



# NAMASTE



*Welcome to India!*



INTERNATIONAL  
FLEET REVIEW  
& MILAN  
VISAKHAPATNAM 2026

११ सह नाववतु ।  
सह नौ भुनक्तु ।  
सह वीर्यं करवावहै ।  
तेजस्वि नावधीतमस्तु मा विद्विषावहै ॥ ११

Saha nāv avatu  
Saha nau bhunaktu  
Saha vīryaṃ karavāvahai  
Tejasvi nāv adhītam astu mā vidviṣāvahai

May we be protected together  
May we be nourished together  
May we work together with strength and vigour  
May our learning be luminous and purposeful  
May harmony, respect and peace prevail among us

– Taittirīya Upaniṣad (c. 800–500 BCE)





# Editorial

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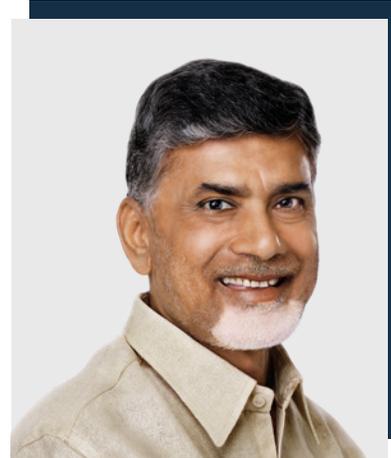
 *INS Udaygiri demonstrates agility and coordinated seamanship*



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Hon'ble President of India  
&  
Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces



**Shri S Abdul Nazeer**  
Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh



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Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh



**Shri Rajnath Singh**  
Hon'ble Defence Minister of India



**Shri Sanjay Seth**  
Hon'ble Minister of State for Defence

# Foreword

Chief of the Naval Staff





It is a singular honour to welcome Chiefs of Navies, Heads of Delegations, distinguished guests, officers and sailors from around the world to Visakhapatnam for the International Fleet Review (IFR) 2026 and MILAN 2026. Your presence, representing more than seventy nations across the globe, reflects the enduring strength of maritime partnerships and our shared commitment to safeguarding peace, security and stability across the global maritime commons.

The theme of IFR 2026, 'United through Oceans', pays tribute to the oceans that connect us; vast, dynamic and rich with promise. For centuries, the seas have enabled exchange, exploration and cooperation among nations. Today, they remain central to global prosperity, even as they face increasing pressures from climate change, illicit activities and challenges to the rules-based maritime order. The Fleet Review stands as a reaffirmation of our collective resolve to ensure that the world's oceans remain open, safe and inclusive.

MILAN 2026, themed 'Camaraderie, Cooperation and Collaboration', builds on a legacy that spans more than three decades. What began as a modest gathering has transformed into a flagship multilateral initiative, bringing together friendly maritime forces in an environment of trust and mutual respect. The exercise provides an invaluable platform to deepen professional understanding, enhance interoperability and share best practices across the full spectrum of naval operations. Its activities, ashore and at sea, embody the unity of purpose, essential for facing contemporary maritime challenges.

We are equally privileged to host the IONS Conclave of Chiefs, an apex-level forum that continues to reinforce strategic dialogue, build confidence and advance practical cooperation among the navies of the Indian Ocean Region. In an era marked by the rising significance of the Indo-Pacific, IONS serves as a vital mechanism for harmonising perspectives, shaping shared security architectures and promoting cooperative, rule-based approaches to regional maritime concerns. The Conclave offers a timely opportunity for collective reflection and future-oriented decision-making among the region's pre-eminent naval leaders.

Visakhapatnam, home to the Eastern Naval Command and a city deeply interwoven with India's maritime heritage, offers an inspiring setting for these landmark events. I am confident that your engagements here will enrich professional bonds, enhance mutual understanding and cultivate friendships that endure well beyond this gathering.

I extend my warmest wishes for a meaningful, productive and memorable experience during IFR 26 and MILAN 26. May our shared endeavours continue to strengthen harmony, cooperation and partnerships across the MAHASAGAR that unites us all.

Jai Hind. शं नो वरुणः (Sam No Varunah) – May the Lord of the Oceans be auspicious unto us.

**Dinesh Kumar Tripathi**  
Admiral  
Chief of the Naval Staff



# Message

Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief  
Eastern Naval Command





It gives me immense pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all Chiefs of Navies, Heads of Delegations, distinguished guests and participating officers and sailors from across the world, to Visakhapatnam, for the International Fleet Review 2026, MILAN 2026 and the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs. As the Eastern Naval Command hosts this remarkable confluence of the global maritime community, the 'City of Destiny' and its shores come alive with the vibrancy, diversity and the spirit of seafarers from across the world.

Visakhapatnam, home to India's operational command on the Eastern Seaboard, shares a deep and enduring bond with the Indian Navy and the global maritime community. The city has a glorious maritime past and has grown alongside the Indian Navy, its coastline reflecting this intimate association. The city and the Indian Navy have evolved in harmony, shaping each other's identity and contributing to India's enduring maritime journey.

This year, IFR 2026 is guided by the theme 'United through Oceans', a powerful reminder that the seas bind us together as pathways of commerce, cooperation and cultural exchange. Complementing this, the theme of MILAN 2026, 'Camaraderie, Cooperation and Collaboration', captures the enduring friendships and professional partnerships that have strengthened over three decades of this multilateral initiative. Together, these themes echo our broader national vision of MAHASAGAR, articulated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, which calls for a secure, stable and prosperous maritime domain built on shared purpose and collective progress.

The IONS Conclave of Chiefs adds a vital strategic dimension, gathering the naval leadership of the Indian Ocean Region to deliberate on contemporary challenges and possible opportunities. Whether addressing climate-driven disruptions, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, cyber threats or issues affecting the rules-based maritime order, the Conclave underscores the importance of dialogue, transparency and coordinated action.

As you explore Visakhapatnam, engage in symposiums, participate in exercises and experience the warmth and camaraderie of this gathering, I hope Namaste serves as a fitting companion; celebrating the cultures, achievements and aspirations that each delegation and nation brings. These interactions form the living tapestry of our maritime friendship, strengthening bonds that transcend borders and would endure into the future.

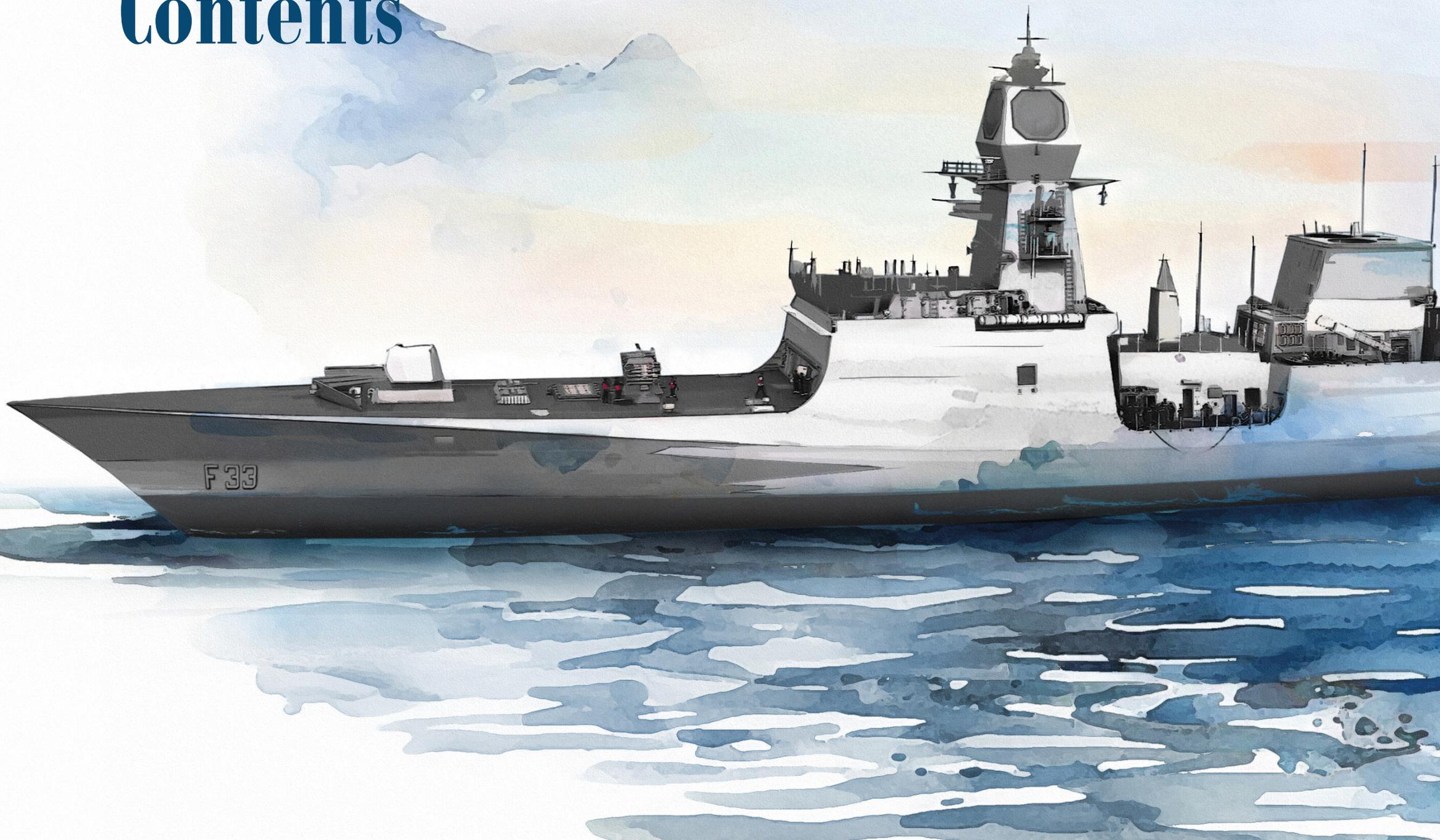
The coming days of IFR 26, MILAN 26 and the IONS Conclave of Chiefs will no doubt inspire partnership, innovation and goodwill, enriching our shared maritime vision and the global commons that sustain us.

Jai Hind. शं नो वरुणः (Sam No Varunah) – May the Lord of the Oceans be auspicious unto us.

**Sanjay Bhalla**  
Vice Admiral  
Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief  
Eastern Naval Command



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# At the Helm

## IFR & MILAN 2026



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



**VAdm Krishna Swaminathan**  
PVSM, AVSM, VSM  
Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief  
Western Naval Command



**VAdm Sanjay Vatsayan**  
PVSM, AVSM, NM  
Vice Chief of Naval Staff  
Naval Headquarters



**VAdm Ajay Kochhar**  
PVSM, AVSM, NM  
Commander-in-Chief  
Andaman & Nicobar Command



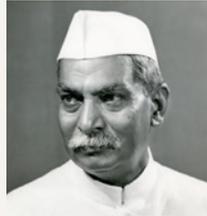
**VAdm Sanjay Bhalla**  
AVSM, NM  
Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief  
Eastern Naval Command



**VAdm Sameer Saxena**  
AVSM, NM  
Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief  
Southern Naval Command



# 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









**INDIAN MARITIME  
ODYSSEY**



*An artist's impression of the convergence of a Matsya Yantra and a modern magnetic compass. The Matsya Yantra, used by ancient Indian mariners to navigate across oceans, was an oil-filled stone container in which a magnetised, fish-shaped metallic strip was floated, to point to the North. It was a precursor to the modern magnetic compass. The image reflects India's rich maritime heritage and legacy.*

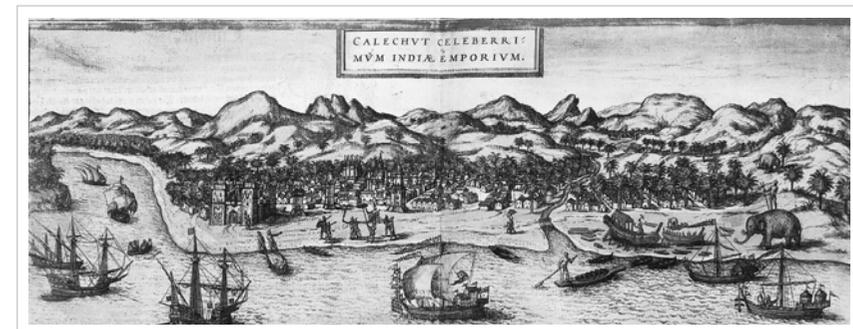
# Evolution of Indian Maritime Power

Cdr Kalesh Mohanan

The Indian subcontinent resonates with enduring legacies and timeless traditions. The struggles, the stories and the memories of ancient India are no different – often preserved, layered beneath the resilience they displayed through time. “He who rules the sea will shortly rule on the land also”, proclaimed Hayreddin Barbarossa to Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent, and nowhere has this been truer than in the case of India. As rightly observed by Sardar KM Panikkar, a statesman and diplomat, although there were many invasions and conquests that advanced from the land, “India never lost her independence until she lost the command of the sea in the first decade of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century”.

India’s extensive coastline stretches 11,098.81 kilometres along the Indian Ocean, a region that supports well over three billion people today. From the earliest days of the Indus Valley Civilisation, India’s bond with the sea has been enduring and profound with the Indian Ocean, the world’s third largest, shaping maritime enterprise, cultural imagination and the course of major naval engagements across the ages.

☪☪ Maritime power shaped India’s engagement with the world long before it defined its borders on land. ☪☪



☪ *Painting of Calicut Port during the medieval period*





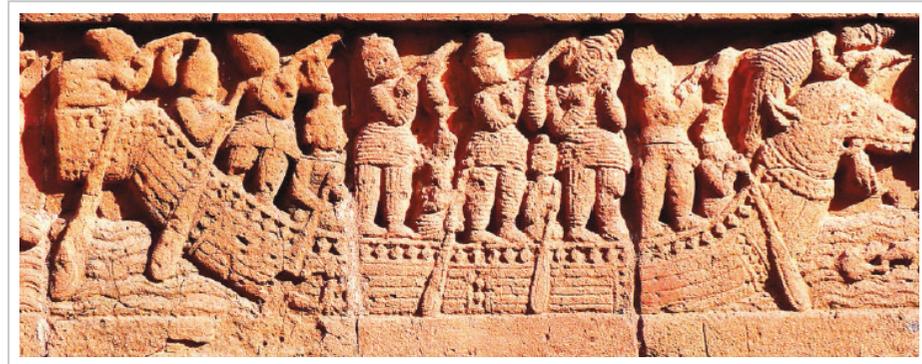
⚓ Ancient tidal dock at Lothal, Gujarat

## Early Indian Seafaring

Historians suggest that Dravidian speaking people inhabited the Indus region prior to the Aryan arrivals around 2000 BCE. Successive migrations added to India's cultural diversity and fostered long traditions of exchange with the wider world. From the *Vedas* and *Puranas* to the epics, the sea occupied a central place in Indian imagination. From the *Matsya Avatar*, where *Lord Vishnu* guides *Manu* to build a great vessel, to the *Ramayana* (Indian Epic), whose journey inspired Southeast Asian retellings, the narrative extends further into archaeological and artistic parallels, such as the Pashupati Seal and Denmark's Gundestrup. These indicate early long distance maritime connections.

This intellectual and cultural exchange continued in classical Sanskrit literature, reaching its zenith with *Kalidasa*, whose work evokes ships, navigation and maritime life. References to devices like *Matsya Yantra* (compass) provide evidence that seafaring shaped not only India's trade but also its science, literature and worldview. Beyond this literary reflection, Indian seafaring can be traced back to the Bronze Age. Archaeological evidence from the Indus Valley Civilisation, including dockyards, seals and maritime artefacts, underscores India's long-standing seafaring traditions. The unearthing of a dockyard at Lothal

(around 2300 BCE) and the inland city of Dholavira, in present day Gujarat revealed the Harappans' sophisticated maritime expertise. These sites demonstrate the use of wet docks, tidal knowledge and strategic river connections enabling long distance voyages. Together, they indicate a well developed third millennium BCE maritime network, that extended across the Arabian Sea and left a lasting impact on regional and global seafaring.



⚓ A bas-relief of a trading vessel from the Odisha State Museum, depicting ancient maritime voyages to distant lands across the seas

## Mauryan Maritime Trade

Under the Nandas and more decisively, the Mauryas (4<sup>th</sup>–2<sup>nd</sup> Century BCE), Indian maritime activity expanded under strong central authority with Greek and Roman writers noting Indian skill in shipbuilding and navigation. Notables such as Alexander's Harbour at Patala and Nearchus's voyage underscored reliance on Indian nautical knowledge. Flourishing sea routes through the Persian Gulf integrated India into wider West Asian trade and diplomacy.

The Mauryan state institutionalised maritime affairs as a pillar of governance. Kautilya's *Arthashastra* records a formal naval and port administration, including officials responsible for shipping, navigation, harbour management and maritime law. State patronage extended to shipbuilding, maintenance and the protection of commercial shipping, with fleets operating on rivers and the open sea to support trade and security.

Alongside the northern and imperial frameworks, powerful merchant guilds in Southern India played a growing role in sustaining maritime commerce. Organisations such as the *Manigramam*, *Ayyavole* (*Ainnurruvar*) and *Anjuvannam* operated from key ports along the Western and Eastern coasts, pooling capital, owning ships and coordinating long distance trade. These guilds linked the Deccan and Tamil regions with Sri Lanka, Southeast Asia and the wider Indian Ocean world. They complemented state-led initiatives and ensured the continuity of India's maritime networks well beyond the Mauryan Age.

After the Mauryan decline, regional powers carried this legacy forward. The *Satavahanas*, among others, sustained overseas trade through key ports and long distance routes, maintaining links with the Roman world and beyond. Supported by merchant guilds, monsoon navigation and established maritime institutions, these networks ensured continuity in India's seaborne commerce. They laid lasting foundations for Indian Ocean trade.

☪☪ India's command of the seas was sustained through institutions, trade networks and accumulated maritime knowledge. ☪☪



☪ An artist's impression of the Chola Maritime Era



## Navigate and Conquer

The Kalingas occupied a prominent place in early Indian maritime history, undertaking long distance voyages to Southeast Asia over the centuries and establishing settlements, commercial links and cultural influence, particularly in Java and Bali. Their seafaring networks were sustained through ports such as Chilika, Palura and Tamralipti, strong maritime links with Seas at Borobudur, and exchanges like the transfer of the Buddha's tooth relic. This maritime heritage remains embedded in regional memory, celebrated in Odisha through the annual Boita Bandana festival, which commemorates ancient overseas voyages. Long before the ascendancy of the Cholas or the rise of Srivijaya, Kalinga's strategic coastline and ports enabled extensive trade in elephants, spices, textiles and luxury goods.

Parallel to Kalinga's influence, Hindu polities emerged across Southeast Asia, most notably the Srivijaya Kingdom, which arose in Sumatra around the 4<sup>th</sup> Century CE. Over time, Srivijaya evolved into a formidable maritime power, exercising control over island chains and the critical Malacca Strait. Command of this maritime corridor allowed it to dominate trade between India, China and the wider Indian Ocean, supported by a strong navy that secured sea lanes

against piracy and maintained close ties with Indian kingdoms, particularly along the eastern coast.

From the late 8<sup>th</sup> Century, however, the Sailendra Dynasty challenged Srivijayan supremacy, extending its authority over Sumatra, Java and the Malay Peninsula. Contemporary Arab accounts, notably that of Al-Masudi, testify to the vast maritime reach of the Sailendras, whose naval power ranked among the greatest in the Eastern Indian Ocean.

In time, the most sustained challenge to Southeast Asian maritime powers came from Southern India. The Cholas, foremost among the peninsular dynasties, transformed maritime strength into overseas expansion during the 11<sup>th</sup> Century. Their campaigns against Srivijaya and subsequent interventions across the Bay of Bengal marked the first large scale Indian naval expeditions abroad, reshaping political, commercial and cultural ties with Southeast Asia. Supported by Tamil merchant guilds and a network of ports along both Indian coasts, Chola maritime dominance consolidated long standing Indian Ocean connections, and represented the culmination of centuries of Indian seafaring enterprise.



*In the period from the 10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> Century, the Cholas built a strong maritime empire which was sustained by a formidable navy as well as cultural and civilisational exchanges. The stone relief is a work at the Borobudur Stupa, Java, depicting ancient maritime trade.*



## Maritime Decline and Colonisation

With the advent of the medieval period, India's maritime power declined as the Mughal Empire, founded in 1526, adopted a predominantly land oriented strategy. Although emperors such as Akbar and Aurangzeb maintained small defensive fleets, ports were treated mainly as gateways for pilgrimage rather than bases of sustained naval power.

