

INDIAN NAVY IN THE YEAR 2015

Introduction

1. The year began with one of the biggest non combat evacuation operations ever undertaken by a modern day Navy, when the Indian Navy, in an audacious and daring manner, mounted rescue operations in war torn Yemen and rescued 3,074 people, including 1,783 Indians and 1,291 foreign nationals from 35 different countries.

2. The year was witness to the Indian Navy's increased engagement with other nations, in terms of foreign cooperation and joint operations. Indian Naval Sail Training Ship Tarangini embarked on an eight month voyage traversing over 18,000 nautical miles and visiting 17 ports in 13 countries, spanning three continents. During this voyage, the ship participated in five sail events at Norway, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands, and in a Tall Ship Race from Norway to Denmark.

Perspective Planning and Ship Induction

3. The Indian Navy continued to meet the emerging challenges to our maritime interests. The Navy's focus was to evolve a force structure commensurate with the geopolitical and economic aspirations of our nation, within the scope of funding and indigenous ship building capacity. Threats, missions and affordability have, therefore, remained dominant factors in force structure planning. The Indian Navy continued to induct state-of-the-art aircraft and helicopters to augment our surveillance and integral aviation capabilities. The Navy also sought to accelerate infrastructure along the coast and on Indian island territories as part of a major push to increase its operational preparedness and surveillance capabilities. A new plan that sought to implement this infrastructure push was finalised in May 2015 which would foster operational capabilities of the Indian Navy till year 2027. The plan would look into all aspects of induction of assets for all platforms, aircraft carriers and submarines in the Navy up to 2027. This plan would also ensure that the training infrastructure is in sync with the induction of assets.

4. In keeping with the 'Make in India' policy, all 46 ships and submarines on order were being constructed in Indian public and private shipyards. Over the years, Indian Navy has taken a conscious decision to encourage other shipyards, including private yards, to enter the specialised field of warship-construction. In pursuance of the Government of India's 'Make in India' thrust and the Indian Navy's goal of self-reliance through indigenous development, the Navy organised the Innovation and Indigenisation seminar in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry in May 2015. The commissioning of

INS *Kochi*, second of the guided missile destroyers, in September 2015 added the much needed punch to the Indian Navy's capabilities. This reaffirmed the Navy's resolve and faith in the indigenisation route.

5. Giving a boost to the firepower and arsenal of the Indian Armed Forces, the Boeing P 8I Long Range Maritime Patrol aircraft squadron was dedicated in the service of the nation by the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri on 13 November 2015. The aircraft would provide the Indian Navy the necessary reach and flexibility to undertake extensive surveillance as also to respond swiftly and effectively to contingencies in our areas of interest.

6. Perspective planning continued to be the key to building and maintaining a force structure, owing to the dynamics of a constantly changing geo-strategic environment and threats evolving thereof. Force Level Planning is thus an iterative process. An implementable Perspective Plan is particularly critical to building an indigenous Navy. The Indian Navy published the Maritime Infrastructure Perspective Plan (2015 – 2027) with an aim to provide a long term perspective plan for creation of operational, maintenance, training and administrative infrastructure. It brings out the envisaged infrastructure capabilities, in consonance with augmentation of force levels and manpower, as envisioned in the Maritime Capability Perspective Plan and Human Capital Strategy.

7. The Navy's primary thrust continued to be towards achieving self-reliance through indigenisation. A large number of ships, submarines, craft, etc were at various stages of construction which would be progressively inducted into the Indian Navy.

8. **Ship Induction**. The induction programme continued apace and over the next five years it is expected that the induction will be at an average rate of 4-5 ships per year. The following ships were inducted/ launched into the Navy:-

- (a) INS *Kochi* - commissioned on 30 September 2015.
- (b) First ship of Project 15B, Visakhapatnam launched on 20 April 2015.
- (c) Commissioning of Torpedo Launch and Recovery Vessel INS *Astradharini* on 06 October 2015.
- (d) Second of the P 28 anti submarine frigate, handed over to the Navy in December 2015.

9. Also in the pipeline are Water Jet Fast Attack Craft, Landing Craft Utility and Fast Interceptor Craft. All 23 Immediate Support Vessels were delivered to the Navy. During 2015, important contracts for the Floating Dock and Project 17A were concluded.

