-3H Helicopter stands along the scenic west coast. Nicknamed as "Saaras", it was inducted into service in 2009 with Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 350 at INS Dega, Visakhapatnam. It can carry up to 19 passengers and played a key role in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations during cyclones and natural disasters.



Visakha Museum

The Visakha Museum, established in 1991, houses the Indian Maritime Museum, filled with wartime relics. These include an unexploded 250-lb bomb, dropped by the Japanese during World War II, and the remnants of the Pakistani submarine 'PNS Ghazi'. It also showcases the heritage of Visakhapatnam through oil portraits.

NATURE & WILDLIFE



Tenneti Park

Tenneti Park is located on a rocky cliff and gives a beautiful picturesque view of the blue glistening ocean. A flight of stony stairs takes you directly down to the beach, where you can enjoy pretty sunsets. One can also see the abandoned Bangladeshi cargo ship MVV Maa, docked in the park's proximity. The park is scenic with its gardens, diverse street food, and various vendors selling toys and souvenirs.



Indira Gandhi Zoological Park

Indira Gandhi Zoological Park is spread over 625 acres. It is home to many exotic birds and animals, with around 800 animals from 120 different species. One of the main attractions is the famous White Tiger. The park plays a vital role in wildlife conservation and also protects natural resources. It is a great place for nature and animal lovers.

BUDDHIST TRAIL



Thotlakonda

The Thotlakonda Buddhist Complex, located 128 meters above the sea level, overlooks the sandy shores, and hilly ranges of the Eastern Ghats. Dating back to 200 BCE, it has well-preserved Stupas, Viharas, Chaityas, a congregation hall and a refectory. According to history, it is estimated that the monastery accommodated more than a hundred Buddhist monks.



Bavikonda

Bavikonda is one of the oldest Buddhist centres in Asia, featuring remarkable architecture from the 3rd Century BCE. On site there are many findings like a stone stupa; circular chaityagraha (an early Buddhist feature); later apsidal chaitya (Roman Basilica influence); a congregation hall, viharas, kitchen-cum-store complex. Bavikonda is known to have an urn, which is believed to contain a piece of the Buddha's bone.



Pavauralakonda

Pavuralakonda ('hill of pigeons') covering an area of 10 to 12 acres is at a height of 168m above sea level, near Bheemunipatnam Beach. This Buddhist Complex boasts of viharas, chaityas, and 16 ancient rock-cut cisterns; which were designed for rainwater harvesting. An apsidal chaityagriha (place of worship) were found at the site.

DIVINE CONNECTION



Simhachalam Temple

Simhachalam Temple is an 11th Century abode of Varaha Narasimha Swamy, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. The idol at the temple is perpetually covered with sandalwood paste. The true form of the deity is revealed to devotees only once annually during the Chandanotsavam Festival. The temple is one of 18 Narasimha Kshetras in India.



TTD Lord Venkateswara Swamy Temple

The TTD Lord Venkateswara Swamy Temple stands out for its white architecture and its serene hilltop setting near Rushikonda. The temple features a golden gopuram and hosts many major festivals like Brahmotsavam and Vaikunta Ekadasi. All rituals here follow the same tradition as the TTD Temple in Tirupati.



St. Paul's Church

St. Paul's Church, adjacent to the Waltair Club and in close vicinity to the Governor House, is an important landmark on the city map. The spotless white overarching structure is over 180 years old and it melds with the 21st Century modernity of Vizag beautifully.



Three Holy Hills

The Three Holy Hills form an iconic trinity that overlooks the Bay of Bengal. Ross Hill Church, the highest hilltop shrine in Visakhapatnam, is known for its striking white chapel enshrining Mother Mary. Nearby stand the 17th Century Lord Venkateswara Temple and the 700-year-old Baba Ishq Madina Dargah, completing this sacred trio.

ECO TOURISM (Around Visakhapatnam)



Araku Valley

Perched nearly 600 meters above sea level, and encircled by the Eastern Ghats, Araku Valley offers panoramic views, rich coffee estates, and untouched greenery. A year round retreat and the most loved getaway from Visakhapatnam. Experience Dhimsa dance, tribal jewellery, and the Tribal Museum. Savour slow cooked bamboo chicken, explore local spices and coffee. Enjoy the Vistadome train journey that winds through fifty six tunnels and sweeping mist filled landscapes.