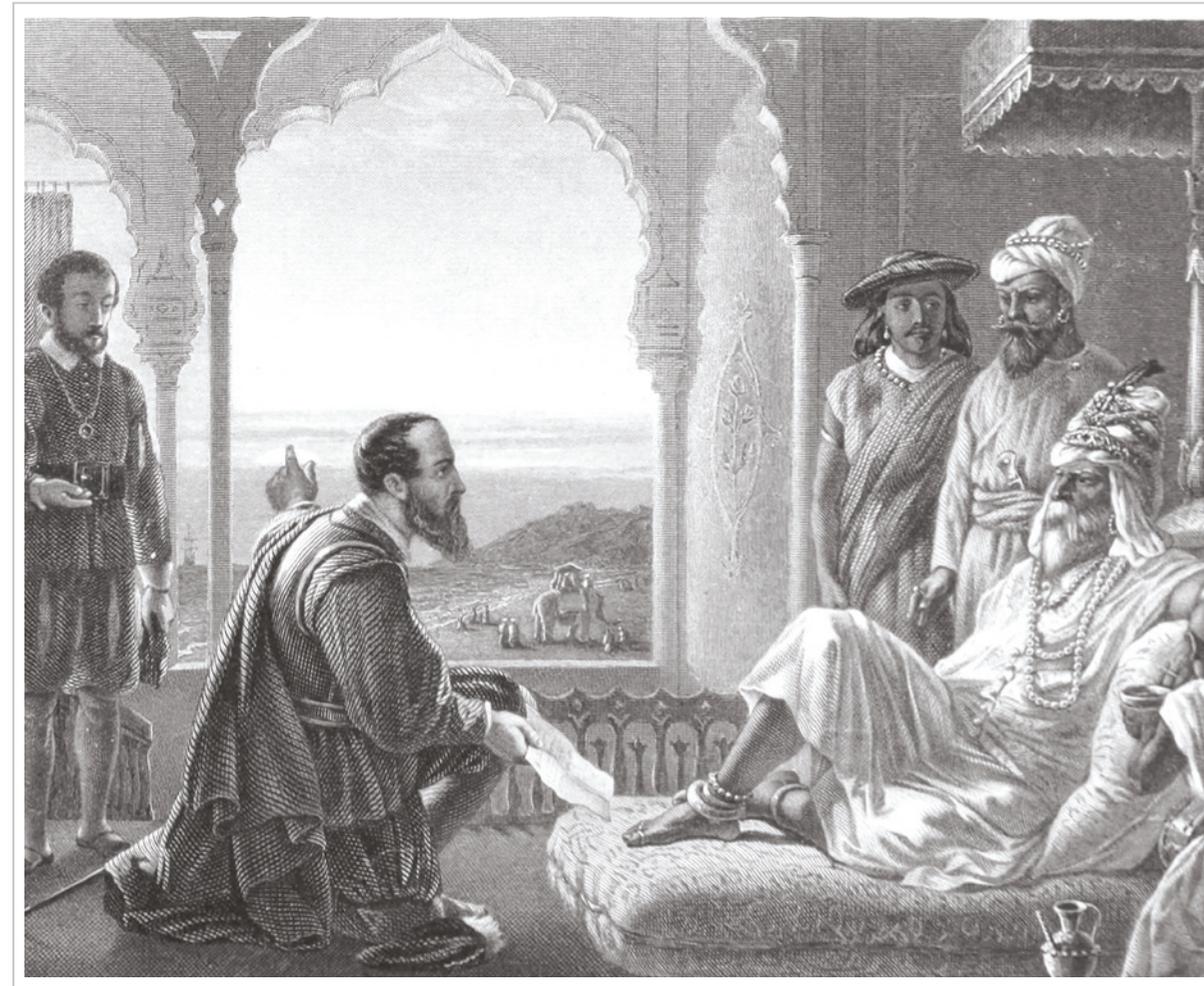
In contrast, the Ahom Kingdom of the Brahmaputra Valley developed a formidable riverine naval tradition suited to Assam's geography. This capability was decisively demonstrated at the Battle of Saraighat in 1671. Under Lachit Borphukan, the Ahom employed agile boats and intimate knowledge of river currents, to defeat a large Mughal force and halt imperial expansion into the region.

This episode highlighted a broader paradox of the Mughal rule. Dominance on land without corresponding maritime investment, which constrained strategic thought and left India's seas vulnerable. In contrast to later regional navies like the Marathas, the absence of an ocean going fleet enabled foreign control of maritime space, in turn, leaving a lasting political and economic consequences.

The arrival of European powers in the Indian Ocean around the 16<sup>th</sup> Century disrupted long established maritime networks dominated by Arab and Southeast Asian traders. Led by Vasco da Gama's voyage to Calicut in 1498, Portuguese attempts to monopolise the spice trade and dominate the Indian Ocean were quickly challenged by indigenous powers such as the Zamorins, supported by their able naval commanders, the Kunjali Marakkars. However, through naval superiority, port control and victories such as Diu (1509) and Swally (1612), European powers secured trading privileges and heralded enduring maritime presence.

Under naval commanders such as the Kunjali Marakkars, the Zamorins resisted Portuguese naval aggression for over a century using fast vessels and maritime knowledge. Despite this, Portuguese dominance was reinforced through alliances, control of ports such as Goa, and the imposition of the Cartaz System,

which sought to regulate and tax all maritime traffic in the Indian Ocean. The decisive Battle of Diu in 1509 marked a watershed, as Portuguese artillery and ship design overwhelmed a multinational coalition of regional powers. By the early 17<sup>th</sup> Century, new European competitors emerged. The Battle of Swally in 1612 marked the English East India Company's first major naval victory in India, securing trading privileges at Surat and establishing a lasting British maritime presence.



 Vasco da Gama meeting the Zamorin of Calicut, 1498





 An artistic impression depicting Riverine Navigation in the Mughal Era



 Sarkhel (Admiral) Kanhoji Angre

Yet European supremacy was neither uniform nor uncontested. In western India, the rise of Maratha power in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century marked a deliberate revival of indigenous naval capability under Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, who built dockyards, ships and a network of coastal forts to secure the Konkan Coast. This maritime strategy reached its zenith under Sarkhel Kanhoji Angre, whose control of regional sea lanes, use of swift warships and fortified bases, and repeated successes against British, Portuguese and Dutch fleets, forced European powers to acknowledge his maritime authority and negotiate rather than conquer.

Simultaneously, indigenous maritime resistance in Southern India was most vividly demonstrated at the Battle of Colachel (1741), where King Marthanda Varma of Travancore decisively defeated the Dutch East India Company through superior local knowledge and coordinated land sea operations. Widely regarded as the first Asian victory over a major European naval power, Colachel shattered Dutch naval prestige and led to the integration of captured Dutch officers, like Eustachius De-Lannoy, aiding Travancore's military modernisation and symbolising a lasting challenge to European naval dominance.

## Birth of the Indian Navy

With the expansion of European commerce, maritime power became an instrument of colonial control, prompting the English East India Company to raise a naval force at Surat in 1613, later shifting to Bombay in 1685 as the Bombay Marine, and evolving into the Royal Indian Marine. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, it was functioning as a modest auxiliary, manned largely by Indian sailors under British officers, and was employed in the First World War to patrol critical sea lanes in the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. In 1934, it was reorganised as the Royal Indian Navy and expanded rapidly during the Second World War, operating across global theatres. Yet it remained firmly embedded within colonial command structures with limited Indian leadership.

When India attained Independence on 15 August 1947, the Royal Indian Navy was abruptly divided between the two successor states. Although India officially received roughly two thirds of the ships and personnel, much of its technical expertise was lost. British manpower policies influenced by the colonial notion of the martial races, concentrated on technical skills such as gunnery, navigation, signals and engineering within select groups. At Partition, many of its experienced and highly trained sailors, including senior ratings, chose to serve Pakistan. This setback was compounded with the transfer of key training institutions such as HMS Himalaya and HMS Akbar, to Pakistan. This deprived India of critical expertise at a decisive moment and forced India to rebuild its naval training and capabilities almost from scratch. In 1948, independent India's first flagship,

“ The adoption of the Republican Constitution on 26 January 1950 and the removal of the prefix “Royal” marked the symbolic beginning of a sovereign Indian naval identity. ”

INS Delhi was commissioned, giving the newly formed navy an early anchor of capability and identity. At Independence, the highest ranking Indian naval officer held only the rank of a Commander, compelling the Government of India to retain senior British officers in command for more than a decade. In 1958, Vice Admiral RD Katari became the first Indian Chief of the Naval Staff, a milestone that signalled the gradual assertion of indigenous leadership.

### From Legacy to Leadership

Viewed across centuries, India’s maritime power emerges as a continuous civilisational journey rather than a sequence of isolated episodes. From a rich maritime inheritance, through periods of eclipse and resurgence, to the birth of the Indian Navy, the sea has remained central to India’s strategic and cultural life. As the world’s fleets gather on India’s shores for IFR 2026, the moment stands as both remembrance and reassurance of a maritime nation reclaiming its legacy, and of an enduring commitment to shared security, cooperation and peace upon the seas.



☙ Shri VK Krishna Menon, the first Indian High Commissioner to the UK, addresses Indian Navy personnel at Chatham, England in July 1948, marking the commissioning of INS Delhi





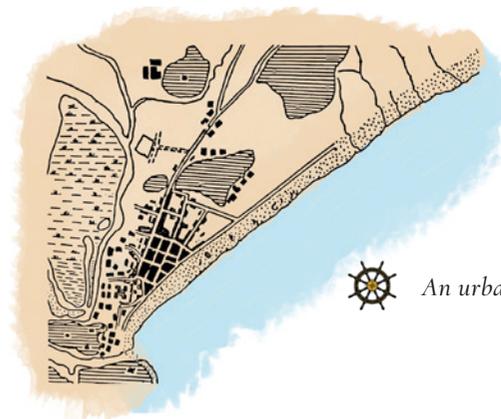
*A view of the Visakhapatnam Harbour entrance channel adjoining the city, seen from Dolphin Hill, 1940*

# Visakhapatnam & the Tides of History

Dr Meera Atul Bhadre

Visakhapatnam forms part of a coastal region that has been inhabited and engaged with the sea since ancient times. Its natural harbour, terrain and location along the Bay of Bengal supported early settlement, movement and exchange well before formal records appear. Archaeological remains and later inscriptions, indicate continuity across long periods of human activity.

Visakhapatnam enters recorded history through an inscription dated 1068 CE at the Bhimeswara Temple in Draksharama, located in present day East Godavari District. Yet the story of the city extends far beyond written records, rooted in legend and long standing tradition. According to local belief, a king from Andhra passed through this region during a pilgrimage in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century and was deeply moved by the natural beauty of the landscape. He is said to have commissioned a temple dedicated to *Visakha*, the Hindu Goddess of Valour, from whom the city derives its name. Over time, this shrine is believed to have been rebuilt, with the present structure attributed to the Chola Ruler Kulothunga during the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> Century. Archaeological evidence reinforces the antiquity of the region. Excavations at Pavuralakonda, about forty kilometres from modern Visakhapatnam, reveal a Buddhist monastic complex dating from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century CE, placing the area within early religious and cultural networks.



 An urban landscape map of Visakhapatnam, circa 1859

“ I do not know that I have ever seen a town more beautifully situated than Vizagapatam, with its hills coming down to the very edge of the sea. ”

– Lord Curzon, 1900



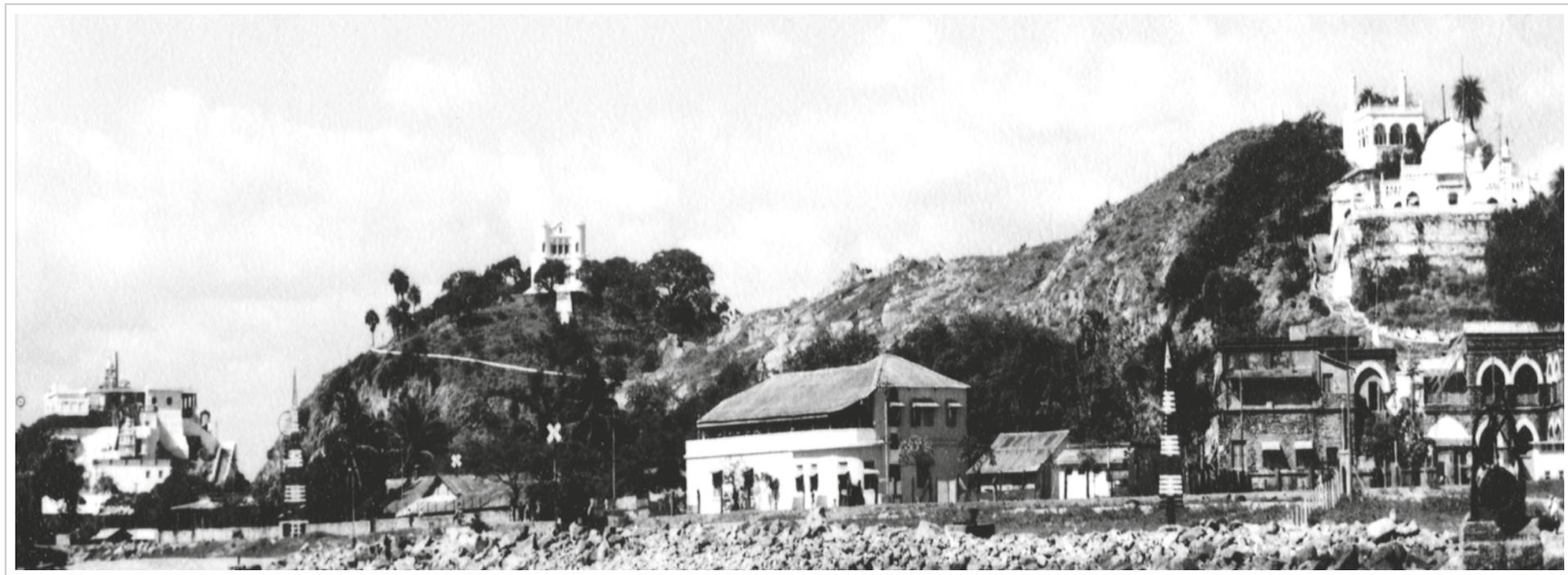
 Buddhist footprints in Visakhapatnam date back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century CE. The hillocks near the village of Sankaram, about 40 km from Visakhapatnam, house unique rock-cut monuments of Buddhist heritage.



Before the rise and fall of later dynasties, the region formed part of the ancient Kalinga Empire. Control later passed through the hands of the Andhra rulers of Vengi, the Pallavas and the Cholas, each leaving traces of their authority and culture. In subsequent centuries, Visakhapatnam came under Mughal influence, followed by the Nizams of Hyderabad, and briefly the French, before being taken over by the British in 1765. Its natural harbour attracted merchants from Europe, including the French, the Dutch and the English East India Company, who traded in commodities such as paddy, tobacco, coal, iron ore, ivory, muslin and textiles. Evidence of these early global links survives in the old mosque at Kota Veedhi, which houses the tomb of Amin Baig, a merchant from Nakhjawan in present day Azerbaijan who died in 1604 CE. Over time, the city evolved as a meeting ground of faiths and cultures. Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam flourished here, a legacy symbolised by the temple, church and mosque standing together on Ross Hill.

“ Ports are not just places of trade; they are instruments through which history moves. ”

– Fernand Braudel



*Unity in Diversity; a church, a mosque and a temple on Ross Hill at the entrance to the channel welcome seafarers to Visakhapatnam Harbour*



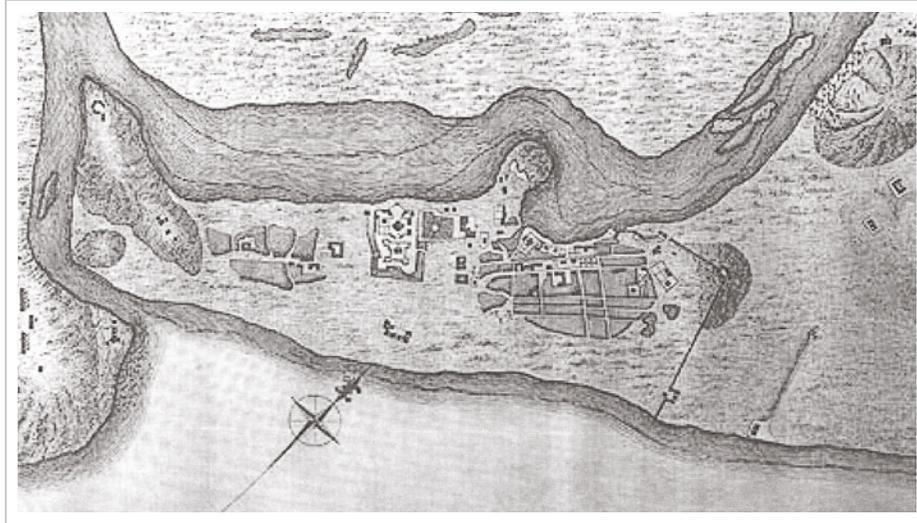
During the colonial period, the city came to be known by several names, including Waltair, Vizagapatam and Vizag. Waltair Railway Station emerged as a major transport and administrative hub, forming a crucial link in British coastal trade along the Eastern Seaboard. The surrounding area continues to be known as Waltair, a name derived from 'Valuteru', a Telugu term meaning a small downstream river. Under British rule, India's coastal commerce revolved around the presidencies of Madras, Calcutta and Bombay. Visakhapatnam's location, combined with its sheltered harbour, made it an ideal outlet for mineral resources from central India destined for global markets. Protected by Dolphin's Nose Hill to the South and supported by the Meghadri River estuary, the city offered favourable conditions for a port. Construction of the harbour began in 1927 and by 1933 it was formally opened for commercial operations.



 A photograph of the old Waltair Railway Station



 Visakhapatnam Port under construction; operations commenced in 1933

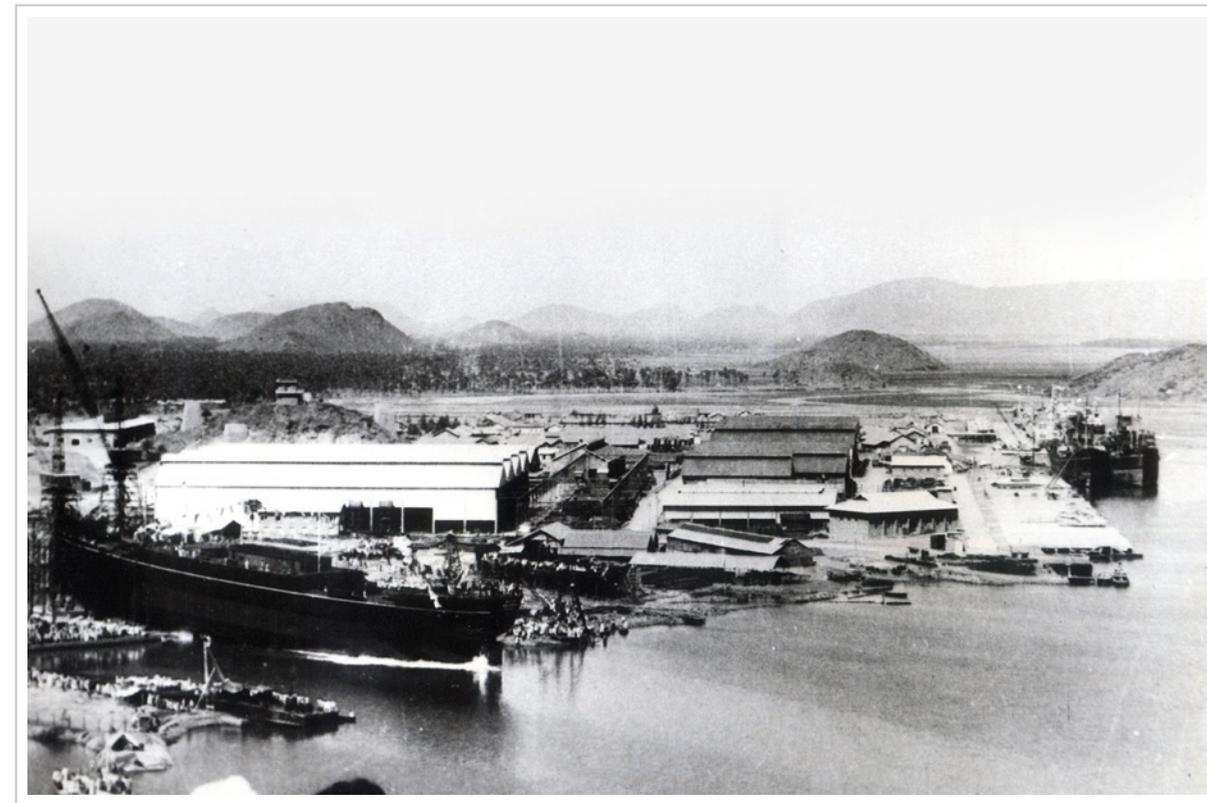


 *Plan of Vizagapatam made by the French in 1757*

Visakhapatnam prides itself on a fascinating military history. In September 1804, the British, and the French fought the naval battle of Vizagapatam near the harbour. Incidentally, the city also houses the grave of the first British sailor killed in the Battle of Vizagapatam. The French Plan for Vizagapatam, circa 1757, proves the economic and strategic significance of the city for its colonial powers. Under the Mughal Empire, the territories were called 'Subahs', or provinces. They were further divided into Sarkars or Circars, as the British called them. The Northern Circars was the area stretching from present-day coastal Andhra Pradesh to Koraput and Ganjam Districts of Odisha.

The British arrived in Visakhapatnam, in the Northern Circars, after expanding their rule across Madras and Calcutta. In 1939, they established a small naval base at Vizag, called Circars, as an assembly point for their convoys. As a formal

entity, HMIS Circars was commissioned in April 1942 in the city. Its successor, INS Circars, continues to remain in commission, and today is the mother depot for all naval personnel in Vizag. Another unit, HMS Amzari, was an Ordnance Transit Depot set up in Vizagapatam in 1943; it was decommissioned in 1946 after WWII. Today, it finds mention as 'Amzari Park', one of the many naval officers' residential areas.



 *Visakhapatnam Harbour in 1948*

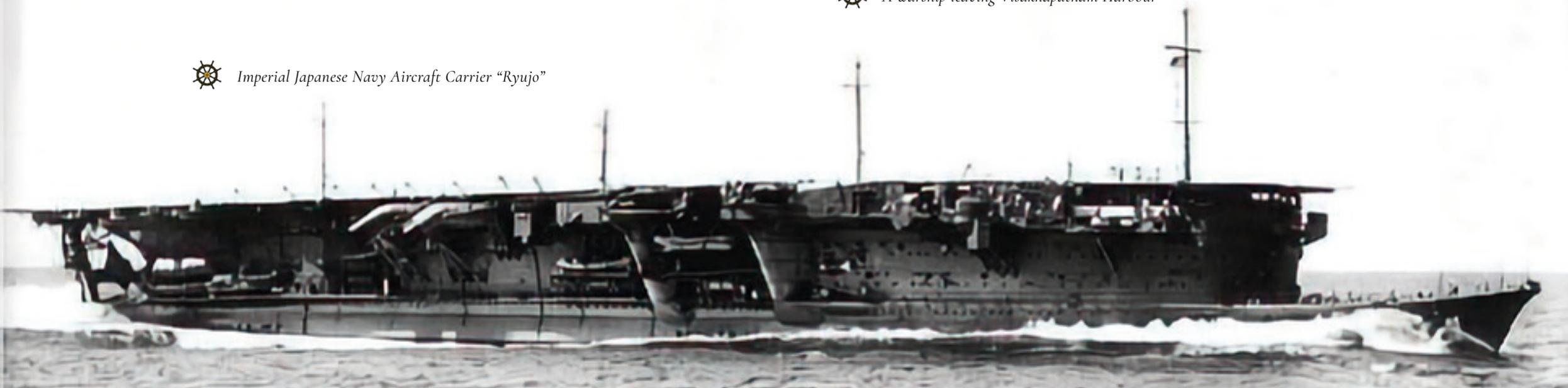
The city also hosted a strong Royal Air Force presence during the war years. RAF No.135 Squadron, later renumbered No.615 Squadron, operated from Visakhapatnam, while the 104 GR Squadron was raised in 1940 for coastal defence. Equipped with Westland Wapiti aircraft, the squadron participated in operations during the Burma Campaign and Japanese air raids. Originally formed as No.4 IAFVR, the unit was relocated to Visakhapatnam in 1942. It played a crucial role in detecting enemy fleet movements and rescuing the crew of a merchant vessel sunk during hostilities. Today, the 104 Area near the naval base commemorates the service of this squadron.