Infrastructure Augmentation

10. Construction of a new Naval Headquarters building at Delhi, the expansion of Karwar Naval Base, infrastructure augmentation of Indian Naval Academy at Ezhimala, construction of Forward Operating and Operational Turn around Bases in various locations are in progress. In addition, setting up of new air stations and enclaves as well as augmentation of existing aviation infrastructure was also progressed. The Water Survival Training Facility to provide realistic training of escape from different types of aircraft under varied simulated conditions and crash scenarios became operational in February 2015.

Foreign Cooperation

11. The Indian Navy also came to be recognised as the major instrument of International diplomacy of the Government of India. Foreign cooperation initiatives in the maritime domain came of age in 2014-15 with the Hon'ble Prime Minister visiting most of the island and coastal states in the Indian Ocean. The recent developments in the Indian Ocean Region as well the newfound potential of Blue Economy by the island and coastal nations in Indian Ocean has further brought the Indian Navy's capability, role and potential to the fore. Concerted efforts were put in by the Indian Navy to enhance coastal defence and surveillance of Exclusive Economic Zone of friendly foreign countries to meet their maritime security needs.

12. **Bridges of Friendship**. Navies are known to build bridges of friendship through maritime commons across the globe and 'Every mariner is a neighbour'. The maritime commons provide capability to the Indian Navy to access over 133 maritime nations in the world. The Indian Navy engages in Navy-to-Navy Staff Talks as a medium to plan, discuss and execute maritime cooperation roadmap through a structured format. Issues related to operations, training, technical cooperation, information exchange, maritime security, bilateral visits are discussed during the talks. The Indian Navy presently engages with Australia, France, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Oman, Maldives, Vietnam, UAE, Myanmar, Bangladesh, USA, UK, South Korea and Russia. In 2015 Indian Navy conducted staff talks with Australia, France, UK, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand, Sri Lanka and UAE.

13. **Operational Interactions.** Operational interaction among professionals whether at sea or in harbour results in exchange of best practices and mutual gain. The Indian Navy exercises with over ten navies which includes USA, UK, Russia, Japan, Australia, Singapore, France, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Oman. In addition, the Indian Navy also participates in trilateral exercise IBSAMAR with South Africa and Brazil. In Malabar 2015, Japan was also included in Exercise Malabar along with the US Navy. The Indian Navy also conducted a maiden bilateral exercise codenamed AUSINDEX with Australia in September 2015 which was held off Visakhapatnam besides Konkan with Royal Navy and SIMBEX with Singapore Navy. In addition, the Indian Navy also participates in invitational exercises such as RIMPAC and ADMM Plus. These operational interactions are not only useful in learning best practices, developing interoperability but also in building bridges of friendship.

14. **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS).** Driven by the need to address regional vulnerabilities by capitalising upon regional strengths, Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) was launched on 08 February 2008 as 21st century's first significant international maritime security initiative. Currently, 22 littoral countries are members of IONS beside four observers. The IONS seeks to provide a regional forum through which the Chiefs-of-Navy of all the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region can periodically meet to constructively engage each other through the creation and promotion of regionally relevant mechanisms, events, and activities. A total of three IONS Working Groups(IWG) are functional and India is the chair for IWG for Humanitarian Disaster and Relief and member of other two IWGs on Counter Piracy and Information Sharing. The IWG meeting on HADR was conducted in Mumbai from 17 to 19 August 2015. IN delegation was deputed to South Africa from 09 to 11 July 2015 to participate in IWG on counter piracy. Naval Attaché posted at Islamabad represented Indian Navy in the IWG meeting on Information sharing as well as IONS preparatory workshop held at Karachi from 14 to 16 September 2015.

15. **Hydrography.** Hydrography emerged as an effective diplomatic tool for furtherance of our national interests and foreign cooperation initiatives. Aligned with the overall national policy for the region, Indian Navy considerably enhanced bilateral engagements and undertook joint hydrography surveys for countries in the Indian Ocean Region. The multirole capabilities of naval ships and professional approach of the crew during the surveys was highly appreciated by host countries. During the last four years the Indian Naval Hydrographic Department undertook 29 foreign cooperation surveys for countries in the Indian Ocean Region, which included Mauritius, Seychelles, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and Myanmar. The foreign cooperation surveys resulted in promulgation of navigational charts and Electronic Navigational

Charts for the host nation. 2015 witnessed signing of MoU on Hydrography with Seychelles and Tanzania and initiation of dialogues with Kenya and Maldives. Considering the positive outcomes of the surveys conducted by the Indian Navy, hydrographic services continued to be in great demand with an increasing number of requests being received for further support.