Tyda

Tyda is a charming spot near Araku Valley and AP Tourism has a property here that offers log huts for overnight stays. One can indulge in a variety of activities such as trekking, rock climbing, bird watching, star gazing and nature walks. Explore the rich wildlife, diverse flora and fauna of the area.



Chaparai Waterfalls

Chaparai Waterfalls is a popular spot near Araku, known for its lush greenery and gently flowing streams. The landscape is picture perfect and makes the short fifteen kilometre drive from Araku feel rewarding. It is a favourite picnic place where visitors dip their feet in the cool water. The bamboo chicken is also worth trying and adds to the experience.



Borra Caves

Borra Caves are considered one of the deepest limestone caves in India. Over 150 million years old, this cave system is an adventure into time and the Earth's fascinating geography. The River Gosthani, flowing over limestone deposits in the area and dissolving them, resulted in this formation. The discovery of ancient tools here, dating back to 30,000 to 50,000 years, indicates the presence of Paleolithic-era humans. These caves are often occupied by visitors who come to admire its stalactites and stalagmites.



Ananthagiri Hills

Ananthagiri Hills is a peaceful getaway covered in coffee plantations and pepper vines. AP Tourism cottages overlook green valleys, and the region is one of India's oldest coffee-growing areas from the British era. The hill station is known for its dense forests, trekking paths, and the Sri Anantha Padmanabha Swamy Temple.



Coffee Museum

The Coffee House is a quaint museum that showcases the history of coffee in the Araku Valley. It features tableaus with dolls that illustrate the entire coffee-making process. Attached to the museum is a cozy café whose menu includes varieties of coffee beverages, roasted beans, coffee powder, coffee infused chocolates, and an array of desserts to choose from.

CRAFT TRAIL



Ponduru

Ponduru is popularly referred to as the "khadi village". It is also believed that Mahatma Gandhi himself had a strong liking for the khadi produced here. Woven by skilled weavers, from the Padmasali and Devanga communities, this Khadi is produced on the traditional Gandhi charkha using local cotton. The best part of the entire trip is to get a chance to witness a weaver working at his loom. No less than heirloom pieces, handlooms here come in the forms of raw cloth, khadi sarees, silk and cotton khadi dhotis, for which this area is very popular. Ponduru Khadi received GI tag in Decemeber 2025.



Etikoppaka

The quaint village of Etikoppaka is famous for its lacquered wooden toys, known as Etikoppaka Toys. Believed to be a 500 year old craft, the products, which include bangles, boxes, God idols, artefacts, and toys, are made from wood and then coloured with natural dyes extracted from roots, leaves, fruits, seeds, and bark. The vibrantly coloured craft received a GI tag in 2017.

AT THE HELM



Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, PVSM, AVSM, NM
Chief of the Naval Staff



VAdm Tarun Sobti, UYSM, AVSM, VSM
Deputy Chief of Naval Staff



VAdm Sanjay Bhalla, AVSM, NM
Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief
Eastern Naval Command



VAdm AN Pramod, AVSM, YSM
Director General Naval Operations



VAdm Susheel Menon, VSM
Chief of Staff, ENC



Cmde Raghu R Nair, NM
IFR & MILAN Cell (Delhi)



Cmde Aby Mathew
Cmde IFR & MILAN (Visakhapatnam)



RAdm Manoj Jha, VSM
Chief Staff Officer (Ops), ENC



Capt Sunil Sankar
IFR & MILAN Cell
(Delhi)



Capt Akhilesh Menon
Capt IFR
(Visakhapatnam)



Capt Sanjeev Agnihotri
Capt MILAN
(Visakhapatnam)

THE PROGRAMME

DATE	EVENT	CHIEF GUEST
17 Feb 26 (Tuesday)	Presidential Banquet Dinner	Hon'ble President of India
18 Feb 26 (Wednesday)	International Fleet Review (IFR)	Hon'ble President of India
	MILAN Dinner	
19 Feb 26 (Thursday)	MILAN Opening Ceremony & International Maritime Seminar	Hon'ble Defence Minister of India
	International City Parade (ICP)	Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh
	Dinner	
20 Feb 26 (Friday)	IONS Conclave of Chiefs	





INS Tarangini, the sail training ship, proudly sails past the Rock of Gibraltar, carrying India's maritime legacy across continents





INDIAN NAVY



≡ United through Oceans ≡

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