The Second World War further elevated Visakhapatnam's strategic role. On 11 February 1944, a significant naval engagement took place when HMAS Launceston and HMIS Jumna sank the Japanese submarine RO 110 about twenty miles off Visakhapatnam, shortly after it had torpedoed the Australian merchant vessel Asphalion. During this period, Visakhapatnam also became the first city on India's east coast to host a unit of the Women's Royal Indian Naval Services. Women officers stationed here performed signals and secretarial duties, marking an important chapter in naval wartime service.

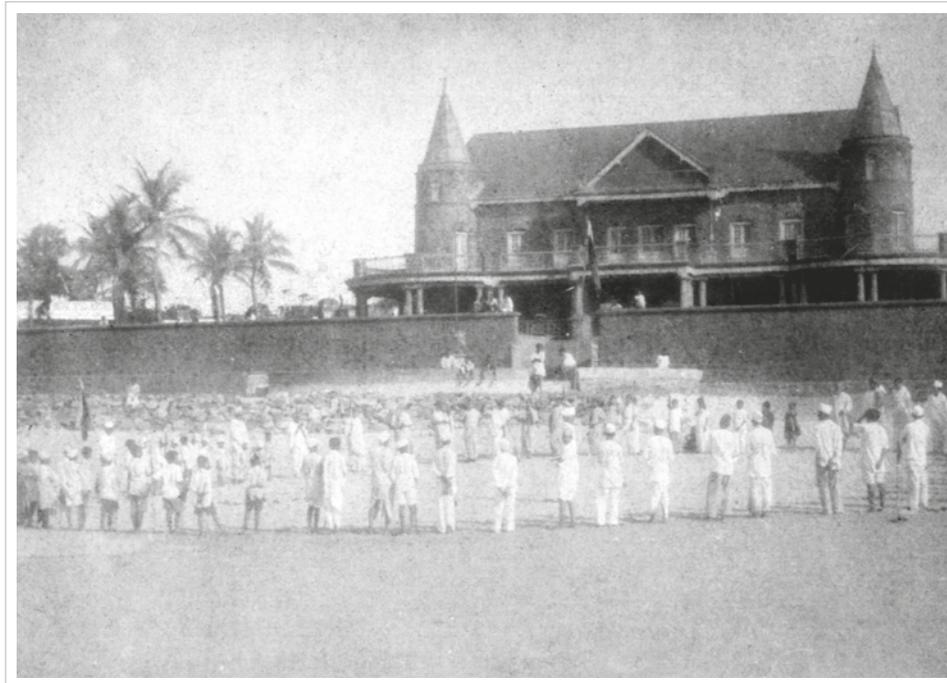


 *A warship leaving Visakhapatnam Harbour*

 *Imperial Japanese Navy Aircraft Carrier "Ryujo"*



Visakhapatnam was equally active in India's freedom movement. The city hosted five sessions of the All India Congress Committee and welcomed Mahatma Gandhi on several occasions between 1921 and 1946. He addressed gatherings at Waltair Railway Station in 1921 and later at the beach opposite the Town Hall in April 1929. The region also produced leaders of armed resistance, including Alluri Sitarama Raju, who led the Rampa Rebellion against British rule between 1922 and 1924. As the harbour increasingly shaped the city's maritime identity, symbols of protection and belief also took form along the coastline.



 *Visakhapatnam Town Hall, 1929*



 *Mahatma Gandhi passing via Visakhapatnam in 1933*

## Opening of Vizagapatam Port is a defining milestone in India's maritime legacy.

– Lord Willingdon, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, 1933

The commissioning of the Visakhapatnam Harbour in 1933, followed by the arrival of the passenger vessel SS Jaladurga of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, marked an important moment in the town's maritime setting. In independent India, Visakhapatnam continued to contribute to national development. On 17 March 1954, the first President of India, Dr Rajendra Prasad, visited and inspected Visakhapatnam Port, then one of India's rapidly growing major port. In the same year, India's first indigenous merchant ship, SS Jala Usha, built at the Scindia Shipyard, now Hindustan Shipyard Limited, was launched in Visakhapatnam.



 Passenger vessel SS Jaladurga, of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, arrives at the opening of Visakhapatnam Port on 07 October 1933



 First President of India Dr Rajendra Prasad visited Visakhapatnam Port on 17 March 1954

### Redefining Destiny

From its maritime roots and humble beginnings, Visakhapatnam, the City of Destiny, has journeyed through centuries of trade, colonial past and freedom struggle. Layers of heritage and history shape its identity even as modern enterprise, naval presence and global connectivity propel it forward. As Visakhapatnam hosts navies from across the world, it honours its past while embracing collective maritime leadership. As the city continues to evolve, it carries forward the weight of its past while steadily shaping its place as a resilient and forward looking coastal metropolis.





 *Passenger vessel entering Visakhapatnam Port in 1950*







**CONFLUENCE  
OF NAVIES**



*INS Vikramaditya and Italian aircraft carrier ITS Cavour participate in maiden joint exercise in the Arabian Sea - October 2024*



# Fleet Review & Maritime Diplomacy

Captain Akhilesh Menon

The Indian Ocean has long been both bridge and barrier. Its waters carried the trade of the Harappans, religious missions of the Buddhist monks and the naval expeditions of the Cholas. Yet the sea also brought conquest, from Arab traders to European colonisers. By Independence in 1947, India inherited a navy that was small, coastal and colonial in origin. The Naval Uprising of 1946 showed that the sea could be a crucible of national identity. From these beginnings, India's naval leadership aspired to transform into a Blue Water Navy. The Presidential Fleet Review (PFR) became one symbolic tradition through which the navy demonstrated its progress to the nation. By the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the imperative to project this symbolism globally while cultivating practical habits of cooperation gave rise to two key initiatives, the International Fleet Review (IFR) and MILAN.

“ The Indian Ocean Region must live up to its name—SAGAR, Security and Growth for All in the Region. ”

– Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India



 Shri R Venkataraman at the Presidential Fleet Review in Mumbai on 15 February 1989



## Historical Background

Fleet Reviews have long been ceremonies of power and assurance, from Britain's Spithead Musters to American Presidential Reviews. Independent India embraced this tradition to assert sovereignty at sea and inspire national pride. The first Presidential Fleet Review (PFR), on 10 October 1953, conducted by President Rajendra Prasad on board INS Delhi, reviewed 33 vessels, including 25 warships off Mumbai (then Bombay). This was a modest assembly of ageing ships, yet it carried immense symbolism. Indian sailors, once under colonial command, now saluted the national tricolour under their own Head of State for the first time. President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan reviewed the Fleet off Bombay on 10 February 1966. An interim review in 1964 was conducted by Defence Minister YB Chavan for the then indisposed President. For the first time, INS Vikrant, India's maiden aircraft carrier, featured in the review, symbolising the nation's rising maritime aspirations and growing stature as a naval power. The Presidential Fleet Review in 1976 unfolded as a triumphant pageant, infused with the spirit of victory from the India-Pak War of 1971 and the audacity of the missile boat strikes that had rewritten naval history. Adding to the sense of national pride, the Review also unveiled the indigenously built Nilgiri Class frigates, symbols of India's self-reliance in shipbuilding and a fitting tribute to the navy's growing prowess. By 1989, the spotlight was on INS Godavari, India's first indigenously designed frigate with missile capability, which vaulted Indian shipbuilding prowess to a select club of nations. In a historic first, the Presidential Fleet Review held in the same year also included a nuclear-powered submarine, INS Chakra. Later Reviews, notably in 2006 and 2011, showcased indigenously built advanced platforms (Delhi and Brahmaputra Class) and stealth frigates (Shivalik Class), underlining India's transition towards a Builder's Navy. Each Review thus mirrored the navy's evolution from modest flotilla to modern fleet, and prepared the stage for the larger canvas of the IFR, where India would not only display capability but also host the world's navies.



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



## Fleet Reviews Conducted in India, 1953 – 2022

- ❁ **1953** - PFR - Bombay (Mumbai)  
First Presidential Fleet Review by President Rajendra Prasad (33 ships)
- ❁ **1966** - PFR - Bombay (Mumbai)  
Showcased post-1962 Indian Navy modernisation
- ❁ **1969** - PFR - Bombay (Mumbai)  
Reviewed by President VV Giri (58 ships). First submarine INS Khanderi, participated in the Review
- ❁ **1976** - PFR - Bombay (Mumbai)  
The Review featured 54 ships, including the indigenously built Nilgiri Class Frigates
- ❁ **1984** - PFR - Bombay (Mumbai)  
Reviewed by President Giani Zail Singh
- ❁ **1989** - PFR - Bombay (Mumbai)  
Featured INS Godavari (first indigenously designed frigate), INS Chakra and aircraft carriers INS Vikrant and INS Viraat
- ❁ **1997** - PFR - Bombay (Mumbai)  
Reviewed by President Shankar Dayal Sharma. President's Colours presented to the Western Fleet
- ❁ **2001** - IFR - Mumbai  
First International Fleet Review-20 foreign ships participated
- ❁ **2006** - PFR - Visakhapatnam  
Reviewed by President APJ Abdul Kalam. First Review held on the Eastern Seaboard
- ❁ **2011** - PFR - Mumbai  
Reviewed by President Pratibha Patil. Showcased INS Shivalik, an indigenous stealth frigate
- ❁ **2016** - IFR - Visakhapatnam  
Largest IFR, reviewed by President Pranab Mukherjee; 50 foreign navies and 100 ships participated
- ❁ **2022** - PFR - Visakhapatnam  
Reviewed by President Ram Nath Kovind, marking 75<sup>th</sup> year of India's Independence

## The International Fleet Reviews

The first IFR in 2001 at Mumbai featured 20 foreign navies and over 60 Indian warships. It symbolised India's re-entry into global maritime diplomacy after the nuclear tests (1998) and the Kargil War, 1999. Participation by the United States of America, Russia, Japan and ASEAN countries highlighted acceptance of India's growing status. At home, it affirmed the Indian Navy's Role as a vital instrument of national diplomacy. The International Fleet Review at Visakhapatnam, in February 2016, marked a landmark in maritime diplomacy, drawing around 50 foreign navies, including major powers such as the USA, Russia, China, UK,

France, Japan and Australia. President Pranab Mukherjee reviewed the fleet, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the International Maritime Conference under the theme 'Partnering Together for a Secure Maritime Future'. Indigenously built ships such as Shivalik Class stealth frigates, Kolkata Class destroyers and Kamorta Class corvettes took pride of place, showcasing self-reliance. The choice of Visakhapatnam highlighted the Eastern Seaboard, and its link to the Act East Policy. IFR 2016 emphasised maritime cooperation, collective security and the vision of India as a Preferred Security Partner.



 President Shri KR Narayanan inspecting the parade - 12 February 2001, Mumbai



 President Shri Pranab Mukherjee receives the Guard of Honour - IFR 2016, Visakhapatnam

## Fleet Reviews as Maritime Statecraft

The affirmative case for Fleet Reviews rests on their character as maritime statecraft, tools that blend hard-power visibility with soft-power attraction. Drawing on Joseph Nye's concept of soft power and Geoffrey Till's 'sea power as an integrated system of capability, communication and cooperation', International Fleet Reviews bring these elements together in a single, highly visible moment.

A Fleet Review can compress years of bilateral outreach into days. During IFR 2016, India hosted 50 navies and 24 foreign warships, enabling meaningful interactions between naval chiefs and working-level officials. Historically, Fleet Reviews have offered a non-coercive means of strategic signalling, welcoming navies from diverse strategic backgrounds and combining reassurance with the demonstration of credible maritime capability.

Fleet Reviews bring the nation's maritime power into public view. The sight of indigenous warships like aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, Kolkata Class destroyers, Shivalik Class frigates and Kamorta Class corvettes, saluting the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, stands as a proud testament to India's journey toward self-reliant naval strength, deepening civil-military bonds and affirming a shared commitment to cooperative maritime security. More than a ceremonial display, the Fleet Review stands as a strategic instrument, highlighting indigenisation, partnership and power to convene. It serves as a force multiplier of capability, credibility and cooperation.



*Bathed in the crimson light, the men-of-war rest gracefully at anchor — a serene finale to a day of maritime splendour*



## Strategic Anchoring

In recent years, India has articulated four guiding frameworks for its international maritime outreach: the Act East Policy (2014), the SAGAR vision (2015) (Security And Growth for All in the Region), the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative, IPOI (2019) and most recently, the MAHASAGAR vision (2025) (Mutual And Holistic Advancement for Security And Growth Across Regions). Together they provide vision, direction, mechanisms and expansion, charting India's emergence as a maritime power and a Preferred Security Partner.

In 2015, SAGAR, proclaimed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, reaffirmed India's historic maritime identity. It framed the Indian Ocean as a collective common, with India as a first responder and dependable partner for island and littoral states facing non-traditional threats. IFR embodies this vision by convening navies from across the globe, while MILAN operationalises it through maritime exercises. The Act East Policy (2014) injected new energy into India's eastward engagement. Its maritime core lay in treating the Bay of Bengal as a bridge to Southeast Asia and positioning the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as a strategic hinge. It is no coincidence that MILAN, first held in Port Blair (Sri Vijaya Puram) in 1995, grew under Act East into a premier multilateral naval exercise, drawing ASEAN and extra-regional partners alike. The IPOI unveiled at the East Asia Summit in Bangkok in 2019, provided structure across seven pillars: Maritime Security, Marine Ecology, Connectivity, Disaster Relief, Science and Technology (including Education), Capacity-Building and Maritime Trade. By inviting partner nations to co-lead these pillars, IPOI underscored inclusivity. MAHASAGAR, launched in 2025, widened SAGAR's canvas by extending India's engagement from the Indian Ocean to the Indo-Pacific at large, emphasising sustainability, resilience and collective stewardship. Taken together, these doctrines chart India's evolution in maritime strategy. SAGAR set the philosophy, 'Act East' the direction, IPOI the architecture and MAHASAGAR the expansion. IFR projects these principles symbolically; MILAN enacts them operationally.

 *INS Himgiri – Future ready and formidable*



## Synergy of IFR and MILAN

International Fleet Review and MILAN have become India's most visible maritime diplomacy platforms, translating ceremonial displays into substantive partnerships. IFR, with its pageantry and symbolism, is not mere spectacle, it embodies reassurance, confidence and trust-building. It allows India to display its naval heritage and technological progress while fostering bonds of goodwill across oceans. Each IFR combines the symbolic review by the Head of State with professional interactions, ship visits and maritime conferences that generate political goodwill, expand navy-to-navy familiarity and signal alignment with international norms of freedom of the seas. MILAN, meanwhile, has grown from a modest gathering in 1995 to a multilateral exercise with nearly over 50 navies in 2024. Its sea phases and shore interactions provide practical avenues for interoperability, search-and-rescue drills, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief coordination. The Harbour Phase of MILAN is a vibrant confluence of professional, cultural and diplomatic engagements. It features high-level bilateral meetings between Chiefs of Navies, an International Maritime Seminar designed to harness intellectual capital and a MILAN of Young Officers (MOYO), fostering camaraderie among future naval leaders. Preparations for the Sea Phase exercises are complemented by demonstrations including Deep-Sea Rescue Vessel (DSRV) capabilities for regional submarine contingencies.

Within the wider framework of maritime security and cooperative engagement, the IFR and MILAN serve as complementary pillars of India's maritime diplomacy. The synergy of IFR and MILAN demonstrates India's unique ability to harmonise tradition with innovation, ceremony with substance and symbolism with strategy.

“ Maritime cooperation and shared responsibility are essential for collective security and stability in the Indian Ocean Region. ”

– Shri Rajnath Singh, Hon'ble Defence Minister of India



International City Parade: Indian Navy personnel, followed by spirited school children



# India's Role in Indo-Pacific Maritime Security

Captain Sarabjeet S Parmar (Retd)

The Indo-Pacific has emerged as the world's most strategically dynamic maritime region, marked by great power rivalry, economic growth, complex geopolitical rivalries and heightened vulnerability to non-traditional threats. For India and the Indian Navy (IN), the maritime security path has, in the past decade, been guided mainly by the Indian Maritime Security Strategy 2015, Ensuring Secure Seas: Indian Maritime Security Strategy (IMSS 2015) and growing maritime relations with Indo-Pacific nations. The path for building and sustaining a maritime security architecture is based on the three guiding principles enunciated in the third constituent strategy of IMSS 2015, 'Strategy for Shaping a Favourable and Positive Maritime Environment' – Preservation of Peace, Promotion of Stability and Maintenance of Security. These three principles described the broad methodology to reduce common threats and challenges and the IN's role as a Net Maritime Security Provider. However, the complexity surrounding the term and the changing maritime security dynamics, witnessed a shift to Preferred Security Partner and First Responder; which are more amiable concepts with achievable outcomes as has been witnessed by the actions of the IN. These concepts translate operational competence into diplomatic trust, forming the backbone of a broader maritime partnership architecture across the Indo-Pacific. The Indian Navy has operationalised these twin concepts at both strategic and operational levels, shaping a resilient Indo-Pacific framework while addressing the evolving Threats, Risks and Challenges (TRCs) across the region's seas.





“ The prompt and effective deployment of the Indian Navy in the times of crisis has underscored India’s vision of being the ‘Preferred Security Partner’ and ‘First Responder’ in the Indian Ocean Region. ”

– Smt Droupadi Murmu, Hon'ble President of India

## The Maritime Security Architecture

The methodology of shaping a favourable and positive maritime environment can be pursued by three distinct approaches. The first is a stand-alone nationalistic approach, the second through alliances and the third by a grouping of strategic partners working together in a series of cooperative mechanisms. India and the IN pursue the third method as it serves mutual aims and addresses common TRCs, which form core convergency factors that aid a cooperative approach. For the IN, the approach to building and sustaining a regional maritime security architecture flows from both strategic and operational levels, which mutually reinforce each other. In this context, the IN works at the strategic-operational and pure operational levels under the overarching vision of SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region), which has now been renamed as MAHASAGAR (Mutual And Holistic Advancement for Security And Growth Across Regions). IMSS 2015 enmeshed the vision of SAGAR, announced in 2015, by integrating it “.....as part of India’s endeavours to strengthen economic relations and development in the Indian Ocean Region, in a mutually supportive and cooperative manner.” Thus, MAHASAGAR, announced in 2025, extends the SAGAR vision to areas beyond the IOR. Under MAHASAGAR the IN navigates the labyrinth of maritime security through the rubric of the Neighbourhood First Policy, Act East and Look West Policies, ASEAN Centrality and a volume of engagements through Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), QUAD, Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), Regional Multilateral Organisations, Minilaterals and the plethora of maritime exercises at the bilateral and multilateral





 *Indian and Australian naval ships participating in Exercise KAKADU*

levels. The synergy between the political, diplomatic and IN levels has resulted in an enhancement of the IN's involvement in matters maritime and value addition to India's standing as a stable, reliable and responsible Indo-Pacific nation while balancing India's path of strategic autonomy and multi-alignment.

At the operational level the IN looks at enhancing security in India's areas of maritime interest through pursuit of the following steps:

- Engagement with the maritime forces of friendly nations is pursued through diverse avenues and at multiple levels
- Naval deployments for exercising presence in our areas of interest
- Maritime capacity building and capability enhancement through cooperation in training, technical areas and hydrography
- Cooperative efforts for development of regional Maritime Domain Awareness
- Conduct of maritime security operations, both independently and in coordination with other maritime forces, in the region.

During the Presidential Fleet Review (PFR) 2022, the Hon'ble President of India stated that "The prompt and effective deployment of the Indian Navy in the times of crisis has underscored India's vision of being the 'Preferred Security Partner' and 'First Responder' in the Indian Ocean Region". Further, in 2024, the Hon'ble Defence Minister of India, at the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue, emphasised that "India's engagement with its partners is guided by the understanding that true progress can only be achieved through collective action and synergy and due to these efforts, it is now considered as a credible and preferred security partner and first responder in the region". These two statements, from the Supreme Commander of India's Armed Forces and the Indian Defence Minister, to an international audience formalises the actions by the IN in support of these two concepts; both stand alone and in cooperation with navies from likeminded nations. This inclusive approach, which aligns with multi-alignment, was extended into India's concept of the Indo-Pacific Region amplified in India's vision of a 'Free, Open and Inclusive' Indo-Pacific. Hence, these actions not only cement joint actions against common TRCs but also enhance capacity and capability building through specific training agendas and the experience gained and lessons learnt, from working together. Exercising





 During an operational deployment to Southeast Asia, IN Personnel visited the Singapore Navy Museum in July 2025

together has immense benefits and forms a strong base for cooperative mechanisms at the bilateral and multilateral levels. IMSS 2015 identified the following advantages of exercising together, all of which could be considered ubiquitous:

- Showcases projection of capabilities
- Aids honing of operational skills
- Provides opportunities to imbibe best practices and procedures
- Enables doctrinal learning
- Aids benchmarking of capabilities in a benign international environment
- Develops trust, mutual friendship and respect

The central focus of these engagements is on non-traditional threats that undermine regional stability, security and peace and are often considered low hanging fruit.

## Preferred Security Partner

The Preferred Security Partner approach is based on sustained and institutionalised maritime cooperative mechanisms. While the First Responder role is episodic, the Preferred Security Partner role is structural and long-term. The corner stone is capacity building and capability development and has evolved into the IN's strongest tool of foreign cooperation. These include, apart from the extensive number of bilateral and multilateral exercises, training programmes for over 40 nations annually, including officers from Southeast Asia, Africa and island states; gifting of offshore patrol vessels and smaller patrol vessels to the Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and Sri Lanka, a missile corvette to Vietnam and a Kilo Class submarine to Myanmar; and radar network infrastructure in Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles.

There are three aspects that have significantly reinforced this approach; Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) outreach and initiatives through the



International Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR); enhancement of interoperability through logistics and access agreements with all Quad countries, France, Singapore and South Korea; and lastly Submarine Search and Rescue agreements with Singapore, South Africa and Australia.