16. **Training of Foreign Personnel.** The Indian Navy's capability enhancement initiatives included training of personnel from friendly foreign navies in various training institutes in India as well as deputing of mobile training teams, when requested to engage larger number of trainees in the host country. This resulted in a large pool of officers and men in friendly nations who were trained in India. In 2015, 858 foreign trainees underwent training in Indian Naval institutions. Additionally, Indian Navy also deployed mobile training teams to Myanmar, Vietnam, Oman and Kenya to impart lectures/ training on various subjects. This soft power was of immense use and provided tangible as well as intangible gains. Due to an increase in the expectations and aspirations of friendly navies and with more and more navies seeking training cooperation with the Indian Navy, we continue to look at augmenting capacity in our training institutions.

Financial Planning

17. The Budget Estimates for the Fiscal Year 2015-16 was Rs 38,406.58 Crore. The share of the Indian Navy in the overall Defence Budget in the Financial Year 2015-16 was 15.32 %. A conscious effort has always made to maintain a healthy Capital to Revenue ratio in accordance with the Ministry of Finance guidelines.

Coastal Security Initiatives

18. Strengthening of maritime security including offshore and coastal security is a multi-stakeholder activity, and measures continue to be implemented by various Ministries/ agencies. These measures broadly include induction of assets, recruitment of additional manpower, development of infrastructure, improving information exchange mechanisms, addressing gaps in existing systems, etc.

19. Continued efforts towards greater inter-agency coordination at all levels have resulted in an increased coordination and cooperation amongst all stakeholders. A National Command, Control, Communication and Information (NC³I) Network interconnecting 51 Naval and Coast Guard stations has been established to develop a Common Operational Picture (COP) between two agencies. The network will integrate inputs from the chain of static sensors,

stations of the National AIS Chain, Long Range Identification System (LRIT) and information from open sources.

20. Maritime Forces available for Coastal Security include Armed Forces and other maritime forces. The Sagar Prahari Bal has been raised by the Indian Navy for force protection, security of naval bases and co-located Vital Assets and Vital Points. Towards strengthening offshore security, Immediate Support Vessels have been procured for patrolling of the Offshore Development Area.

Naval Operations

21. The following major exercises were conducted during 2015:-

(a) **Theatre Level Operational Exercise 15 (TROPEX 15)**. TROPEX is the largest naval exercise, which is conducted annually, and witnesses participation of units not only from all the Naval Commands, but also from Indian Army, Indian Air Force and the Indian Coast Guard. TROPEX 2015 was conducted in January and February 2015 off the Western Seaboard.

(b) **Defence of Gujarat Exercise 15 (DGX 15)**. DGX is an annual exercise conducted on the Western seaboard by WNC which includes participation of IAF and ICG units. The exercise was conducted from 30 October to 08 November 15.

22. **Operational Interaction with Foreign Navies**. Operational interaction with regional and extra-regional Navies involves structured interaction in the form of exercises and operations. The fundamental purpose of this constructive engagement in operational terms is to hone our own Navy's skills in a number of diverse areas of war-fighting by operating with various Navies, and to share current tactical and technological practices and techniques. As a secondary spin-off, it also enables us to engage other Navies in a positive manner and reinforces their perception of the *IN* as a competent, confident and stabilising force in the region. The following exercises were undertaken with foreign navies during 2015:-

(a) **Myanmar Navy**. The Indian Navy-Myanmar Navy Coordinated Patrol was conducted from 16 to 23 March 2015.

(b) **French Navy**. The Indian Navy and the French Navy have been conducting bilateral Naval Exercise VARUNA since May 1993. VARUNA 15 was conducted off Goa from 23 April to 02 May 2015.