### First Responder

The IN's role as a First Responder is best expressed through Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations, Non-combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) and other crisis deployment and associated rapid mobilisation. The consistent record of assistance especially government to government approach proves this concept from the 2004 Tsunami through

numerous HADR operations across the Indo-Pacific, the deployment and assistance in providing water to Maldives in 2014 in Operation Neer and during the COVID-19 pandemic in Mission Sagar. NEO carried out by the IN indicates the standing and recognition of India as a responsible nation and the IN as a force for good. Operation Sukoon and Operation Rahat stand out as examples where the IN was permitted to enter the ports of Lebanon in 2006 and Yemen in 2015, respectively and evacuate non-combatants. The IN successfully evacuated 1,764 Indian citizens and 516 foreign nationals, from Lebanon and 1,783 Indian citizens and 1,291 foreign nationals, from 35 nations from Yemen. These missions demonstrate not only adaptability and logistical ability but also the IN's approach to ensuring its position as a reliable first crisis responder.





 *INS Sahyadri departing Busan Harbour, Republic of Korea, for maiden IN-ROKN Bilateral Exercise, October 2025*

## Praxis and Perseverance

Indo-Pacific nations, especially IOR nations, have increasingly viewed India and the IN as dependable partners. This goodwill serves as diplomatic currency; opening pathways for deeper security cooperation and contributing to the IN's reputation as a capable and trusted regional maritime force. IN's continued approach as Preferred Security Partner and First Responder is based on the synergy between sustained engagement and crisis response. This has been infused as a combination of praxis and perseverance in the IN's mission-based deployments across the Indo-Pacific. While crisis response generates immediate goodwill, long-term engagements especially capacity building and capability development add to the goodwill and cement trust and therefore foster cohesive maritime structured partnerships. All these aspects aid the consolidation of the three pillars of stability, security and peace that are central to building and sustaining the requisite maritime security architecture in the Indo-Pacific.

 The need of the hour is an Indo-Pacific - where international law, including UNCLOS, is equally applicable to all countries; where there is freedom of navigation and overflight; and where there is unimpeded lawful commerce for the benefit of everyone. 

– Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India







# Participating Indian Units

The participating units of the Indian Navy, along with select ships of the Indian Coast Guard, National Institute of Ocean Technology and the Shipping Corporation of India, demonstrate a combat-ready, credible, cohesive and future-ready self-reliant maritime force. Spanning the surface, sub-surface and air domains, they reflect India's operational readiness, cutting-edge capability and relentless ability to act decisively across the spectrum of maritime operations.

Visakhapatnam will host the 2026 edition of IFR and MILAN where the Indian Navy will proudly present India's rapidly indigenising fleet to the world. From 15 to 25 February 2026, more than fifty Indian ships will embody the MAHASAGAR vision in action, showcasing operational excellence and innovation.

Leading the historic display is INS Vikrant, India's first indigenously built aircraft carrier, joined by destroyers, stealth frigates, anti-submarine corvettes, patrol vessels, submarines and aircraft, as well as Coast Guard platforms and Research and Support vessels, that reinforce maritime safety, logistics and national seaborne capability.

United in purpose and power, the fleet affirms India's commitment to responsible maritime stewardship in the IOR. From the ceremonial grandeur of the IFR to the collaborative spirit of MILAN, the Indian Navy fosters a maritime order grounded in rules, trust and shared knowledge. As a republic commemorating 76 years, India continues to be guided by democratic principles, aspiring to transform the seas into a realm of order, opportunity and enduring leadership.



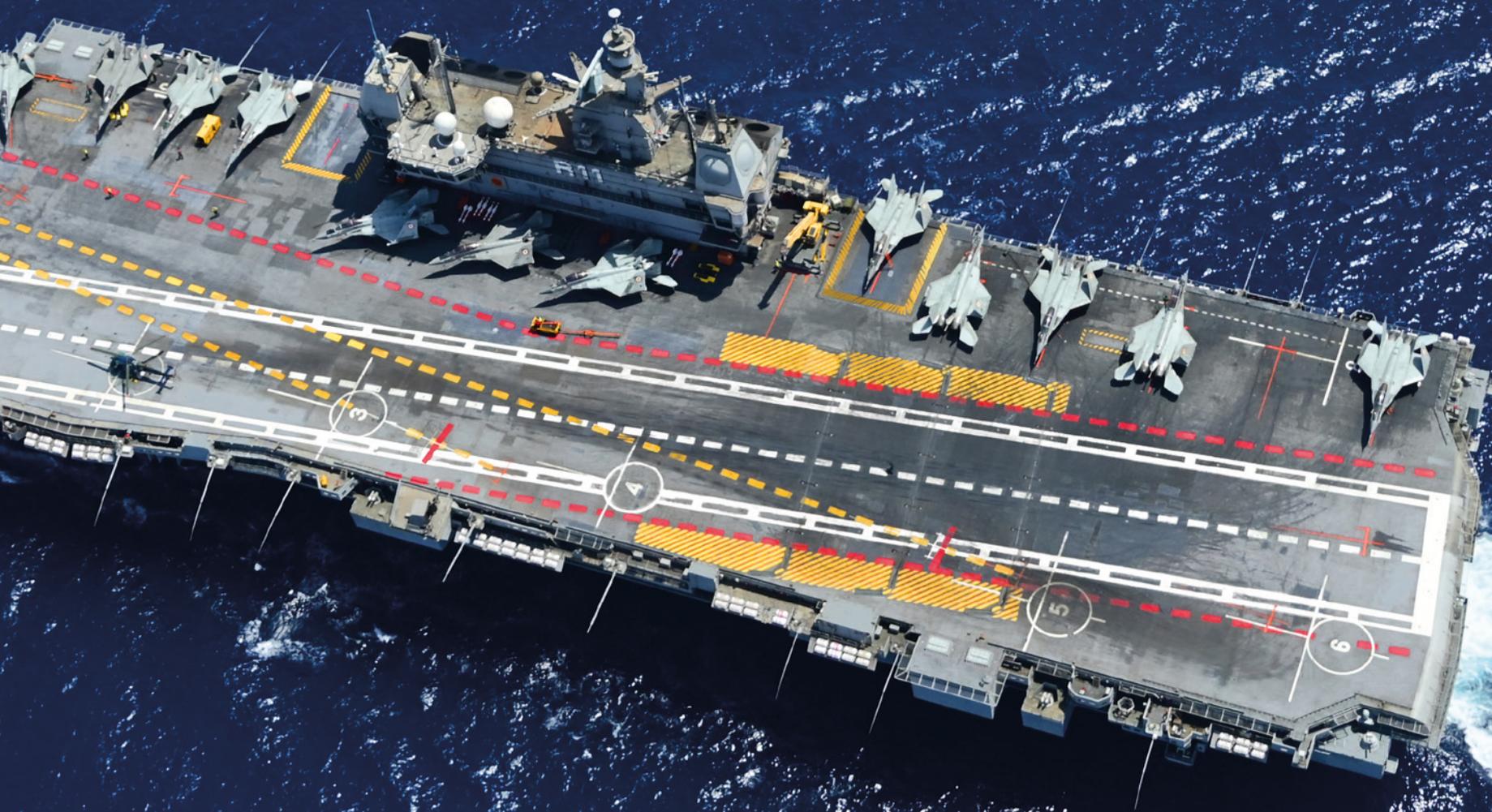
## INS Vikrant

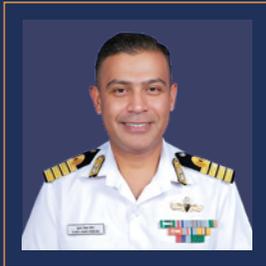
INS Vikrant is India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier and was commissioned on 02 September 22. Bearing a name synonymous with valour and victory, the new Vikrant carries forward the proud legacy and spirit of the erstwhile INS Vikrant. The carrier displaces approximately 42,800 tonnes and achieves speeds up to 26 knots by virtue of her four LM 2500 gas turbines. The ship features a STOVAR configuration with a ski-jump for launching aircraft and an angled deck for recovery. She operates MiG-29K fighters, Kamov-31 AEW and Chetak helicopters, MH-60R multirole helicopters and indigenous ALH variants.





Captain Ashok Rao, Commanding Officer, INS Vikrant, is an alumnus of Naval Academy, Goa, National Defence College, New Delhi and has undergone Expeditionary Warfare Course in USA. He has commanded INS Nishank, INS Kora, INS Visakhapatnam, and is a recipient of the Nausena Medal.





Captain Suraj James Rebeira, Commanding Officer, INS Chennai, is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune, Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and Naval War College, Goa. He is a Navigation and Direction specialist, and has commanded INS Gharial. He is a recipient of the Nausena Medal (Gallantry).



## Kolkata Class Guided Missile Stealth Destroyers INS Chennai

INS Chennai, the third and final ship of the Kolkata Class Destroyers, was commissioned on 21 November 2016. A potent, versatile man-of-war with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, integrated with a new-generation Combat Management System which accords high tactical effectiveness to the platform. Armed with supersonic BrahMos missiles and long-range Surface to Air missiles, the ship possesses formidable prowess of missile technology. This 'cutting-edge' capability is underpinned by sensors such as MFSTAR active phased array radar, RAWL 02 Mk III surveillance radar and is further complemented by indigenously manufactured Medium Range/Close Range Gun Mounts. The undersea warfare capability boasts of indigenously developed Sonar, Torpedo Tube Launchers and Rocket Launchers.



## Visakhapatnam Class Guided Missile Stealth Destroyers INS Visakhapatnam

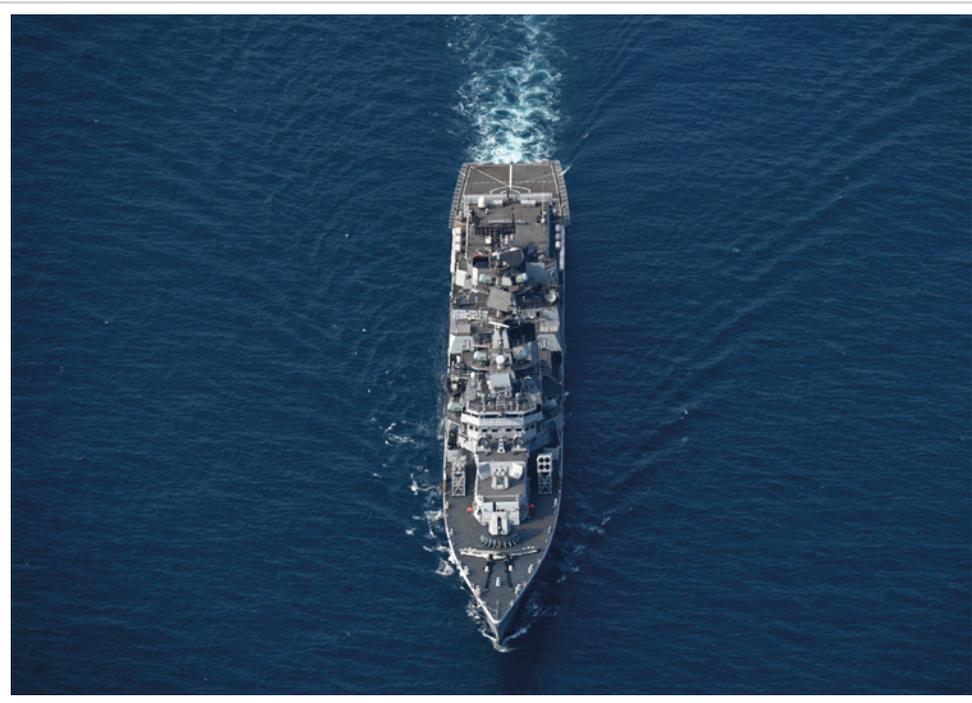
INS Visakhapatnam, the lead ship of the Visakhapatnam Class Stealth Guided Missile Destroyers, was commissioned on 21 November 21. Displacing 7,500 tonnes, she packs a tremendous punch in all dimensions – surface by means of BrahMos Surface to Surface Missiles; sub-surface through guided heavyweight torpedoes and rockets; air using the Barak-8 Medium Range Surface to Air Missiles and other guns; and the EW spectrum through her Shakti EW and Nayan DF systems, amongst her versatile suite of weapons and sensors. The ship is also capable of carrying two multi-role helicopters, which extend her range and enhance her offensive capability. ‘Vigilant, Valour and Victorious’ – these three words sum up the very essence of INS Visakhapatnam.



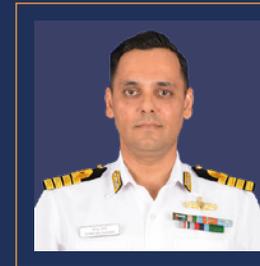
Captain Pradeep Raman, Commanding Officer, INS Visakhapatnam, is an alumnus of the Naval Academy, Goa, Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and National Defence University, Beijing. He is a Navigation and Direction specialist, and has commanded INFAC T-82, INS Nirbhik and INS Kirpan.

## Delhi Class Guided Missile Destroyers

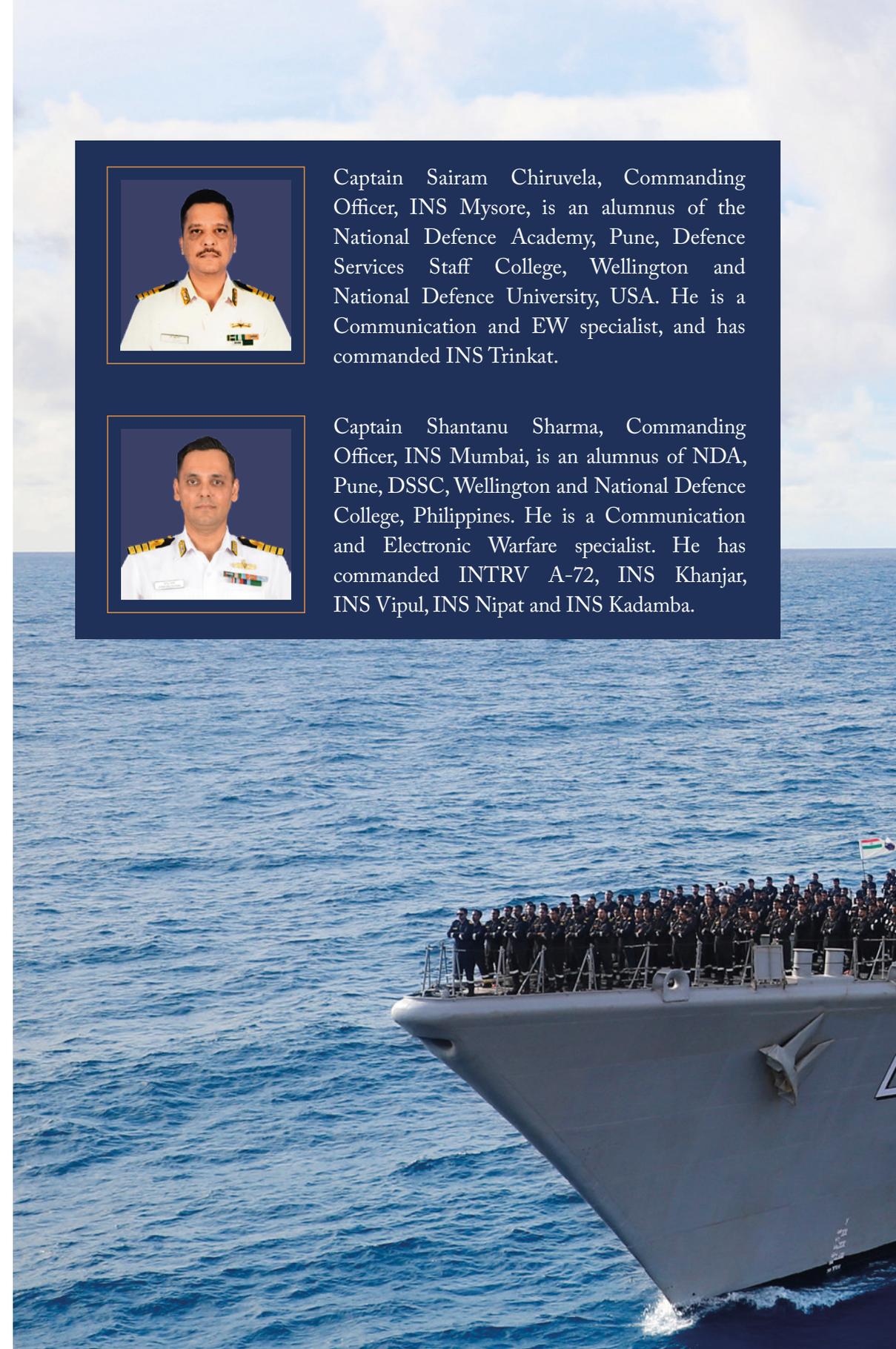
The Delhi Class Guided Missile Destroyers are 6200-ton platforms commissioned between 1997 and 2001, and are named after prominent historical cities of India. The Delhi Class ships are multipurpose Command and Control platforms capable of operating in a multi-threat environment. Equipped with a formidable array of weapons and sensors, they are capable of undertaking long-range surface attacks, while maintaining an impenetrable anti-missile and anti-air shield around the fleet using Surface to Air Missile systems. Their sensors include long-range surveillance radars, an advanced electronic warfare suite and indigenously developed sonar, integrated into a composite network. They are capable of carrying two Sea King helicopters each. Two ships of the class, INS Mysore and INS Mumbai are participating in the Review.



Captain Sairam Chiruvella, Commanding Officer, INS Mysore, is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune, Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and National Defence University, USA. He is a Communication and EW specialist, and has commanded INS Trinkat.



Captain Shantanu Sharma, Commanding Officer, INS Mumbai, is an alumnus of NDA, Pune, DSSC, Wellington and National Defence College, Philippines. He is a Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist. He has commanded INTRV A-72, INS Khanjar, INS Vipul, INS Nipat and INS Kadamba.





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## Rajput & Ranvir Class Guided Missile Destroyers

The 5000-ton Rajput and Ranvir Class destroyers, modified variants of the Soviet Kashin class, were commissioned between 1980 and 1988. Designed for multi-dimensional warfare, they are equipped for anti-air, anti-surface and anti-submarine missions, featuring advanced indigenous weapons like BrahMos, Barak missiles and Varunastra torpedoes. Modernised with state-of-the-art sensors and systems, these ships exemplify reliability, professionalism and combat readiness, serving as potent symbols of India's maritime strength, regional cooperation and commitment to safeguarding national interests across the seas. INS Rana, INS Ranvir and INS Ranvijay are participating in the Review.





Captain KP Sreesan, Commanding Officer, INS Rana, is an alumnus of the Naval Academy, Goa, Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and Naval War College, Goa. He was commissioned on 01 July 1999, and is an Anti-Submarine Warfare specialist.



Captain Rahul Mehta, Commanding Officer, INS Ranvir, is an alumnus of CAW, Secunderabad and DSCSC, Dhaka. He is a Naval Air Operations Officer and a Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist.



Captain Prajit Menon, Commanding Officer, INS Ranvijay, is an alumnus of Naval Academy, Goa, Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and JMSDF Command and Staff College, Tokyo. He has commanded INS Bangaram, INS Vinash and INS Jarawa.



Captain Anirudh Mehta, Commanding Officer, INS Tarkash, is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune, Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and CAW, Secunderabad. He is a Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist. He has commanded INS Akshay, and served as Executive Officer of INS Kirpan.



## Teg Class Guided Missile Frigate INS Tarkash

INS Tarkash, a Teg Class Guided Missile Frigate, was commissioned on 09 November 12. Packed with a high density of weapons and sensors and manned by a highly motivated crew, she is one of the most potent platforms of the Indian Navy. Tarkash carries cutting-edge weaponry which includes supersonic anti-ship and land-attack cruise missiles BrahMos, advanced Surface to Air Missiles, Medium Range gun, Close-In Weapon System, anti-submarine torpedoes and ASW rocket launchers. The ship is capable of operating the Air Early Warning helicopter Kamov 31 and the Anti-Submarine Warfare helicopter Kamov 28. Tarkash incorporates the latest stealth features to outsmart the enemy with her reduced radar, infrared, acoustic and magnetic signatures.



## Tushil Class Guided Missile Frigates

### INS Tamal

INS Tamal is the second ship of the Tushil Class and was commissioned on 01 July 25 at Kaliningrad, Russia. Tamal is power-packed with BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, vertically launched Surface to Air Missiles, 30 mm Close-In Weapon System, 100 mm Main gun and very potent ASW rockets and heavyweight torpedoes. The advanced electronic warfare suite and advanced EO/ IR systems adds ears and eyes to this potent platform. The highly versatile Combat Management System fuses all weapons and sensors into an effective fighting machine. The ship is also capable of embarking the upgraded anti-submarine and airborne Early Warning helicopters, the Kamov 28 and Kamov 31, which are formidable force multipliers.



Captain Sridhar Tata, Commissioning Commanding Officer, INS Tamal, is a Gunnery and Missile Warfare specialist. He has served in over 12 warships, and has commanded INS Agray and INS Kulish. He has teneted important billets including NA to Vice Chief and as Senior Defence Specialist at NSCS.



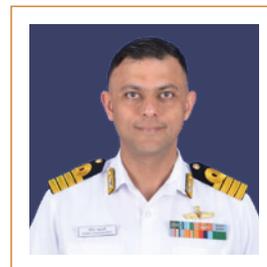


## Nilgiri Class Guided Missile Stealth Frigates

The Nilgiri Class represents India's most advanced indigenously built stealth guided-missile frigates, designed for blue-water operations and full-spectrum maritime warfare. These ships feature state-of-the-art weapons, sensors and next-generation combat management systems to counter surface, sub-surface and aerial threats. Their design emphasises stealth and low radar observability through composite materials, radar-absorbent coatings and radar-transparent technologies. They are the first major Indian-designed warships built using integrated modular construction, enhancing efficiency and precision. Named after the original Nilgiri class frigates (1972–2013), the class continues India's naval legacy and reflects India's growing self-reliance and modern maritime capabilities. INS Nilgiri, INS Himgiri and INS Udaygiri are participating in the Review.



Captain Gurudeep Bala, Commanding Officer, INS Nilgiri, is an alumnus of the Naval Academy, Goa and the Naval War College, Rhode Island, USA. He is a Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist. He has commanded INFAC T-83, INS Nishank and INS Kora.



Captain Robin Chakravorty, Commanding Officer, INS Himgiri, is an alumnus of King's College London. He is a Gunnery and Missile Warfare specialist, and has commanded INS Nishank, INS Karmuk and INS Kirch. He served as the Naval Assistant to CDS and Secretary DMA (MoD).



Captain Vikas Sood, Commanding Officer, INS Udaygiri, is an Anti-Submarine Warfare specialist. His staff assignments include Defence Adviser at Sri Lanka and at Directorate of Staff Requirements. He has commanded INS Koswari and INS Karmuk.







## Shivalik Class Guided Missile Frigates

The Shivalik Class stealth guided missile frigates represent a major leap in India's indigenous warship design. Displacing over 6,000 tonnes, these multi-role platforms are designed for network-centric operations across the full spectrum of maritime warfare – air, surface and sub-surface. These ships combine advanced stealth features with a formidable mix of weapons and sensors. They carry a mix of anti-ship, land-attack, anti-air and anti-submarine weapons, enabling them to perform true multi-role missions. Capable of Command and Control roles, long-range deployments and multi-threat engagements, they have significantly enhanced the Navy's operational reach, flexibility and combat effectiveness. INS Satpura and INS Sahyadri are participating in the Review.



Captain Rajiv K Tiwari, Commanding Officer, INS Satpura is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune, DSSC, Wellington and Naval War College, Goa. He is a Gunnery and Missile Warfare specialist. He has commanded INS Batti Malv and INS Prabal.



Captain Vikas Jha, Commanding Officer, INS Sahyadri, is an alumnus of the Naval Academy, Goa, Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and CDM, Secunderabad. He is a Navigation and Direction specialist. He has commanded INS Kalpeni, INS Kora and INS Shivalik.





Captain PK Sinha, Commanding Officer, INS Shakti, is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Pune. He was commissioned on 01 Jan 2001, and is a Marine Commando, Saturation Diver and an EOD Specialist. He has commanded ICGS Ahilyabai and INS Magar.

## INS Shakti

INS Shakti, a Deepak Class fleet tanker commissioned in 2011, is the backbone of the fleet's logistics and sustainment capability and a critical force multiplier for sustained naval operations at sea. It forms the essential link between shore-based logistics and deployed combat units, enabling long-duration and blue-water deployments across vast maritime spaces. Through replenishment at sea, the ship provides fuel, aviation fuel, fresh water, ammunition and dry stores, significantly extending the endurance, reach and operational tempo of warships without requiring a return to harbour. The ship is integral to carrier battle group and task force operations, ensuring operational continuity and mission persistence during high-tempo operations, exercises and contingencies.



## INS Jyoti

INS Jyoti, reverently named Sacred Light, was commissioned on 20 July 1996. As the largest tanker of the Indian Navy, she provides vital operational and logistical support to ships at sea, significantly extending the Fleet's reach and endurance. Fitted with the navy's largest engine and an advanced replenishment system comprising four abeam and two astern rigs, she possesses a cargo capacity exceeding 30,000 tonnes. INS Jyoti can simultaneously transfer fuel, AVCAT and fresh water to three ships. The ship continues to serve as the lifeline of the Fleet, enabling it to operate anywhere and everywhere.



Captain Shobhit Agrawal, Commanding Officer, INS Jyoti, is an alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and Naval War College, Goa. He is a Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist, and has commanded INS Gharial and INS Cankarso.



## INS Tir

INS Tir was commissioned on 21 February 1986. She forms the backbone of initial sea training for young officers. Designed to embark large training contingents, the ship routinely sails with a mix of instructors, staff and over a hundred cadets beginning their naval careers. Operationally, INS Tir offers a comprehensive platform for imparting practical seamanship, navigation, communication and watchkeeping skills. She regularly undertakes training deployments along the Indian coastline as well as overseas, exposing cadets to real-time maritime scenarios, multinational interactions and extended sea sorties. The ship also participates in joint exercises, port calls and ceremonial duties, reinforcing naval presence and diplomacy.



Captain Tijo K Joseph, Commanding Officer, INS Tir, is an alumnus of the Naval Academy, Goa and CDM, Secunderabad. He is a qualified Flying Instructor and is fully operational on Chetak and ALH aircraft. He has commanded INS Kondul, INS Subhadra and INAS 561.







Captain A Ashok, Commanding Officer, INS Anvesh, is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune, Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi. He is a Gunnery and Missile Warfare specialist.



## INS Anvesh

INS Anvesh is a one-of-its-kind Technology Demonstration Vessel (TDV), conceived by DRDO, designed by M/s Vik Sandvik, Chennai and built by M/s Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi. The ship's state of the art weapons, sensors and machinery fit truly projects the nation's indigenous shipbuilding capability and the quest for self-reliance. The ship is a multi-mission platform capable of undertaking a vast spectrum of maritime operations. Her modern weapons and sensors fit, coupled with advanced net-centric capabilities, makes her a potent platform for future AD missions and strategic BMD roles. The integration of the ship into the navy provides the necessary fillip to harness BMD and AD capabilities.



## INS Nistar

INS Nistar is a state-of-the-art, indigenously built Diving Support Vessel, symbolising the Indian Navy's technological advancement and self-reliance. Designed under the 'Make in India' initiative, she supports submarines, conducts deep-sea diving and undertakes complex submarine rescue operations. Equipped with advanced saturation diving systems, dynamic positioning and a Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) launch facility, INS Nistar ensures precision, safety and readiness. Her modern medical complex and integrated command systems enable underwater support, including international missions. Manned by skilled saturation divers and specialists, she enhances India's deep-sea recovery, underwater maintenance and humanitarian capabilities, strengthening the navy's submarine rescue and diving ecosystem.



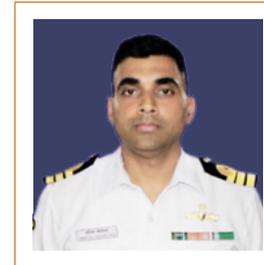
Commander Amitsubhro Banerji, Commissioning Commanding Officer, INS Nistar, is an alumnus of Naval Academy, Goa. He is a Navigation and Direction specialist and has served as Direction Officer on board aircraft carrier. He has previously commanded Fast Attack Craft INS Bitra.



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## Kamorta Class Anti-Submarine Stealth Corvette

The Kamorta Class comprises indigenously designed Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvettes built to enhance India's blue-water ASW capability with a strong emphasis on stealth and indigenous technology. Commissioned between 2014 and 2020, these ships are powered by diesel propulsion and are equipped with advanced sonar, electronic warfare systems, torpedoes, ASW rockets, guns and close-in weapon systems, with aviation capability for ASW helicopters. These ships are potent modern ASW corvettes adept at detecting and neutralising advanced submarines. Featuring high indigenous content, including specialised Indian steel and composite superstructures, the class reflects India's commitment to self-reliance in naval shipbuilding. INS Kamorta, INS Kiltan and INS Kavaratti are participating in the Review.



Commander Swapnil Srivastava, Commanding Officer, INS Kamorta, is an alumnus of the Naval Academy, Goa and Naval War College, USA. He is a Navigation and Direction specialist. He has served on board multiple frontline warships including aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.



Commander Alok Gaurav, Commanding Officer, INS Kiltan, is a Gunnery and Missile Warfare specialist. He was commissioned on 01 July 2008 and has commanded INS Nashak and INS Vipul. He has served as Executive Officer of INS Vinash and INS Kochi.



Commander Ashwani Bura, Commanding Officer, INS Kavaratti, is an alumnus of the Naval Academy, Goa. A Gunnery and Missile Warfare specialist, he has commanded FAC T81 and INS Bangaram. He has served as Executive Officer of INS Jalashwa.





Commander Adwait Sarin, Commanding Officer, INS Kirch, is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune and Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. He is a Navigation and Direction specialist, and has commanded Mauritius Coast Guard ships Guardian and Valiant.



## Kora Class Missile Corvettes INS Kirch

INS Kirch is a Guided Missile Corvette of the Kora Class, was commissioned on 22 January 2001. The ship proudly sails under the motto, 'Sword to Victory', embodying its lethal capability and swift response doctrine. Its operational effectiveness is ensured by a complement of 134 personnel. For armament, the corvette is equipped with Uran-E Surface to Surface Missiles, a 76.2 mm SRGM and two 30 mm AK-630 guns. INS Kirch has served in India's 'Act East' policy and regional maritime diplomacy. The ship has showcased its outstanding performance across various combat and operational dimensions throughout the competitive cycle, confirming its status as a vital sentinel of the Indian Navy for over two decades.



## Khukri Class Missile Corvettes

### INS Khanjar

INS Khanjar was commissioned on 22 October 91, and is the fourth in the series of indigenously built missile corvettes of the Indian Navy. INS Khanjar is designed to operate as a 'First Line of Warfare' ship and is equipped with Surface to Surface Missiles, anti-aircraft/anti-ship guns, complemented by advanced state-of-the-art surveillance radars, fire control radars and electronic warfare systems. The ship also has the capability to operate helicopters. The primary role of the ship is to provide First Strike Offensive through SSM attack on enemy units at sea or on enemy shore-based installations, provide close-range Anti-Missile Defence and guard the sensitive harbours and coastal installations.



Commander Ronie Chowpoo, Commanding Officer, INS Khanjar, is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune and Russian Federation Joint Military Training Centre, Tambov. He is a Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist with extensive frontline warship experience.





## Saryu Class Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels (NOPV Class)

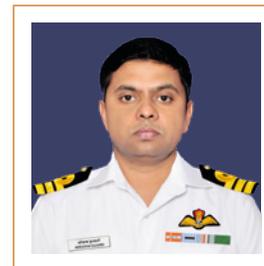
The indigenously built Saryu Class Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels are designed for sustained maritime surveillance, fleet support and multi-role operations across India's maritime domain. These ships are equipped with modern weapons, sensors and electronic warfare suites, enabling roles ranging from patrol, escort and anti-piracy to intelligence gathering, SAR, HADR and presence missions. These ships have been extensively deployed for coastal and offshore security, SLOC monitoring, anti-piracy patrols and humanitarian operations, including large-scale evacuation missions, reflecting their versatility and operational significance. INS Sunayna, INS Sumedha and INS Sumitra are participating in the Review.



Commander Siddharth Chaudhary, Commanding Officer, INS Sunayna, is an alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. He was commissioned on 01 July 2008. He has commanded INS Kalpeni, and has served in various instructional and staff appointments.



Commander Aniket Bhade, Commanding Officer, INS Sumedha, is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune and Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. He is a Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist. He has commanded XFAC T80 and CGS Victory at Mauritius.



Commander Aniruddha Kulkarni, Commanding Officer, INS Sumitra, is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune and Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. He is a Kamov-31 and Chetak helicopter pilot and Qualified Flying Instructor.





## Landing Ship Tank (Large) - LST (L) Class

Shardul and Magar Class LSTs are indigenously built amphibious warfare ships designed to support large-scale landing operations, logistics and humanitarian missions. With the capacity to carry troops, tanks, armoured vehicles and combat trucks, these ships combine operational versatility with long-range endurance and rapid deployment capability. Equipped with defensive armaments, advanced sensors and helicopter decks, they can perform amphibious assaults, fleet replenishment and HADR operations. These ships have played an active role in both military and humanitarian missions and have exemplified versatility, survivability and rapid deployment capability, projecting India's maritime reach and amphibious strength. INS Shardul, INS Airavat and INS Gharial are participating in the Review.



Commander Sumit Kumar Singh, Commanding Officer, INS Shardul, is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune and is an Anti-Submarine Warfare specialist. He has served on board frontline warships and has led indigenisation of ASW weapons at Directorate of Staff Requirements.



Commander IP Patil, Commanding Officer, INS Airavat, is an alumnus of the Naval Academy, Goa and École de Guerre, France. He is a Gunnery and Missile Warfare specialist. He has served on board INS Ranvir, INS Talwar, INS Karmuk, INS Mumbai and INS Shivalik.



Commander Gaurav Tewari, Commanding Officer, INS Gharial, is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune and Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. He is a Navigation and Direction specialist. He has served on board frontline warships and he has previously commanded INS Karuva.





## Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV Class)

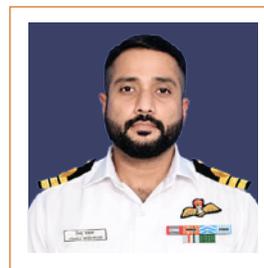
The Sukanya Class Offshore Patrol Vessels are long-range, endurance platforms designed for sustained maritime surveillance, patrol and presence missions in the Indian Ocean Region. Commissioned between 1989 and 1993, these ships play a vital role in EEZ surveillance, anti-piracy patrols, maritime cooperation, search-and-rescue and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operations. With integral helicopter capability and robust sea keeping, the Class supports India's regional outreach and first-responder role. These ships have been extensively deployed for operational, diplomatic and training roles, significantly contributing to safeguarding India's maritime interests and strengthening naval engagement across the IOR. INS Sukanya, INS Savitri and INS Sujata are participating in the Review.



Commander Santosh Kumar Verma, Commanding Officer, INS Sukanya, is an alumnus of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. He is a helicopter pilot with extensive operational experience overseeing combat readiness and maritime surveillance missions.



Commander Ayush Dugar, Commanding Officer, INS Savitri, is a Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist. He has previously commanded INS Karuva and has held multiple specialist appointments on board frontline warships.



Commander Jishnu Madhavan, Commanding Officer, INS Sujata, is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune. He is a Naval Aviator and has served in Dornier and P-8I squadrons. He has served as Executive Officer of INS Sumedha.





## Survey Vessels

Indian Naval Survey Ships form a vital component of maritime capability, supporting safe navigation, ocean mapping and regional cooperation. These vessels undertake extensive survey operations across Indian and international waters, contributing to the development of accurate marine data and enhancing understanding of the maritime environment. Through collaborative initiatives and capacity-building efforts, the survey fleet plays an essential role in promoting safety at sea and strengthening maritime partnerships. Their operations contribute to effective planning, sustainable ocean use and collective security within the broader maritime domain. Newly inducted Survey Vessel Large platforms INS Sandhayak, INS Nirdeshak and INS Ikshak along with mission critical survey ships INS Sarvekshak, INS Darshak and INS Jamuna would be participating in the Review.



Captain Nattuva Dheeraj, Commanding Officer, INS Sandhayak, is an alumnus of College of Defence Management, Secunderabad. He is a Hydrography specialist and has undergone training in Autonomous Underwater Vehicles and Ice Navigation. He has also participated in an Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica.



Captain Ajay Chauhan, Commanding Officer, INS Nirdeshak, is an alumnus of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and Naval War College, Goa. He is a specialist Hydrographer. He has commanded INS Nirupak and INS Darshak.



Captain Tribhuvan Singh, Commissioning Commanding Officer, INS Ikshak, is an alumnus of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and Naval War College, Goa. A specialist Hydrographer, he has commanded INS Sutlej and INS Sarvekshak.



Captain Kishore Aer, Commanding Officer, INS Sarvekshak is an alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. He is a specialist Hydrographer and has earlier Commanded INS Makar.



Commander Amit Kumar Padha, Commanding Officer, INS Darshak, is an alumnus of National Institute of Hydrography, Goa. A specialist Hydrographer, he has served as Executive Officer, INS Investigator.



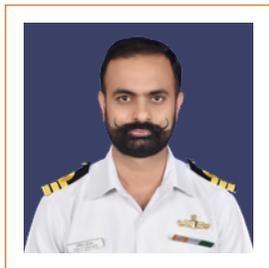
Commander Devender Singh, Commanding Officer, INS Jamuna, is an alumnus of National Institute of Hydrography, Goa. A specialist Hydrographer, he has served as Executive Officer, INS Sutlej and INS Nirdeshak.





## Arnala Class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft

The Arnala Class represents India's latest indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, designed to secure coastal and littoral regions. These vessels integrate advanced sensors, hull-mounted and variable-depth sonar, lightweight torpedoes, ASW rockets, anti-torpedo decoy systems and mine-laying capabilities, enabling comprehensive detection, tracking and neutralisation of underwater threats. Equipped with stabilised naval guns for surface and aerial defence, the ships combine stealth, agility and endurance for low-intensity maritime operations and coastal surveillance. These ships exemplify India's growing self-reliance in defence shipbuilding, providing potent submarine warfare capability while safeguarding national maritime interests in shallow and strategic waters. INS Arnala and INS Androth are participating in the Review.



Commander Ankit Grover, Commanding Officer, INS Arnala, is an alumnus of the Naval Academy, Goa and Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. An Anti-Submarine Warfare specialist, he has served in staff appointments at the Directorate of Staff Requirements.



Commander GGB Patil, Commanding Officer, INS Androth, is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune and Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. A Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist, he has commanded INS Bangaram, and served in various operational and staff appointments.



## INS Gaj

INS Gaj, built at Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, is the first and only ship of her class in the Indian Navy. Initially conceptualised as a civil tug, she was commissioned as an ocean-going tug. Commissioned on 10 October 2001, INS Gaj's primary role is towing and mooring operations for test firings, along with target towing for gunnery practice, ammunition dumping, consort duties, trials, patrolling and firing range clearance. Equipped with Side Scan Sonar, she has an endurance of 500 nautical miles and can operate safely in sea states up to 3.



Lieutenant Commander Mukul Magotra, Commanding Officer, INS Gaj, is an alumnus of the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala and has undergone advanced LOFAR course in France. He has served on board INS Tir, INS Tabar and INS Sahyadri.



## INS Astradharini

INS Astradharini is an indigenously designed Torpedo Launch and Recovery Vessel and was commissioned on 06 October 2015. It is one of two twin-hulled catamaran vessels in the Indian Navy. The ship is specifically configured for the testing and evaluation of underwater weapons and associated systems, thereby playing a crucial role in enhancing India's self-reliance in the development of underwater warfare technologies. INS Astradharini operates in close collaboration with the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), and plays a crucial role in launching and recovering indigenous torpedoes, mines and unmanned underwater vehicles.



Lieutenant Commander Anurag Daima, Commanding Officer, INS Astradharini, is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Pune. He is an Anti-Submarine Warfare specialist and, has served on board INS Betwa, INS Shivalik, INS Mysore and INS Tabar.



## Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC)

The Car Nicobar Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC) are high-speed, indigenously built vessels designed for coastal and shallow-water operations. With speeds exceeding 35 knots, these craft are optimised for interdiction, maritime security, EEZ patrols and rapid-response missions. Equipped with CRN-91 stabilised guns, machine guns and Iгла Surface to Air Missiles, they can counter small surface threats, low-flying aircraft and asymmetric challenges. Their high agility, endurance and advanced systems make them crucial assets in safeguarding India's island territories and strengthening maritime security across the Indian Ocean Region. INS Car Nicobar, INS Cheriyam and INS Tihayu are participating in the Review.



Lieutenant Commander Ankit Amitabh, Commanding Officer, INS Car Nicobar, is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Pune and Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala. He is an Anti-Submarine Warfare specialist, and has extensive experience serving on board frontline warships.



Lieutenant Commander Tula Umesh Kumar, Commanding Officer INS Cheriyam is an alumnus of Naval Academy, Ezhimala. He is a specialist in Communication, Electronic Warfare and IT. He is a Naval Air Operations Officer qualified on Dornier, and has served in frontline air squadrons and capital ships.



Lieutenant Commander Meyyappan, Commanding Officer, INS Tihayu, is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune. He is a Gunnery and Missile Warfare specialist. He is a Naval Air Operations Officer, and is qualified on IL-38SD and P-8I aircraft.



## INS Makar

INS Makar is a Catamaran Hydrographic Survey Ship and the first and only vessel of its kind inducted into the Indian Navy. Indigenously built by Alcock Ashdown (Gujarat) Limited, the ship was commissioned on 21 September 2012 at Karwar. The name Makar is derived from the zodiac constellation Capricorn, symbolised by a sextant arc on the ship's crest. Equipped with modern hydrographic and oceanographic survey systems, including Autonomous Underwater Vehicles, Remotely Operated Vehicles and multibeam sounding equipment, INS Makar undertakes hydrographic surveys and supports marine environmental data collection. Since commissioning, the ship has also rendered valuable assistance in multiple Search-and-Rescue operations along the Western Seaboard.



Commander Madhusudanarao Maradana, Commanding Officer, INS Makar, is a specialist in Hydrography. He has served as Executive Officer of Ex-Sandhayak, INS Darshak and commissioning Executive Officer of INS Sandhayak.

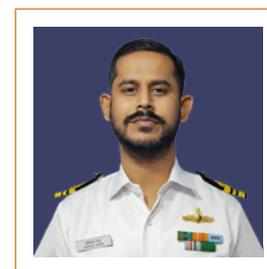


## Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk IV Class

IN LCU is a Landing Craft Utility, indigenously designed and built Mk-IV class ships. Designed for amphibious operations, they play a crucial role in transporting and landing troops, vehicles and equipment onto unprepared beaches, thereby enhancing the navy's operational flexibility in littoral environments. These ships also contribute significantly to island logistics, maritime security and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, exemplifying India's self-reliance in defence production and regional maritime cooperation. IN LCU L55 and L56 are participating in the Review.



Lieutenant Commander Harsukh Dadhich, Commanding Officer, IN LCU L-55, is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune. He is a NBCD and Electronic Warfare specialist. He is a Naval Air Operations Officer, qualified on Dornier aircraft and has served as staff NAOO at frontline air squadrons.



Lieutenant Commander Abinash Patra, Commanding Officer, IN LCU L-56, is a Navigation and Direction specialist. He was commissioned on 25 November 2013 and has served on board frontline warships INS Mysore and INS Talwar.



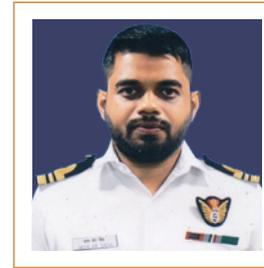


## Bangaram and Trinkat Class Fast Attack/Patrol Craft

The Bangaram and Trinkat Class Fast Attack/Patrol Craft are high-speed, agile vessels designed for coastal surveillance, EEZ protection, anti-smuggling, anti-poaching and counter-terrorism operations. Equipped with advanced navigation and communication systems, close-in weapon systems and machine guns, these craft can rapidly respond to maritime threats, coordinate with air assets and support humanitarian and search-and-rescue missions. These ships have played a crucial role in safeguarding India's island territories, patrolling strategic waterways and ensuring maritime security across India's littoral and coastal zones. INS Bangaram, INS Bitra, INS Batti Malv, INS Baratang and INS Tarmugli are participating in the Review.



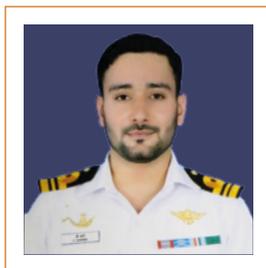
Lieutenant Commander Inderdeep Singh, Commanding Officer, INS Bangaram, is an alumnus of the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala. He is a Gunnery and Missile Warfare specialist. He is a Naval Air Operations Officer, qualified on P-8I aircraft.