- (c) **Singapore Navy**. Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX), SIMBEX 15 was held in the South China Sea in May 2015.
- (d) **Royal Navy (UK)**. The Indian Navy and Royal Navy maintain operational linkages in terms of bilateral exercises by conducting Exercise KONKAN. KONKAN 2015 was conducted from 05 to 13 September 2015 off the coast of UK.
- (e) **Australian Navy**. The inaugural Bilateral Maritime Exercise between India and Australia, AUSINDEX-15, was conducted off the East Coast of India from 11 to 19 September 2015. The week long exercise comprised three ships and one Maritime Patrol Aircraft each from the Indian and Australian navies.
- (f) **United States Navy**. The Indian Navy has been undertaking multi-dimensional naval exercises with the US Navy titled MALABAR. The exercise was conducted from 14 to 19 October 2015 off the East Coast of India that also included participation by Japan.
- (g) **Indonesia Navy**. The maiden *IND-INDO* bilateral exercise was conducted from 17 to 18 October 2015, along with the Coordinated Patrol.
- (h) **Royal Thai Navy**. The Indian Navy-Royal Thai Navy Coordinated Patrol was conducted from 12-21 November 2015.
- (j) **Sri Lankan Navy**. The Indian Navy-Sri Lankan Navy Bilateral Exercise codenamed SLINEX was conducted off Sri Lanka from 23-25 November 2015.
- (k) **Russian Navy**. The Indian Navy has been undertaking multi-dimensional naval exercises with the Russian Navy. The INDRA series of exercise during the year was conducted from 07 to 14 December 2015 off the East Coast of India.

Anti Piracy Operations

23. A large percentage of India's trade, including oil and fertilisers, passes through the Gulf of Aden. The Ministry of Shipping has estimated that Indian imports through the Gulf of Aden route are valued at about USD 50 Billion and exports at USD 60 Billion. The safety and unhindered continuity of maritime trade, through ships that use this route, is a primary national concern as it directly impacts our economy. Approximately, 24 Indian-flagged

merchant ships transit the Gulf of Aden every month. Although this accounts for only 13% of our trade (the remainder is carried in foreign 'bottoms'), the crew of most foreign flagged vessels include at least a few Indian nationals, as India's large seafaring community (approximately 1,00,000 in number) accounts for nearly 7% of the world's seafarers.

24. Piracy off the coast of Somalia had grown steadily over the years and had assumed alarming proportions in 2010 and 2011. The number of piracy incidents reported in 2011 was 237. However, there has been a noticeable decline in piracy since 2012 with no piratical incidents being reported in 2015.

25. To protect Indian-flagged ships and Indian citizens employed in seafaring duties, Indian Navy commenced anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden from 23 October 2008. A total of 55 naval ships have been deployed in the Gulf of Aden since October 2008. In addition to escorting Indian flagged vessels, ships of other Flags have also been escorted by Indian Naval ships. A total of 3,188 ships (359 Indian flagged and 2,829 foreign flagged from approximately 50 different countries) have been escorted by Indian Naval ships in the Gulf of Aden till date. During deployments for anti-piracy operations, Indian Naval ships have thwarted 40 piracy attempts on merchant vessels. Due to the pressure being applied by Indian Navy and other Navies in the Gulf of Aden, there have been no piracy attacks in 2015. Indian Navy, therefore in coordination with other Government agencies took up the case for revision of the High Risk Area of Piracy, the eastern limit of which extended to cover the Indian coastline up to 78°E longitude. Due to a sustained national effort, in which Indian Navy played a pivotal role, the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia announced on 08 October 2015 and the HRA was revised to 65°E longitude with effect from 01 December 2015.

Communication Operations

26. The Indian Navy has been progressing well on the path of indigenisation of its communication systems to boost self-reliance. Developmental projects are undertaken through Defence Research and Development Organisation labs with defence Public Sector Units as prime production agencies.

27. Space applications have emerged as a force multiplier with immense potential as proved during successive theatre level and tactical exercises. The naval satellite communications aid naval operations using numerous satellites both dedicated and hired, with maritime footprint. Subsequent to launch of GSAT-7 in August 2013, this satellite is being utilised extensively to

support communication (voice, video and data), net-centric operations, and operational logistics. The Indian Navy intends to harness these assets within the ambit of internationally accredited policies.

28. The National Command Control Communication Information project has established a comprehensive network connecting various stakeholders in order to better coordinate maritime surveillance with emphasis on coastal surveillance, and response to contingencies in our maritime areas of interest.