Lieutenant Commander Satya Vir Singh, Commanding Officer, INS Batti Malv, is a Naval Air Operations Officer and Qualified Navigation Instructor on Sea King 42B aircraft, with experience in Anti-Submarine Warfare operations.



Lieutenant Commander Aditya Kumar, Commanding Officer, INS Baratang, is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune and Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala. He is a Navigation and Direction specialist.



Lieutenant Commander Venkateshwar Sharma, Commanding Officer, INS Bitra, is a Marine Commando Officer. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune and Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala. He has been deployed for anti-piracy, CI/CT and HADR operations.



Lieutenant Commander Gaganjeet Mahajani, Commanding Officer, INS Tarmugli, is an alumnus of the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala. He is a Navigation and Direction specialist. He has served on board INS Khanjar, INS Shivalik and INS Vikramaditya.





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## IN ISV T-35, T-36, T-37, T-38, T-39, T-40

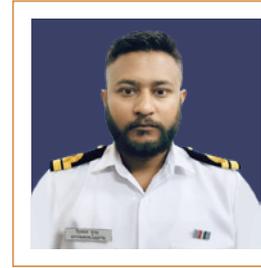
IN ISV T-35, T-36, T-37, T-38, T-39 and T-40 form part of the Indian Navy's 84<sup>th</sup> Immediate Support Vessel Squadron. Strategically based at Visakhapatnam, these high-speed interceptors are purpose-built to defend India's critical Offshore Development Areas (ODAs) and oil-and-gas assets within the Kakinada region. Measuring 23 metres in length, these vessels are marvels of maritime engineering, utilising a Fibreglass Reinforced Plastic (FRP) hull and twin water-jet propulsion to achieve speeds exceeding 40 knots. Beyond their primary patrol role, the vessels are versatile platforms for Special Operations, equipped to deploy MARCOS (Marine Commandos) via on board inflatable Gemini craft. Their advanced day/night surveillance suite ensures a persistent presence at sea.



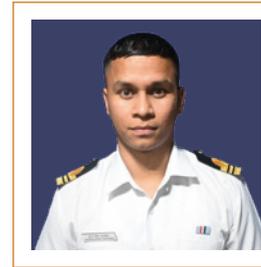
Lieutenant Commander Rishabh Rai, Commanding Officer, IN ISV T-35, is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Pune. He has served as SAMCO, INS Trikand and Gunnery Officer, INS Astradharini.



Lieutenant Commander Kotamarty Srikanth, Commanding Officer, IN ISV T-36, is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune. A qualified ATAS Officer, he has over 200 hours of ATAS operations and has served on board INS Teg.



Lieutenant Divyansh Gupta, Commanding Officer, IN ISV T-37, is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Pune. He has served on board INS Airavat and INS Rana.



Lieutenant Commander Karan Singh, Commanding Officer, IN ISV T-38, is an alumnus of Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala. He has served on board INS Tir, INS Kiltan and INS Kavaratti.



Lieutenant Commander Sameer Sharma, Commanding Officer, IN ISV T-39, is an alumnus of Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala. He has served as Flag Lieutenant to the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet and Navigating Officer, INS Astradharini.



Lieutenant Commander B Sai Krishna, Commanding Officer, IN ISV T-40, is an alumnus of Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala. He is the Squadron Commander of the 84<sup>th</sup> ISV Squadron, and has served on board many frontline warships.



## INSV Tarini

The Indian Naval Sailing Vessels (INSV) Tarini is a 56-footer ocean-going sailing vessel inducted in 2018. The vessel is named after Tara-Tarini, the twin goddesses of Odisha, revered as protectors of sailors and symbols of navigation. INSV Tarini is equipped with modern navigation, communication and safety systems, making it suitable for global expeditions. The vessel gained international recognition for the Navika Sagar Parikrama, when a six-member all-women crew of Indian Navy officers successfully circumnavigated the globe in the year 2017–18, marking a major milestone in women empowerment, maritime diplomacy and the promotion of India's rich maritime heritage.

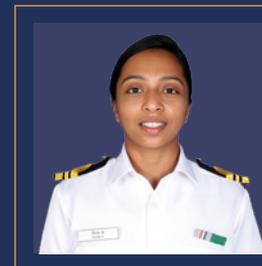


Lieutenant Commander Roopa Alagirisamy, SC, Skipper INSV Tarini, is a Naval Armament Inspectorate officer. She has completed 63,000 nautical miles at sea, including a dual-handed circumnavigation, and is a two-time Admiral Ramdas Trophy awardee.



## INSV Mhadei

INSV Mhadei is a 56-footer ocean-going sailing vessel, inducted in 2009. Named after the Mhadei (Mandovi) River in Goa, the vessel symbolises India's rich maritime heritage and spirit of exploration. Built in India, Mhadei is equipped with advanced navigation, communication and safety systems, enabling it to undertake long and demanding ocean voyages. The vessel gained international recognition after the first solo circumnavigation of the globe by an Indian, accomplished by Cdr Dilip Donde in the year 2010–11. The vessel was thereafter sailed by Lt Cdr Abhilash Tomy (now Cdr (Retd)), becoming the first Indian to solo circumnavigate the globe.



Lieutenant Commander Dilna K, SC, Skipper INSV Mhadei, is a national-level shooter, cricketer and yachsperson. She has completed 63,000 nautical miles, including a dual-handed circumnavigation, and is a two-time Admiral Ramdas Trophy awardee.



## INSV Neelkanth, INSV Kadalpura & INSV Hariyal

INSV Neelkanth, INSV Kadalpura and INSV Hariyal are 40-foot, indigenously designed and built sailing craft that embody the spirit of adventure and seamanship. Named after birds symbolising endurance, agility and harmony with nature, these vessels have been extensively employed for sail training, ocean races and adventure expeditions. These INSVs are equipped with modern navigation, communication and safety systems. They have contributed significantly to developing navigation skills, teamwork and leadership among naval personnel and cadets, while proudly upholding India's rich maritime and sailing traditions.



Lieutenant Ankit, Skipper INSV Neelkanth, is a highly skilled yachtsman with extensive experience in windsurfing, IQ foil, yachting and ocean racing. He has completed over 13,000 nautical miles at sea, reflecting his professional competence and seamanship.



Commander Vikram Singh Bisht, Skipper INSV Kadalpura, is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Pune and is an ASW specialist. An accomplished yachtsman, he has sailed over 10,000 nautical miles and is a Admiral Ramdas Trophy awardee.



Lieutenant Commander Ravindra Yadav, Skipper INSV Hariyal, is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Pune. He is an ASW specialist. He has won multiple sailing championships and has logged over 7,500 nautical miles.





Commander Ajith Jacob, Commanding Officer, INS Sindhukirti, is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Pune and Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. He is an Anti-Submarine Warfare specialist, and holds a Master's Degree in Defence and Strategic Studies.

## INS Sindhukirti

INS Sindhukirti is a Kilo Class submarine of the Indian Navy, commissioned on 09 December 1989. With over 36 years of service, it has established itself as a formidable frontline submarine. The submarine has consistently demonstrated unwavering professionalism, valour and steadfast service to the nation, embodying the motto '*Balam Shauryam Kirti*' – Strength, Valour, Glory. The submarine is capable of anti-ship as well as anti-submarine attack and can fire anti-ship missiles whilst maintaining stealth. The submarine has undergone several upgrades and refits, enhancing its stealth, endurance and combat capabilities.



## INS Sindhukesari

INS Sindhukesari, the seventh of the ten Sindhughosh Class submarines, was commissioned on 19 December 1988. Epitomising the spirit of the Lions of the Sea, this illustrious unit has completed 37 years of glorious service. Designed as a conventional hunter-killer, her mission profile encompasses anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering and special forces insertion. While she retains her classic stealth, she is now a modernised predator armed with the deadly Klub-S missile complex and advanced sensor suites.



Commander Jijo Mohan, Commanding Officer, INS Sindhukesari, is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Pune and Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. He is a Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist. He has served as Executive Officer of INS Sindhuvijay.



## INS Shankul

INS Shankul is a Shishumar Class diesel-electric attack submarine, commissioned on 28 May 1994. It was second submarine of its class to be built in India marking a significant milestone in Indigenous Shipbuilding Capability. Designed for stealth, endurance and precision, INS Shankul operates as a frontline SSK, capable of executing wide range of missions including anti-ship warfare, anti-submarine operations and intelligence gathering. The name Shankul means 'Skate Fish' in Sanskrit symbolising stealth and underwater maneuverability.



Commander Praveen Kumar Akela, Commanding Officer, INS Shankul, is an alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. He is an Anti-Submarine Warfare specialist with extensive submarine operational experience.







## INS Tarangini

INS Tarangini, the Indian Navy's first Sail Training Ship, was commissioned on 11 November 1997. She is a majestic three-masted barque, carrying 20 sails with a total sail area of over 10,000 square feet. Based at Kochi under the First Training Squadron (1TS), Tarangini plays a vital role in imparting sail training to officer trainees of the Indian Navy. In her illustrious service spanning nearly three decades, the ship has achieved numerous milestones, including the first circumnavigation of the globe by an Indian Naval Ship, accomplished in 2003–04. She has till date undertaken five circumnavigation voyages, covering over 35,000 nautical miles and visiting over 55 ports across 26 countries.



Commander Nitin Gajjar, Commanding Officer, INS Tarangini, is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Pune and Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. He is a QFI helicopter pilot with over 2,500 flying hours on Chetak and Cheetah helicopters.





## ICGS Samudra Pratap

Indian Coast Guard Ship Samudra Pratap, a Pollution Control Vessel (PCV), was commissioned on 05 January 26. The name signifies 'The Majesty of the Seas'. The ship is capable of carrying out unhindered surveillance operations with an endurance of 60 days. She is equipped with containment booms, heavy-duty brush and weir skimmers, side-sweeping arms and can collect up to 500 tonnes of spilled oil. To augment maritime safety and fire-control capabilities, the vessel is fitted with an External Fire-Fighting System (FiFi Class II) for first-response support during maritime emergencies. The ship is integrated with multiple modern automation systems, ensuring precision during demanding missions.

## Samarth Class Offshore Patrol Vessels

Samarth Class Offshore Patrol Vessels are indigenously built for sustained maritime security, law enforcement, search and rescue and pollution response operations. With about 6,000 nautical mile endurance, aviation facilities for twin-engine light helicopters and multiple high-speed boats, they support rapid boarding and long-duration patrols at sea. Displacing roughly 3,000 tonnes with speeds of about 23 knots, these modern Offshore Patrol Vessels reflect the Indian Coast Guard's commitment to maritime safety, security and environmental protection in the maritime domain. Two ships of the class, ICGS Sujay and ICGS Sarathi, are participating in the Review.



Deputy Inspector General DJ Manoj, Commanding Officer, ICGS Sujay, is a Hovercraft specialist with training in GMDSS and Pollution Response. He has commanded ICGS Vijit, Air Cushion Vessel Squadron and ICGS C-138.



Commandant Kundan Singh, Commanding Officer, ICGS Sarathi, is an alumnus of Naval Staff College, USA. He is a Navigation and Direction specialist. He has commanded ICGS Sarathi, ICGS Rajtarang and has served on board frontline Coast Guard ships.



Deputy Inspector General Ashok Kumar Bhama, Commanding Officer, ICGS Samudra Pratap, is an alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. Commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard on 11 January 2003. He is a Navigation and Direction specialist. He holds a PhD in Agriculture.





## Sagar Anveshika

Sagar Anveshika is a state-of-the-art Coastal Research Vessel (CRV) operated by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) under Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). Built by Titagarh Rail Systems, this 43 metre Coastal Research Vessel features a 9.6 metre beam, providing the stability needed for complex underwater mapping and environmental indexing, securing India's leadership in the global Blue Economy and sustainable marine research.



Captain Tille Cannou Sivasankar of Sagar Anveshika, a multidisciplinary coastal research vessel, has over 37 years of sea experience, including extensive service on a wide range of vessels in India and abroad.

## SCI Saraswati

SCI Saraswati is a modern multi-purpose Offshore Support Vessel owned by the Shipping Corporation of India and sailing under the Indian flag. Built in 2017, this versatile 78-metre, DP2-capable platform supply vessel supports offshore operations with substantial deck cargo capacity, advanced positioning systems and accommodation for charter personnel alongside the ship's regular crew.



Captain AS Prabhakar is an alumnus of TS Chanakya. He has been associated with SCI Saraswati for the past six years. He has participated in naval exercise TROPEX, Sea Vigil, DRDO missions and the Gaganyaan mission.



## Hawk Mk 132

The Hawk Mk 132 is an Advanced Jet Trainer inducted on 06 November 2013. The aircraft is capable of both air-to-ground as well as air-to-air missions. It is equipped with modern avionics including a Head-Up Display, Inertial Navigation Unit and a mission computer. It serves as a reliable platform to carry out operational flying and basic conversion training of budding fighter pilots, giving them the requisite skills to graduate to a carrier-borne fighter. The cradle of Indian Naval fighter aviation, INAS 551 'Phantoms', operate the Hawk Mk 132 aircraft.



Captain VA Latif, Commanding Officer, INAS 551, is an alumnus of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. He is a fully operational Hawk pilot with wide instructional experience and has undergone advanced strike training with the United States Navy.





## MiG-29K

The MiG-29K is a carrier-based multi-role fighter jet with advanced avionics and versatile combat performance. It is capable of air-to-air, air-to-surface and anti-ship missions. Commissioned on 11 May 13, INAS 303, the 'Black Panthers', is the only frontline embarking fighter squadron of the Indian Navy, operating the MiG-29K aircraft. The squadron has been part of major operations of the navy and has been at the forefront of evolving and developing tactics and new stratagems for the employment of new weapons.



Captain Abhishek C Gawande, Commanding Officer, INAS 303, is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Pune and Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. He is a Master Green rated fighter pilot with over 1,500 flying hours with extensive carrier aviation experience.



## Dornier

INAS 311 is the largest operational SRMR squadron of the Eastern Seaboard and was commissioned on 24 June 09. Prior to commissioning and being re-christened as INAS 311, the squadron operated as 318 (IR) Flight with three iconic Islander BN2B piston aircraft. The squadron inducted three new glass-cockpit coastal security Dornier aircraft in October 2020 with a state-of-the-art sensor suite, including the ELTA V3+ surface surveillance radar and AES-212 ESM, bolstering the operational capability of the squadron manifold. Over the years, the unit has evolved its roles and operates extensively with surface, sub-surface and other air units, in addition to communication and miscellaneous tasking.



Commander Abhinav Handa, Commanding Officer, INAS 311, is an alumnus of the Naval Academy, Goa. He is a Naval Air Operations Officer with over 3,500 flying hours on Dornier and P-8I aircraft.





## P-8I

The lethal and potent Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance and ASW aircraft, Boeing P-8I, was inducted in 2014. The state-of-the-art aircraft is equipped with a powerful weapon package consisting of Harpoon Block II anti-ship missiles and Mk-54 torpedoes. The P-8I aircraft continue to serve as the principal LRMR aircraft of the Navy, operated by INAS 312 at INS Rajali and INAS 316 at Goa. Designed for multi-role operations, the aircraft delivers effective responses to diverse maritime threats over wide areas of operation.



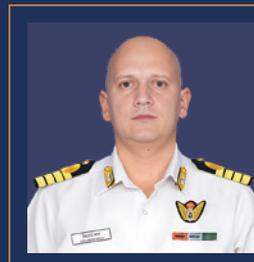
Captain Akshay Kumar Raja, Commanding Officer, INAS 312, is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Pune. He is a Maritime Reconnaissance pilot qualified on Dornier and P-8I aircraft with over 4,600 flying hours.





## MH-60R

The MH-60R, a multi-role maritime helicopter, was inducted into the Indian Navy in 2022 as part of its modernisation and airborne anti-submarine warfare enhancement programme. The MH-60R represents a substantial capability upgrade to India's maritime aviation. It is equipped with an integrated suite of advanced sensors, avionics and mission systems, enabling the execution of a wide range of maritime roles. These include ASW, anti-surface warfare, over-the-horizon targeting, maritime surveillance and search-and-rescue. The MH-60R provides a decisive edge in detecting and neutralising submarines and is fully integrated with frontline warships, expanding India's blue-water operational reach.



Captain Sidharth Rana, Commanding Officer, INAS 334, is an alumnus of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. He is a Naval Aviator and Qualified Navigation Instructor. He has commanded INS Karuva, and served as Executive Officer of INS Ranvijay.



## Sea King Mk 42C

Commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1986, the Sea King Mk 42C is capable of undertaking multifarious missions such as tactical troop transport, long-range night SAR, casualty evacuation, disaster relief, aerial fire-fighting and NVG operations. Over the years, it has served on board aircraft carriers, frigates and shore bases, enhancing the navy's ability to project power, insert commandos, support humanitarian missions and sustain ship-borne operations in all weather.



Commander Yuvraj Kumar, Commanding Officer, INAS 350, is an alumnus of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. He is a Sea King helicopter pilot with over 2,700 flying hours. He has served as Executive Officer of INS Deepak, INS Vipul and INS Nirghat.



## Chetak

The Chetak is a versatile, light utility helicopter that has served as a dependable workhorse for the Indian Armed Forces for decades. Originally manufactured under licence from the French Aérospatiale Alouette III, the Chetak was introduced in India in the 1960s and quickly became known for its reliability and adaptability in diverse terrains. Its simple design, robust performance and ease of maintenance made it ideal for roles such as training, casualty evacuation, search and rescue, communication duties, and light transport. Despite the arrival of modern helicopters, the Chetak continues to serve with distinction, symbolising India's aviation legacy and HAL's long-standing commitment to indigenous aerospace capability.



Commander Alok Raj, Flight Commander, 321 Visakhapatnam Flight, is a qualified Kamov-28 pilot and a fully operational Master Green Chetak pilot. He has over 1,500 flying hours with extensive experience in fleet aviation operations.



## ALH Mk III

The indigenously designed and developed Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk III showcases India's technological stride under Atmanirbhar Bharat. The aircraft significantly elevates the region's surveillance, response and operational reach. The ALH Mk III is equipped with state-of-the-art surveillance radar, EO sensors, an airborne MICU and 12.7 mm HMG. The ALH Mk III extends the squadron's capability across HADR missions, special operations with MARCOS and critical air ambulance tasks.



Captain Saurabh Srivastava, Commanding Officer, INAS 324, is an alumnus of Naval Engineering Course, Lonavala and Naval War College, Goa. He is a Qualified Flying Instructor and Production Test Pilot with over 2,400 flying hours.



## Kamov 31

Kamov 31 is an Airborne Early Warning platform and stands as a critical force multiplier in maritime operations. It is equipped with a powerful radar suite, which can detect and track simultaneous air and surface contacts far beyond the horizon, giving fleet units a decisive advantage through early threat recognition. Complementing its radar is an advanced indigenous Sarang EW suite that intercepts, analyses and classifies electromagnetic emissions. A secure data link enables real-time transmission of surveillance information to ships, ensuring seamless network-centric operation. It is a potent platform strengthening air defence, surface surveillance and maritime domain awareness.



Captain Venkatesh Kumar, Commanding Officer, INAS 339, is an alumnus of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. He is a Kamov-31 pilot and Qualified Flying Instructor with over 2,000 flying hours.



## KV 28

The KV 28 helicopter stands out for its unique design and extraordinary capability. The KV 28 is a hunter designed to annihilate the invisible menace of submarines. The KV 28 underwent its Mid-Life Upgrade in May 2023. In this project, diverse OEMs united to integrate Western-origin sensors and weapons with Russian avionics, making this an unprecedented venture anywhere in the world. This fusion of East and West combines enhanced domain awareness and combat potential with battle-rugged airworthiness. It transformed the KV 28 into a hunter of unmatched precision, ensuring India's fleets sail unchallenged across an increasingly contested ocean.



Commander Priyadarshi Paritosh, Commanding Officer, INAS 333, is a qualified Flying Instructor and helicopter pilot. He has over 2,000 flying hours and has commanded LCU 39, with extensive operational experience in anti-submarine warfare missions.





# International Participation

Welcoming foreign naval units to the International Fleet Review 2026, a spirit of shared purpose and camaraderie pervades the gathering, extending far beyond ceremonial display. Each ship carries with it not only its nation's flag, but also the rich traditions, experiences and maritime heritage of its people. Together, this fleet reflects the enduring bonds that connect navies across oceans, fostering friendship, trust and a collective commitment to maritime harmony.

The visiting foreign units showcase a rich array of capabilities, from frontline combatants and patrol vessels to support ships and aircraft. Across differences in design and doctrine runs a unifying thread; a shared understanding of life at sea, anchored in discipline, cooperation and reverence for the maritime realm. Sailing side by side, these ships demonstrate that while the oceans are vast, they are most secure when nations work together, guided by mutual respect and a collective responsibility for the world's waters.

The Fleet Review has long stood as a powerful moment of connection between navies, and IFR 2026 is no exception. Beyond ceremonial display, it provides a platform where visiting navies engage at sea and ashore, exchanging ideas, sharing experiences and deepening mutual understanding.

In an era where maritime challenges increasingly transcend national boundaries, IFR 2026 becomes more than a review; it is a celebration of collaboration, a testament to shared responsibility and an affirmation of the oceans as a space for partnership, security and collective progress.



## Australia / HMAS Warramunga

Cdr Ken Brown  
Commanding Officer

HMAS Warramunga is an Anzac Class helicopter frigate of the Royal Australian Navy, commissioned in 2001 and named for the Warumungu Aboriginal people. Designed for air defence, surface and undersea warfare, it features advanced phased-array radar, a vertical launch system, Harpoon missiles and an embarked MH-60R Seahawk for extended anti-submarine and surveillance roles.





## Bangladesh / BNS Somudra Avijan

Capt Muhammad Mosfiqur Rahman  
Commanding Officer

BNS Somudra Avijan is a Hamilton Class high-endurance ship that joined the Bangladesh Navy in March 2016, significantly enhancing its blue-water capabilities. As one of the fleet's largest surface combatants, she underscores Bangladesh's commitment to extended-range maritime security, goodwill deployments and cooperative naval engagements across the wider Indo-Pacific Region.



## Indonesia / KRI Bung Tomo

Capt Riyanto Agus Wibowo  
Commanding Officer

KRI Bung Tomo is a Bung Tomo Class guided-missile corvette of the Indonesian Navy, originally built for Brunei as KDB Jerambak but never commissioned there. KRI Bung Tomo was commissioned into the Indonesian Navy on 11 Jul 2014. As a multirole light frigate, it combines Exocet anti-ship missiles, Seawolf (now slated for VL MICA) surface-to-air missiles, torpedo tubes, a 76 mm main gun and a helicopter deck, giving it flexible surface, air-defence and anti-submarine capabilities.



## Iran / IRINS Lavan

### Senior Capt Abdollah Rahmani, Commanding Officer

IRINS Lavan is a Hengam Class landing ship of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy, commissioned in Jan 1985 and used primarily for amphibious sealift and logistics in the Persian Gulf and surrounding waters. Beyond conventional landing ship duties, Iranian media have highlighted Lavan as a test platform for launching swarms of one way attack drones, giving it a secondary role as an unmanned systems mothership and signalling Iran's interest in distributed, asymmetric maritime strike concepts.



## IRINS Bushehr

### Cdr Meysam Raese, Commanding Officer

IRINS Bushehr is a Bandar Abbas Class fleet support ship of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy, providing logistics, fuel and stores to extend the endurance of Iranian surface combatants on distant deployments. It frequently appears in training flotillas and goodwill port visits, functioning as a mobile support hub with limited defensive weapons and basic helicopter handling facilities rather than a primary combatant. The ship is embarked with one AB-212 Helo.



## IRINS Dena

### Cdr Abozar Zare, Commanding Officer

IRINS Dena is a Moudge Class frigate of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy, commissioned in June 2021, and named after Mount Dena. Officially styled a "destroyer" by Iran, it fields Qader anti ship missiles, surface to air missiles, a 76 mm Fajr 27 gun, Fath 40 AA cannon, torpedo tubes and helicopter deck, giving it a multirole profile in air, surface and limited anti submarine warfare.





## Japan / JS Yūdachi

Cdr Tsutsumi Toshio  
Commanding Officer

JS Yūdachi is a Murasame Class destroyer of the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force, commissioned in 1999 and operated by the Escort Flotilla in the Indo Pacific. Designed for multi mission escort, she carries anti ship and surface to air missiles, ASROC, a 76 mm gun, CIWS and embarked helicopter, optimised for anti submarine and fleet air defence roles in multinational exercises and sea lane protection.



## Malaysia / KD Sri Indera Sakti

Capt Ananthan Tharmalingam  
Commanding Officer

KD Sri Indera Sakti is a 4,300 ton, 100 metre multi role support ship of the Royal Malaysian Navy, often described as a “mother ship” for smaller combatants and a quiet workhorse of the fleet. The ship was built by Bremer Vulkan in Germany and was commissioned in 1980. She serves with the 31<sup>st</sup> Multi Purpose Command and Support Ship Squadron from Lumut Naval Base in Perak.



## Maldives / MCGS Huravee

Lt Col Ahmed Nafiu Mohamed  
Commanding Officer

MCGS Huravee symbolises the fraternal ties of friendship between India and the Maldives. MCGS Huravee is a Maldivian Coast Guard patrol vessel, originally built in India as the Trinkat Class patrol ship INS Tillanchang and commissioned in 2001. Gifted to Maldives in 2006 and later refitted in India, it performs EEZ patrol, anti smuggling, anti piracy, search-and-rescue missions, with light machine guns and modern communications optimised for coastal security in the Indian Ocean.



## Myanmar / UMS King Aung Zeya

Cdr Ye Win Thaw  
Commanding Officer

UMS King Aung Zeya is Myanmar's first indigenous guided missile frigate and the sole unit of the Aung Zeya Class, commissioned in 2010 to provide blue water capability. Displacing roughly 2,500 tons, it is equipped with eight C-802 SSMs, IGLA SAMs, one Oto Melara 76mm main gun, four 30mm AA guns, two 14.5 mm guns and torpedos with associated sensors. This combined with a helo deck, gives it a multirole profile in air, surface and anti submarine warfare domains.





## Oman / RNOV Sadh

Lt Cdr Shaheen Saud Abdul Rahman Al Balushi  
Commanding Officer

RNOV Sadh is an Al-Ofouq Class Offshore Patrol Vessel of the Royal Navy of Oman. The ship was built by ST Marine Singapore and named in 2015 as the third ship of the class. Designed for EEZ patrol, maritime security and search-and-rescue, it mounts an Oto Melara 76 mm gun, secondary guns and modern Thales sensors, with helicopter deck and RHIBs enabling flexible boarding and surveillance operations.



## Philippines / BRP Miguel Malvar

Capt Paul Michael P Hechanova  
Commanding Officer

BRP Miguel Malvar is a modern guided-missile frigate and lead ship of her class in the Philippine Navy, commissioned in May 2025. Designed by HD Hyundai Heavy Industries, she significantly enhances the navy's offshore combat capability with advanced sensors, vertical launch air-defence missiles, robust anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare systems.



## Russia / RFS Marshal Shaposhnikov

Capt 1<sup>st</sup> Rank Merkulov Sergey Viktorovich  
Commanding Officer

RFS Marshal Shaposhnikov is a modernised Project 1155 Udaloy Class large anti submarine ship of the Russian Pacific Fleet, now reclassified as a multirole frigate. After refit, she gained 3S14 universal VLS cells capable of launching Kalibr, Oniks or Zircon cruise missiles, plus Kh 35 Uran anti ship missiles, while retaining strong anti submarine weapons and facilities for Ka 27 helicopters, giving her a flexible role in long range strike, ASW and fleet escort duties.



## Republic of Korea / ROKS Kang Gam-Chan

Capt Yoon Hyuk-min  
Commanding Officer

ROKS Kang Gam-chan is a Chungmugong Yi Sun-sin Class multirole destroyer of the Republic of Korea Navy, commissioned in 2007. As a key blue-water asset, she has demonstrated advanced air-defence and anti-piracy capabilities during distant deployments, including operations in the Gulf of Aden and major multinational exercises.





## Seychelles / SCGS Zoroaster

Capt Lyndon Lablache  
Commanding Officer

SCGS Zoroaster is a fast patrol vessel of the Seychelles Coast Guard, based on India's Rajshree Class inshore patrol vessel design and built by GRSE, Kolkata. Gifted by India in 2021, it carries a 30 mm main gun, heavy machine guns, advanced communications and RHIBs, optimised for anti smuggling, fisheries protection, search-and-rescue and EEZ patrol duties in the western Indian Ocean.



## South Africa / SAS Amatola

Capt Dieter Jones  
Commanding Officer

SAS Amatola is the lead Valour Class MEKO A 200 frigate of the South African Navy, commissioned in 2006 and among its most capable surface combatants. She mounts Exocet anti ship and Umkhonto surface to air missiles, a 76 mm main gun, 35 mm dual purpose gun, 20 mm mounts and a helicopter deck, optimised for multi role tasks including escort, sea control and anti piracy operations.



## Sri Lanka / SLNS Nandimithra

Capt KVSL De Silva  
Commanding Officer

SLNS Nandimithra is a Fast Missile Vessel of the Sri Lanka Navy that plays a significant role in safeguarding national waters and contributing to wider regional maritime security. Commissioned in 2000, the ship undertakes international port calls, naval exercises and cooperative engagements that foster interoperability and mutual confidence among partner navies. Through these deployments, SLNS Nandimithra supports Sri Lanka's operational readiness as well as its broader diplomatic and capacity building initiatives in the maritime domain.



## SLNS Sagara

Capt WNSB Dharmarathne  
Commanding Officer

SLNS Sagara is a large Offshore Patrol Vessel of the Sri Lanka Navy, tasked with long range surveillance, escort and general maritime security duties in the Indian Ocean Region. With substantial endurance, a flight deck, and modern navigation and communication systems, she supports constabulary missions such as fisheries protection, search and rescue, and cooperative patrols with regional partners.





## Thailand / HTMS Krabi

Cdr Suttipong Moungruang  
Commanding Officer

HTMS Krabi is a Krabi Class Offshore Patrol Vessel of the Royal Thai Navy, based on the BAE Systems 90 metre River Class OPV design and was commissioned in 2013. Built domestically at Bangkok Dock, she is armed with an OTO Melara 76 mm gun and MSI 30 mm cannon and is capable of operating an AW139-class helicopter. The vessel is optimised for Exclusive Economic Zone patrols, fisheries protection and maritime security operations in the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea.



## United Arab Emirates / AL-Emarat

Staff Lt Col Jassem Mohamed Al Harmoodi  
Commanding Officer

Al Emarat is a modern Gowind Class guided-missile corvette and the second of the Bani Yas Class ordered from France for the UAE Navy. Commissioned in 2025, this state of the art 2,800-tonne vessel enhances the UAE's offshore defence, escort and maritime security capabilities across the wider Arabian Gulf and adjacent waters.



## United States of America / USS Pinckney ◀

Cdr Timothy J DeVall  
Commanding Officer

USS Pinckney is an Arleigh Burke Class guided missile destroyer of the United States Navy, commissioned in 2004 and named for Navy Cross recipient William Pinckney. Designed for multi mission roles, she combines advanced air and missile defence, anti submarine warfare and embarked MH 60R helicopters to support Indo Pacific and global maritime security operations.



## ▶ Vietnam / VPNS Dinh Tien Hoang

Lt Cdr Nguen Quang Huy  
Commanding Officer

Dinh Tien Hoang is a modified Gepard Class stealth frigate in service with the Vietnam People's Navy. Commissioned in 2011, the ship is designed to search, track, and destroy surface ships, escort and patrol territorial waters and also has air defence and anti-submarine capabilities. The ship is armed with eight KH-35 Uran SSMs, eight Sossa-R SAMs, one AK-176 main gun and two AK-630 and AO-18KD 30 mm guns respectively. For the anti-submarine role the ship is equipped with a hull-mounted sonar, AS mortar, mines and four torpedoes. The ship is capable of staging through medium helicopters from her helo deck.





## France / ATL2

The Atlantique 2 (ATL2) serves as France's specialized long-endurance solution for safeguarding maritime interests and conducting diverse naval operations. Its mission profile focuses on anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare and extensive intelligence gathering over both oceanic and terrestrial environments. Built for longevity and versatility, this platform excels at persistent monitoring and addressing maritime threats across extended distances. Acting as a robust airborne nerve center, the ATL2 coordinates complex missions, ensuring comprehensive situational control during international patrols and distant security assignments.



## Germany / P-8A

The Boeing P-8A Poseidon is the German Navy's primary asset for securing maritime boundaries. It is tailored for anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare and persistent intelligence gathering across the North Atlantic and Baltic Sea. This high-speed platform provides exceptional transit velocity and the endurance required for prolonged monitoring. Operating as a sophisticated airborne Command post, it integrates into the NATO framework to oversee potential threats. By maintaining constant domain awareness, the aircraft plays a vital role in protecting international shipping lanes and ensuring maritime security.



## United States of America / P-8A

The Boeing P-8A Poseidon is the United States Navy's premier multi-mission maritime aircraft, engineered for global power projection and maritime security. Optimised for high-altitude surveillance and long-range engagement, its core missions involve anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (ASuW) and continuous maritime intelligence gathering. The P-8A serves as a versatile strike platform, capable of addressing various naval threats across expansive environments. Acting as a central node in the naval network, it utilises real-time data links to provide comprehensive situational awareness across vast oceanic theaters. This dual-engine jet platform ensures the US Navy can monitor strategic waterways, protect carrier strike groups and conduct rapid-response search-and-rescue operations anywhere in the world.



# Chiefs of Navies/ Services



## Angola

Adm Valentim Alberto Antonio  
Commander of the Angolan Navy



## Bahamas

Cmde Floyd Paul Moxey  
Commander Defence Force



## Barbados

Brig Gen Carlos A R Lovell  
Chief of Staff



## Benin

Navy Captain Major Dossa Hounkpatin  
Chief of Naval Staff



## Bhutan

Lt Gen Batto Tshering  
Chief Operations Officer



## Cabo Verde

RAdm Manuel Antonio Pereira Semedo  
Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces



## Cambodia

VAdm Tea Sokha  
Commander of Royal Cambodian Navy



## Cameroon

VAdm Jean Mendoua  
Chief of Naval Operations



## Comoros

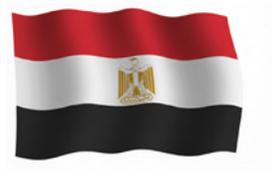
Capt Fahmy Husny El Nassib  
Head of the Comorian Coast Guard





### **Cote d'Ivoire**

VAdm N' Guessan Kouame Celestin  
Chief of Naval Staff



### **Egypt**

RAdm Mahmoud Adel Mahmoud Fawzy  
Commander of the Navy



### **Fiji**

Cmde Timoci Natuva  
Commander of Republic of Fiji Navy



### **France**

Adm Nicolas Vaujour  
Chief of the Naval Staff



### **Gabon**

VAdm Charles Hubert Bekale Meyong  
Chief of Naval Staff



### **Ghana**

RAdm Godwin Livinus Bessing  
Chief of Naval Staff



### **Greece**

VAdm Dimitrios Elefterios Kataras  
Chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff



### **Guatemala**

VAdm Mario Alfonso Rojas Arevalo  
Commander of the National Defence Navy



### **Guinea**

VAdm Mamadou Yaya Diallo  
Chief of Staff of Navy



### **Guinea-Bissau**

RAdm Helder Nhanque  
Commander of the Navy of Guinea-Bissau



### **Guyana**

Cdr David Shamsudeen  
Commander Guyana Defence Force Coast Guard



### **Iran**

Adm Shahram Irani  
Commander of Iranian Navy



### **Jamaica**

VAdm Antonette Sandralee Wemyss Gorman  
Chief of Defence Staff



### **Kenya**

Maj Gen Paul Otieno Owuor  
Commander of Kenya Navy



### **Kyrgyzstan**

Col Tariel Otonbaev  
Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces



### **Liberia**

Brig Gen Davidson F Forleh  
Chief of the Staff of the Armed Forces



### **Maldives**

Brig Gen Mohamed Saleem  
Commandant MNDF Coast Guard



### **Mozambique**

RAdm Eugenio Dias da Silva Muatuca  
Commander of Mozambique Navy





### **Namibia**

RAdm Sacheus Randy !Gonteb  
The Namibian Navy Commander



### **New Zealand**

RAdm Garin Golding  
Chief of Navy



### **Papua New Guinea**

RAdm Philip Polewara  
Chief of Defence Force, PNGDF



### **Peru**

Adm Javier Bravo De Rueda Delgado  
Commander General of the Navy



### **Russia**

Adm Alexander A Moiseyev  
Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy



### **Saudi Arabia**

VAdm Mohammed A Al Ghuraybi  
Chief of Naval Staff RSNF



### **Seychelles**

Maj Gen Michael Anselme Marc Rosette  
Chief of Defence Force



### **Sierra Leone**

Capt(Navy) Lawrence Kapina Jabati  
Chief of Naval Staff



### **Singapore**

RAdm Sean Wat  
Chief of Navy, RSN



### **South Africa**

VAdm Monde Lobese  
Chief of the South African Navy



### **Sri Lanka**

VAdm BAKSP Banagoda  
The Commander of Navy



### **Thailand**

Adm Pairote Fuangchan  
Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Navy



### **Timor-Leste**

Cmde Higinio Das Neves  
Navy Component Commander



### **Tonga**

Cdr Sione Ongoleo Faingaanuku Lino  
Commander of the Navy

## **Op Commanders**



### **EUNAVFOR-Op ATALANTA**

VAdm Ignacio Villanueva Serrano  
Op Commander



### **ALINDIEN-France**

RAdm Hughes Laine  
Op Commander



# Heads of Delegation



## Australia

RAdm Chris Smith  
Commander Australian Fleet



## Bangladesh

RAdm Jahangir Adil Samdany  
Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Logistics)



## Belgium

Capt Renaud Flamant  
Belgium Naval COM



## Brazil

Adm Eduardo Machado Vazquez  
Commander of Naval Operations



## Cyprus

Capt (N) Nicolaos Luca  
Chief of Staff



## Djibouti

Lt Col Mahdi Daher Miguil  
Deputy Commander



## Germany

VAdm Axel Deertz  
Vice Chief of the German Navy



## Indonesia

RAdm Haris Bima Bayuseto  
First Fleet Commander



## Italy

VAdm Andrea Gueglio  
Director, Directorate for the Employment of Naval Personnel



## Japan

VAdm Kunimi Yasuhiro  
Vice Chief of Staff, JMSDF



## Malaysia

VAdm Dato' Badarudin bin Taha  
Deputy Chief of RMN



## Mauritius

Mr Rajcoomar Seebah  
Deputy Commissioner of Police





## Morocco

RAdm Said Zebakhe  
Vice Chief of Naval Staff, Royal Moroccan Navy



## Myanmar

VAdm Aye Min Htwe  
Chief of Staff Myanmar Navy



## Netherlands

Maj Gen Rob de Wit  
Deputy Commander  
Royal Netherlands Navy (D-CRNN)



## Nigeria

RAdm Abdulhamid Babainna  
Navy Secretary



## Oman

Cmde Jasim Al Belushi  
Director General of Operations and Plans



## Philippines

RAdm Richard N Gonzaga  
Commander Northern Luzon Naval Command



## Republic of Korea

RAdm Kim Kyung-chul  
Commander of the Logistics Command



## Somalia

Lt Col Abdiwahid Ali Farah  
Deputy Commander, Somali Navy and  
Coast Guard (SNCG)



## Spain

VAdm Ignacia Paz Garcia  
Director of Plans and Policy in the Spanish Navy



## Tanzania

Cmde Reinald Selestine Chiee  
Commandant of TPDF Navy Training School



## United Arab Emirates

Brig Gen Ahmed Juma Almarashdah  
Commander of the first Flotilla in UAE Navy



## United States of America

Adm Stephen Koehler  
Commander, US Pacific Fleet





## **Vietnam**

RAdm Nguyen Thien Quan

Deputy Chief of Staff, Vietnam People's Navy

# Foreign Service Attachés



## **Algeria**

Col Ahmed Mehnane

Defence Attaché



## **Kazakhstan**

Col Nurlan Kuzeubayev

Defence Attaché



## **Mexico**

Capt (N) Guadalupe Alfredo

Martinez Cisneros

Naval Attaché



## **Senegal**

Brig Gen Souleymane Kande

Defence Attaché



## **Tajikistan**

Lt Col Ramazoni Muhridini

Defence Attaché



## **United Kingdom**

Capt Daniel Mark Peskett

Naval Attaché









# Chronology of Events IFR & MILAN

The International Fleet Review 2026 and Exercise MILAN 2026 comprise a carefully sequenced series of ceremonial, diplomatic and operational engagements. Together, these events reflect India's commitment to maritime cooperation, cultural exchange and collective security across the seas.

## MILAN Village

The spirit of oneness and celebration comes alive with the inauguration of the MILAN Village, marking the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of MILAN. Envisioned as a space to pause, connect and experience India's cultural richness, the Village brings together art, music, cuisine and traditions from all States and Union Territories under one roof. MILAN is a flagship multilateral naval exercise of the Indian Navy, aimed at strengthening bonds among friendly foreign nations through shared experiences and cooperation. The MILAN Village reflects this ethos through curated displays of traditional art and crafts, each representing generations of skill and identity. The experience is enriched by folk dances, traditional music and a diverse spread of authentic regional cuisine. Designed as a soulful retreat, the MILAN Village seamlessly blends culture, creativity and celebration.



## Presidential Banquet

The prestigious International Fleet Review 2026 will formally commence with the Presidential Banquet on the evening of 17 February 2026. This distinguished event will be graced by Smt Droupadi Murmu, Hon'ble President of India, and will host eminent international, national and state dignitaries, including the Heads of Delegations from over seventy participating nations. Held at the picturesque Eastern Naval Command Officers' Mess, the evening will begin with a ceremonial band performance, setting the tone for a gathering dedicated to global maritime camaraderie. This exquisite banquet serves as more than just a formal dinner; it represents the official curtain-raiser for the entire IFR 2026 proceedings. It provides a unique and elegant platform for high-level interactions among naval leadership and government officials from around the world.





## International Fleet Review (IFR)

The International Fleet Review is a ceremonial assembly of ships, submarines and aircraft from multiple countries, reviewed by the President of the host nation. The Review will be conducted by Smt Droupadi Murmu, the Hon'ble President of India, at Visakhapatnam Anchorage Area on 18 February 2026. INS Sumedha, an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel, will serve as the Presidential Yacht and lead the Presidential column. The event will feature both anchored and mobile columns of warships and submarines, accompanied by a flypast of naval aircraft. Key highlights include a Parade of Sailing Vessels, Search and Rescue demonstrations and Special Operations Boat displays by Marine Commandos, offering a compelling showcase of naval capability and coordination.

## MILAN Opening Ceremony

The MILAN Opening Ceremony will be held on 19 February 2026 at Samudrika Auditorium, Visakhapatnam, making the formal commencement of the multilateral naval exercise; MILAN 26. This formal curtain-raiser will bring together participating maritime forces for multilateral engagement focused on cooperation, dialogue and regional security. The ceremony will be graced by Shri Rajnath Singh, Hon'ble Defence Minister of India as the Chief Guest, with the Welcome Address delivered by the Chief of the Naval Staff. The event marks the formal commencement of MILAN 26 exercises and reinforces the collective commitment to collaboration across oceans.





## International Maritime Seminar

An International Maritime Seminar will be held on 19 - 20 February 2026, serving as a forum for dialogue among delegates and subject matter experts. The event aims to strengthen the collective commitment to '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

## International City Parade

The evening of 19 February 2026 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.