Information Technology and E-Governance

29. The Indian Navy has adopted Information Technology as an enabler in a big way. A number of steps have also been taken to enforce information security with an overwhelming thrust on training of our men. We have also implemented a number of e-governance projects, ranging from healthcare to human resource management to pay and allowances. These are aimed to provide the naval personnel with information and are also in keeping with national level initiatives in this regard. The Indian Navy has taken the lead in adoption of information technology for its operational logistics for procurement and supply of spares and items to ships and units of the Indian Navy. A contract for setting up of the Integrated Logistics Management System was signed in March 2015. The Enterprise Resource Planning application when implemented will integrate the various stakeholders, from the ships to the procurement agencies.

Indigenisation

30. The Indian Navy's foray into indigenisation began over five decades ago with the design and construction of warships in the country. Today, forty eight of its state-of-the-art ships and submarines are under construction in Indian shipyards, both public and private, a clear reflection of the Indian Navy's enduring support to India's indigenous warship building endeavour.

31. While much has been achieved in our pursuit of indigenisation over the past decades, the time is now ripe for launching into a new phase of self-reliance by manufacturing technologically advanced equipment within India, in pursuance of the Government of India's vision of 'Make in India'. Recognising this, the Indian Navy has embarked upon an initiative to evolve a guideline document, the 'Indian Naval Indigenisation Plan (INIP) 2015-2030', to enunciate the need for developing various advanced systems for its platforms. This document supersedes the Indigenisation Plan published in 2008 for the period 2008-2022.

32. This document is aimed to enable indigenous development of equipment and systems over the next 15 years. It attempts to formulate the requirements of Indian Navy and lists out the equipment which can be taken up for indigenisation in the coming years. It is expected that release of this plan would further synergise the Indian Navy's relationship with the industry and encourage all sectors of industry to come forward and participate in indigenous development of weapons, sensors and other high end equipment for the Indian Navy, thereby making the nation self-reliant in this vital domain of defence technology.

33. The Indian Navy has embarked on developing indigenous capability and capacity across the complete spectrum of warship operations, be it in designing ships from first principles; integrating complex equipment and systems across all disciplines, to make a ship sea ready and combat worthy. As all these activities are highly specialised, requiring deep understanding in their respective domains, development of indigenous capability has therefore been judiciously and very thoughtfully distributed across vertically specialised organisations catering to surface ships design, submarine design, weapons system integration, armaments, etc. Further, the Indian Navy has been leveraging the capabilities of DRDO in developing appropriate technologies and products that go into making potent platform, to deliver the ordnance where due.

34. The Indian Navy had conducted the Innovation and Indigenisation Seminar in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry in July 2015.

Human Resource Development

35. The biggest strength of our Navy is our well trained Human Resource that derives its strength and motivation from the finest traditions inherited from our predecessors. The Indian Navy is at the epicentre of the ongoing modernisation of the Indian Armed Forces. New technologies, and with it the attendant capabilities are being assimilated by the Navy at an unprecedented rate. However, induction of new technology in itself does not translate into operational capability unless it is matched by presence of a well trained and motivated human resource to harness such technology. The Human Capital Strategy Document for the Navy which was promulgated in May 2013 seeks to align induction, training and grooming of human resource to the Indian Navy's overall plan of development.

36. The Navy is an extremely attractive career option. Besides being an honourable profession, it offers high potential for personal and professional growth. It offers a life replete with challenges and a host of opportunities for broadening one's horizons through extensive travel. Of late, a particularly

strong thrust has been given to the enhancement of awareness amongst the youth and this is bearing excellent results. Obviously, the best people are required, as manning and operating state of art ships, submarines and aircrafts is a challenging job. The Indian Navy is aware that it faces competition from a number of other career-options that are available, and no effort is spared to ensure that it gets top quality, motivated young men and women to meet its organisational requirements. For certain categories of recruitment, the Navy approaches University campuses directly.

37. Keeping pace with the changing requirements of warfare, the Indian Navy, in 2013, introduced the SSC (IT) Entry Scheme which will enable it to benefit from the enormous potential of the IT qualified youth. The *IN* has also introduced a SSC (Sports) Entry to tap the sports talent of the country. Such entries are aimed at boosting the potential of youth of our country as the Navy provides adequate opportunities in IT, sports and adventure.

38. **Year of the Sailor (YOTS)**. The Indian Navy immensely values its skilled and motivated human resource, together comprised of serving and civilian personnel. The intrepid 'sea warriors' or *jawans* of the Indian Navy, also generically referred to as sailors, form the foundation of the Navy's human capital.

39. This year, the Navy launched a focussed effort to bring about a qualitative enhancement in the quality of life and service conditions or the working environment of the sailors. These efforts, enunciated in the 'Year of the Sailor' of 'YOTS' initiative, are multipronged and multi-dimensional, covering key aspects such as accommodation facilities, better career prospects, medicare, schooling and education for children, rations, resettlement and enhancement in pay and allowances.

40. The yearlong campaign has yielded encouraging results, wherein two new Naval Children Schools have been opened at Kalpakkam and Ezhimala and arrangements concluded with 18 educational institutions for admission of Naval wards at concessional rates. Reforms at Naval Hospitals and uniform entitlements have also ushered in higher satisfaction levels for sailors, who are the driving force for the Navy's modern and potent ships, submarines and aircraft.

41. In recognition of the need to provide modern, good quality housing to service personnel, the Navy has made concerted efforts to create more capacity, under the Married Accommodation Project (MAP) scheme, under III phases, with Phase I already completed and Phase II completion in 2016.

42. Defence personnel retire relatively early and in the prime of their working life are obliged to seek a new career as 'second innings'. To prepare them better for the same, the Navy now offers up to 1066 vacancies for Pre-Release Courses. This also plays a positive role in nation building, as skilled manpower is made available to serve various vocations in the civil field. The Navy is geared to carry this process forward through the proposal of National Employment Portal for Ex-Servicemen.

43. For those sailors, who chose to serve the Navy for longer periods and give their prime years to the nation, the Navy endeavours to award Honorary Commission, with a cent percent satisfaction rate. The Navy has further incentivised deserving sailors to gain commission as officers, through the Special Duties (SD) List Scheme, thereby providing adequate opportunity for career advancement.

44. The Navy acutely recognises the truism that a happy and satisfied community is the cornerstone of an effective fighting force. As the Indian Navy emerges as premier blue water, multi-dimensional Navy of the 21st century, it remains committed to the development of its human resource, including welfare and well being of its sailors, who are the very foundation of its operational effectiveness.

Ex-Servicemen Welfare

45. The Naval Regimental System (NRS) was established in 2011 to provide proactive support to widows of deceased sailors and has been reaching out to them and providing "on the spot / time bound" grievance redressal and reassurance of Navy's support. Towards this, 74 locations (Rajya Sainik Boards/ Zila Sainik Boards and areas with high Naval ESM concentration) were visited by CRSOs/ NRSOs between April 2014 and March 2015. Similar visits are being undertaken this year also as per promulgated programme. In order to achieve the basic aim of NRS, collation of database of all naval widows is being undertaken by Command Regimental System Officers working under the respective Commands.

46. In an effort to reach out to the veteran sailors of the Navy, Veteran Sailors Forum was established on 10 April 2008. The VSF is registered as a Charitable Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1980. Presently, VSF has four Command Chapters (New Delhi, Mumbai, Vizag and Kochi), and 12 Regional Chapters. The primary aim of VSF is to reach out to the veterans and provide them necessary support as also to take up their grievances with the relevant agencies.

Naval Training and Education

47. The Indian Naval Academy (INA) at Ezhimala in Kerala which trains the future officers of the Indian Navy is spread over 2452 acres of land. It has all the modern amenities and facilities for training. B Tech training is conducted in Electronics and Communication Engineering for officers of the Executive and Electrical branches, Mechanical Engineering for Marine Engineering and Naval Architect branch officers. Accordingly, B Tech (ECE) and B Tech (ME) degrees are awarded by Jawaharlal Nehru University on completion of the B Tech course. International training at INA commenced wef Dec 14. During the current training year, two cadets from Sri Lanka Navy are undergoing B Tech/ INAC and four trainees from Mauritius are undergoing Naval Orientation Course. The number of international students is restricted to 10 at the INA due to the current infrastructure constraints.