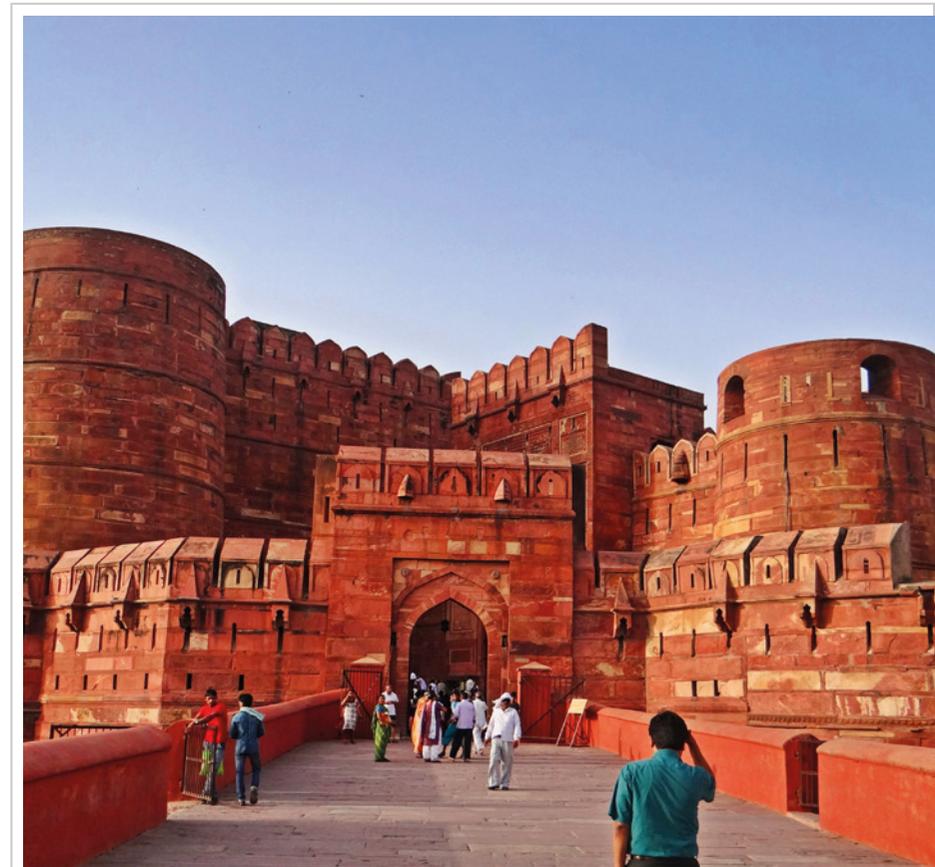
# Heritage Tours

From quiet moments of reflection to awe-inspiring monuments, Agra and Bodh Gaya offer two distinct yet deeply connected experiences of India. Outstation visits for foreign visitors are planned on 19 and 20 February 2026 to Agra and Bodh Gaya.

## Agra - The Heritage Heart of India

Agra, set along the Yamuna River in Uttar Pradesh, is a city celebrated for its remarkable Mughal architecture. Its greatest treasure, the Taj Mahal, is a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the new seven wonders of the world. Built by Emperor Shah Jahan in 1653 as a tribute to his wife Mumtaz Mahal, the monument's perfect symmetry, white marble beauty and serene gardens make it India's most iconic landmark.

The city also houses the majestic Agra Fort, where Shah Jahan spent his final years and the 'Baby Taj', the Tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah. Together, these monuments reflect the artistic brilliance and cultural richness of the Mughal Era, making Agra a timeless symbol of India's Heritage.





## Bodh Gaya - Land of Enlightenment

Bodh Gaya is one of the world's most important pilgrimage destinations, revered as the place where Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment beneath the sacred Bodhi Tree. Visitors from across the globe come here to experience its calm atmosphere, rich history and deep spiritual resonance. At the heart of the town stands the Mahabodhi Temple complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that includes the soaring temple, the Vajrasana (Diamond Throne) and the revered Bodhi Tree, all forming the spiritual focal point of the site.

The earliest shrine at Bodh Gaya was established by Ashoka in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century BCE, marking the site's early importance in Buddhist history. After periods of decline, the complex was carefully restored in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, renewing its global significance. Today, monasteries built by Buddhist nations from across Asia and beyond surround the temple, offering visitors a unique glimpse into diverse architectural styles and living traditions. Bodh Gaya invites travellers to explore its heritage, pause and reflect, and experience the serenity that has drawn seekers here for over two millennia.



# Exploring Vizag

Favourably nestled between the Bay of Bengal and the Eastern Ghats, Visakhapatnam (also known as Vizag) is a vibrant coastal hub where beaches, temples and heritage, coexist with modern innovation. From long golden shores to ancient Buddhist trails and hilltop vistas, Vizag seamlessly blends tradition, nature and new-age energy.



## Seaside Adventure

### Ramakrishna Beach

The heart of Vizag's coastline where sunrise joggers, evening strollers and street food lovers come together. The Kali Temple, nearby museums and the sea breeze complete the experience.

**Fact:** Try *Muri Mixture*, *Corn* and Araku Coffee as you stroll by the beach.

### Rushikonda Beach

Golden sands stretch into turquoise waters, creating a haven for adventure.

From swimming and surfing to parasailing and jet skiing, it's the perfect mix of thrill and calm.

**Fact:** One of India's first beaches to earn the Blue Flag certification.

### Bhemili Beach

Once a bustling Dutch Port, Bhemili still echoes with traces of its trading past. Quiet shores, colonial ruins and old churches, line this historic coastal town.

**Fact:** The shoreline lit up with bioluminescent waves in 2023, a rare natural phenomenon.



## 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.

### Aircraft Museum

Mighty war hero, the TU-142 aircraft, served the Indian Armed Forces for 29 years and is now converted into a museum.

### Sea Harrier Museum

Witness the glory of the decommissioned Sea Harrier fighter jet that once served the Indian Navy. Delve into its anatomy as you walk past the jet hanging from the ceiling.

### Helicopter Museum

The Helicopter Museum proudly displays Indian Navy's decommissioned UH-3H Helicopter, 'Saaras'. This exhibit gives visitors the chance to learn about naval aviation technology and history.

### Visakha Museum

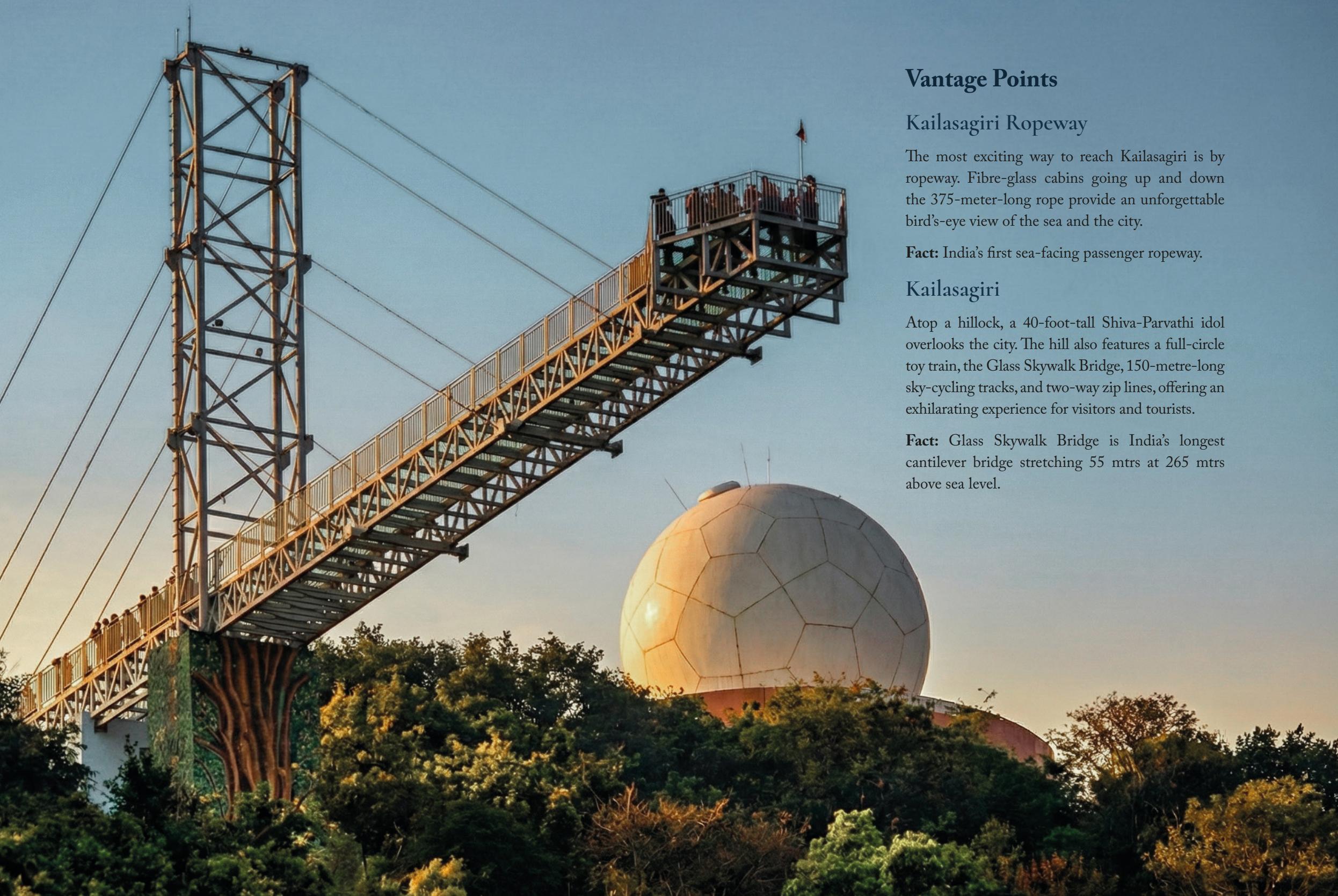
The Indian Maritime and Archaeology Museum houses rare treasures and artefacts deep-rooted in Vizag's celebrated history.



### Regional Cuisine

- Fish Fry
- Muri Mixture
- Prawns Fry
- Crab Curry
- Rajula Pulao
- Bamboo Chicken
- Pootharekulu
- Chenna Khaja





## Vantage Points

### Kailasagiri Ropeway

The most exciting way to reach Kailasagiri is by ropeway. Fibre-glass cabins going up and down the 375-meter-long rope provide an unforgettable bird's-eye view of the sea and the city.

**Fact:** India's first sea-facing passenger ropeway.

### Kailasagiri

Atop a hillock, a 40-foot-tall Shiva-Parvathi idol overlooks the city. The hill also features a full-circle toy train, the Glass Skywalk Bridge, 150-metre-long sky-cycling tracks, and two-way zip lines, offering an exhilarating experience for visitors and tourists.

**Fact:** Glass Skywalk Bridge is India's longest cantilever bridge stretching 55 mtrs at 265 mtrs above sea level.



## Nature & Heritage

### Indira Gandhi Zoological Park

This 625-acre zoo accommodates a wide variety of exotic mammals, birds and reptiles, including the majestic white tigers that are a major attraction for visitors.

**Fact:** One of India's few zoos built entirely within a natural valley.

### Kambalakonda

The expansive sanctuary, which is a part of the reserve forest, is an abode for rare species of endemic flora,

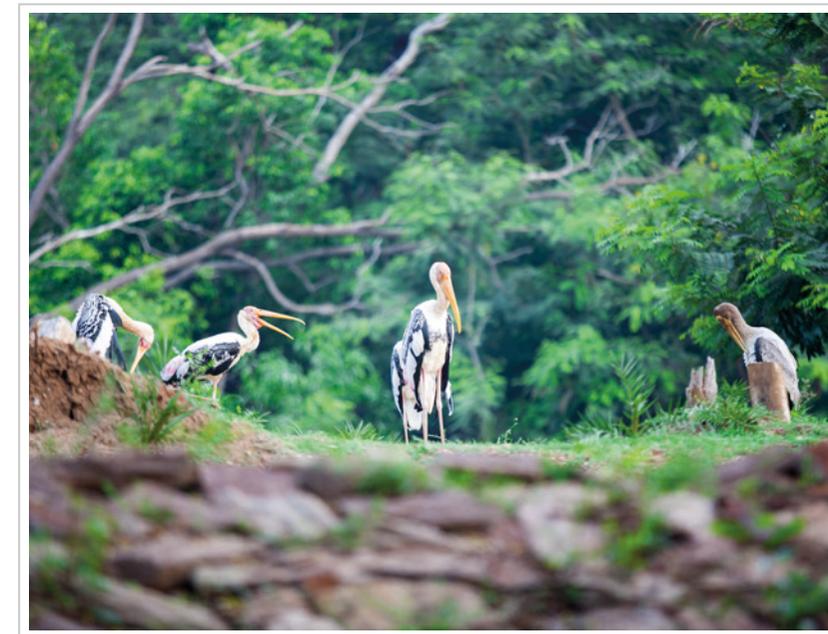
and wildlife. Trekking and bird-watching are the most preferred activities, alongside eco-friendly sports.

**Fact:** Leopards inhabit the forested hills here, though sightings are rare.

### Erra Matti Dibbalu

Formed over thousands of years, this rare geological marvel of deep red sand dunes shaped by wind and time offers a glimpse into India's prehistoric coastal evolution.

**Fact:** A National Geo-Heritage Monument and UNESCO-recognised site.





## Divine Connection

### Simhachalam Temple

An 11<sup>th</sup> Century hilltop shrine dedicated to *Lord Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha*, where *Lord Vishnu* is worshipped in a rare combined form of *Varaha* (a boar) and *Narasimha* (a lion-man). The temple's intricate carvings and gold-plated sanctum add to its grandeur, while the main idol remains covered in sandalwood paste year-round.

**Fact:** The true form of the deity is revealed once a year.

### Lord Venkateswara Swamy Temple

Lord Venkateswara Swamy Temple is distinguished by its white architecture, golden entrance tower, and serene hilltop setting near Rushikonda. Annual ceremonial events draw large gatherings through processions and rituals.

**Fact:** All rituals here follow the same tradition as the temple in Tirupati.

### St Paul's Church

St Paul's Church, located beside the Waltair Club and close to the Governor's House, is one of the city's oldest churches and a prominent landmark. Its spotless white structure blends gracefully with the contemporary skyline of modern Visakhapatnam.

**Fact:** Built over 180 years ago, among Vizag's oldest churches.

### Three Holy Hills

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

**Fact:** Ross Hill Church, the highest hilltop shrine in Visakhapatnam.

## Buddhist Trail

### Thotlakonda

This ancient Buddhist heritage site from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century BC gives us a glimpse of Vizag's ancient links to Buddhism. It also offers a panoramic view of the bay.

**Fact:** Thotlakonda Beach, across the hill, features a natural arch rock formation estimated to be 10,000 years old.

### Bavikonda

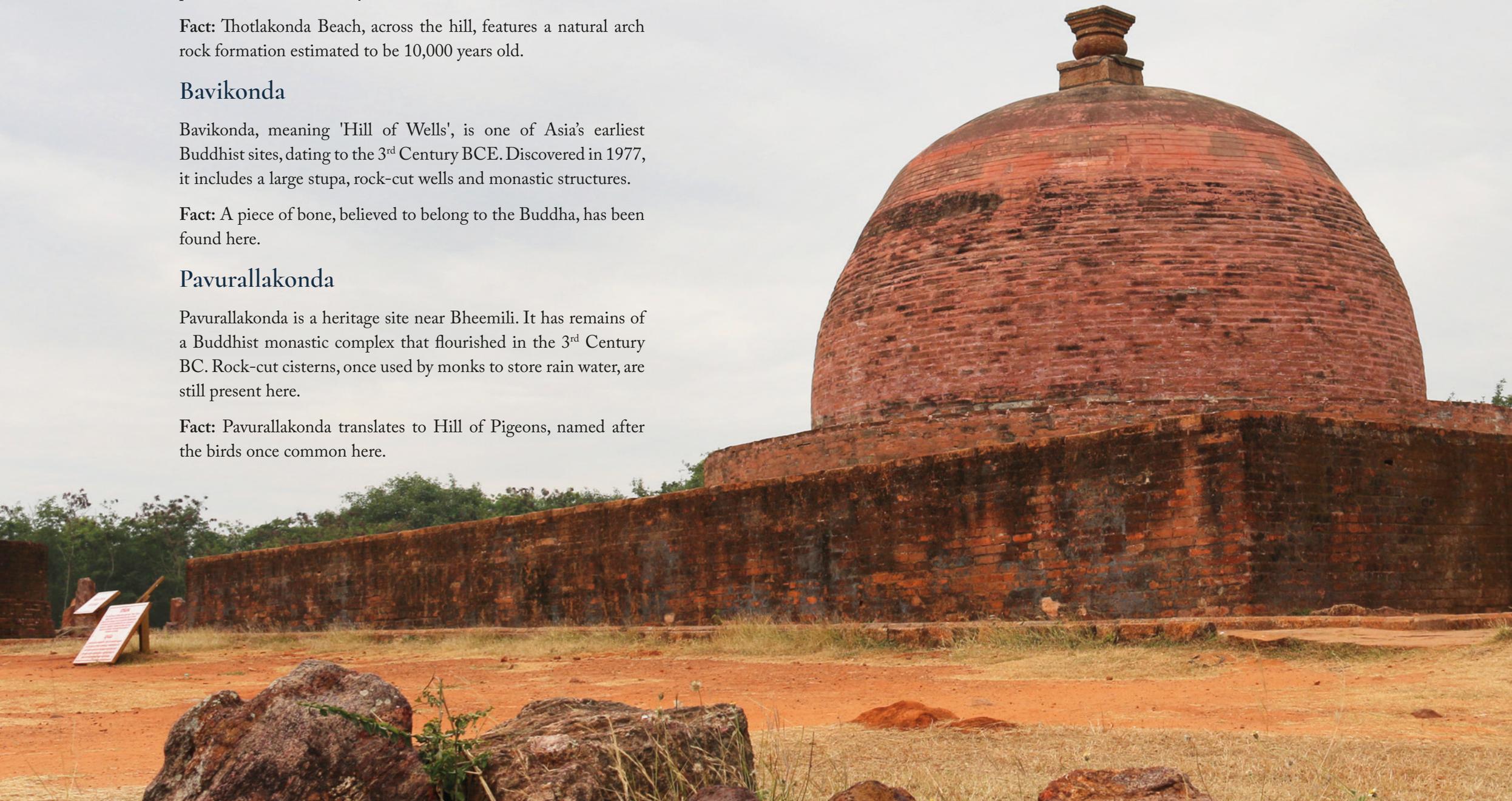
Bavikonda, meaning 'Hill of Wells', is one of Asia's earliest Buddhist sites, dating to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century BCE. Discovered in 1977, it includes a large stupa, rock-cut wells and monastic structures.

**Fact:** A piece of bone, believed to belong to the Buddha, has been found here.

### Pavurallakonda

Pavurallakonda is a heritage site near Bheemili. It has remains of a Buddhist monastic complex that flourished in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century BC. Rock-cut cisterns, once used by monks to store rain water, are still present here.

**Fact:** Pavurallakonda translates to Hill of Pigeons, named after the birds once common here.





## Around Araku

### Araku Valley

At 600 meters above sea level, Araku is a scenic valley ringed by the Eastern Ghats. It's known for coffee plantations, waterfalls, tribal culture and breathtaking views.

**Experience:** Take the Vistadome train through tunnels, and misty hills.

### Borra Caves

Million-year-old limestone caves located 705 meters above sea level. Inside, nature has carved awe-inspiring rock formations.

**Fact:** A Shiva Lingam-shaped stalagmite makes this both a spiritual, and geological wonder.





## Chaparai Waterfalls

Just 15 km from Araku, this natural rock stream flows through lush forests. A perfect picnic and play spot for families.

**Fact:** Its scenic beauty made it a popular Telugu film shooting location.

## Ananthagiri Hills

Ananthagiri Hills is a scenic hill station, surrounded by coffee plantations and forest trails, the hills are also known for their hidden waterfalls.

**Fact:** One of India's oldest coffee-growing regions.

## Araku Coffee Museum

A one-of-its-kind space celebrating Araku's world-famous coffee. Explore its journey from bean to brew, and sample fresh local blends.

**Experience:** Try their handcrafted chocolates and signature cold brews.

## Tribal Experiences

Experience the vibrant Dhimsa folk dance, where rhythmic movements and tribal music celebrate community life and joy. At Giri Grama Darshini, visitors gain insight into indigenous lifestyles, crafts, traditions and the cultural heritage of Andhra Pradesh's tribal communities.

## Handloom & Craft Trail

From the villages surrounding Visakhapatnam come these time-honoured crafts, each shaped by local hands and history. Recognised with the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, they reflect the region's enduring artisanal traditions.

### Budithi Brassware

Budithi, a village in the Srikakulam District, is renowned for its finely crafted brassware. From traditional cooking utensils to elegant flower vases, each piece carries a legacy built over 200 years, marked by locally sourced zinc and copper and its signature black and gold striped patterns.

**Fact:** Budithi Brassware earned a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2013.

### Bobbili Veena

The Bobbili Veena is a traditional string instrument that embodies Andhra Pradesh's musical heritage. Crafted by skilled artisans in Gollapalli near Bobbili, each veena takes about a month to create, ensuring quality and durability.

**Fact:** Carved from a single block of jackwood, this 17<sup>th</sup> Century craft holds a GI tag since 2011.

 Bobbili Veena

### Ponduru Khadi

Ponduru Khadi is one of Andhra Pradesh's most celebrated handloom traditions, known for its finely spun khadi with thread counts of 120s to 149s. Made from native hill cotton and rare red-seed cotton through a fully manual process, it is prized for its crisp texture and natural whiteness, and has been worn by leaders from Mahatma Gandhi to modern-day Presidents and ministers.

**Fact:** Ponduru Khadi received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in December 2025.

### Etikoppaka Craft

Etikoppaka, a quiet village on the banks of the Varaha River, is home to a 400-year-old tradition of turned wood lacquer craft. Artisans shape soft *Wrightia tinctoria* (ivory wood) on a lathe and finish each piece with natural, non-toxic dyes derived from roots, bark, and seeds. Colour is bonded to wood using lac resin, a meticulous process refined over generations.

**Fact:** Etikoppaka craft received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2017.

 Etikoppaka: Male & Female Wall Danglers



 Budithi Brassware





# Acknowledgements

This book is the outcome of a concerted team endeavour, from concept to print. There are numerous individuals who have contributed at various stages of this project, united by a shared commitment and purpose. This volume will serve both as a souvenir and a repository of information for the International Fleet Review and MILAN 2026. Grateful acknowledgement is hereby extended to all Flag Officers, seniors, and organisations whose invaluable support and contributions made this book possible.

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**Naval Headquarters, New Delhi**

**Headquarters, WNC, ANC, ENC, SNC**

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**Maritime History Society, Mumbai**

**Photo Sections**

Eastern Fleet

INS Vikrant

INS Dega

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**Rear Cover Art: Ms Nivriti Valluru, a naval daughter**

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The logos employ the Mandala art as a unifying design language, allowing geometry, colour and maritime motifs to converge in visual harmony. In the watercolour for IFR logo, layers of ocean blues and flowing strokes evoke the movement of the seas, capturing the unity of distant shores and maritime paths. The MILAN logo weaves together various maritime motifs into shared space, suggesting 'Camaraderie, Cooperation and Collaboration' that span waters and connect across the globe.

≡≡≡ **United through Oceans** ≡≡≡