48. Indian Naval personnel are also deputed abroad for training with foreign friendly navies. This year, more than 40 naval personnel have been deputed for foreign courses. Similarly, Indian Navy also provides training to personnel from foreign friendly navies. More than 850 foreign trainees have been trained in Indian Naval institutions in the last one year.

49. The Indian Navy has entered into strategic tie up with many reputed institutions and universities in India for recognition of the courses within the Navy as well as for admission of wards of naval personnel.

50. The Indian Navy has been at the forefront in the implementation of the official language policy in day to day activities. The review of the implementation was undertaken by the Parliamentary team in August this year.

Sports and Adventure

51. Indian Navy attaches great importance to adventure and sports. During the last one year, naval mountaineering teams have successfully summited Mount Saifee, Mt Stok Kangri in Leh and Mount Kun in the Zaskar Region.

52. Naval sportsmen have done us proud in sports such as sailing, weightlifting, wrestling, body building, fencing etc. In the 35th National Games held at seven locations in Kerala from 31 January to 14 February 2015, 80 naval sportsmen, including coaches and managers, participated as part of the services team. Additionally, 49 naval sportsmen represented their respective states in the games. Naval sportsmen won a total of 46 medals including 22 Gold, nine Silver and 15 Bronze. The Indian Navy handball team

won a Gold medal in the 43rd Senior National Handball Championship 2014-15 held in Bhilai, Chattisgarh from 25 February to 02 March 2015. The Indian Navy body builders excelled during the 8th Senior National Body Building Championship held in Gandhidham, Gujarat from 27 February to 01 March 2015. The Indian Navy fencers excelled during the 25th Senior National Fencing Championship held in Nasik, Maharashtra from 25 to 28 February 2015.

53. In addition, the Indian Navy has also been regularly conducting adventure camps for naval personnel and families in hot air ballooning, trekking, river rafting, snow skiing, para jump and sky diving etc.

International Fleet Review 2016

54. The International Fleet Review (IFR) is scheduled from 04 to 08 February 2016, off Visakhapatnam. Invitation to 87 countries has been extended for participation in the IFR. PASSEX with ships of foreign countries is also being scheduled on completion of the IFR.

55. The Naval Fleet Review is a long-standing tradition followed by navies all over the world. It is a grand occasion when every operational ship is spruced up, proudly displaying its crest and its personnel in a spirit of loyalty and allegiance to its sovereign and State. The idea of a Review was perhaps conceived as a show of naval might or an inspection of readiness for battle at sea. It still has the same connotation, but assembling of warships without any belligerent intentions is now the norm in modern times.

56. In India, The President as the Supreme Commander of the armed forces reviews the Fleet once during his tenure. Ten reviews have taken place in India since our independence, the first being in October 1953. The only International Fleet Review (IFR) prior this was hosted by the Indian Navy in 2001 at Mumbai.

57. While showcasing our navy to the nation and our sovereign, we also celebrate the time enshrined principles of friendships across the oceans that are intrinsic to the seafaring community. It is in this spirit that we welcome all our friends from distant parts of the world to the picturesque city of Visakhapatnam (Vizag) the venue for the Fleet Review. The coming together of many navies will also witness many other events and functions in a high voltage week of action and interaction.

58. The IFR-16 is intended to be much bigger in scale with about 51 countries participating in numerous mega events. On 06 February 2016, the Hon'ble President of India is scheduled to review the fleet of participating

Indian and foreign warships off Vizag. The events include, a Maritime Exhibition with an overall theme of Make in India, Digital and Green India showcasing indigenisation and innovation efforts as also, the potential of our youth. A co-located IFR Village has been planned with the assistance from the Ministry of Culture to display our diverse culture and cuisine. An International Maritime Conference themed on 'Partnering Together for a Secure Maritime Future' will provide the necessary academic and intellectual content. The Hon'ble President will review the assembly of international and Indian warships and grace the Naval Symphonic Orchestra, release of the commemorative stamp and the Presidential Banquet. In addition to the above, the Hon'ble Prime Minister will grace the Operational Demonstration off the coast of Vizag followed by the International City Parade. At the end of it, he shall address the nation as well as the international gathering. He is also expected to visit the Maritime Exhibition. Exercising together over two to three days on completion of IFR-16 will form the operational component of the event.