



INS SUDARSHINI - ASEAN VOYAGE

INS Sudarshini, the Sail Training Ship of Indian Navy set sail from Kochi on 15 Sep 12, on a historical mission to celebrate India's warm ties with ASEAN countries. Admiral DK Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM, ADC, Chief of the Naval Staff, flagged off the six-month voyage, a unique collaborative venture of Ministry of Defence and Ministry of External Affairs, from Naval Base at Kochi. The flag off was marked by a fly past by Naval helicopters as well as ceremonious escort by a Kerala boat with traditional drummers and sail boats.

The voyage commemorates 20 years of dialogue partnership and 10 years of summit level partnership with ASEAN countries. The fact that such maritime endeavours are reinvigorating the cultural, economic and diplomatic linkages across the Indian Ocean is a matter of pride for IN. These expeditions along with regional initiatives like IONS, MILAN and others which allow the nation to harness cooperative approaches and opportunities in the maritime domain, will reinforce IN's stellar role in 'Naval Diplomacy'. INS Sudarshini could also thus be termed as India's 'Ambassador at Large' furthering the common vision of peace and prosperity.

INS Sudarshini's voyage would not only trace the civilisational and historical links between India and South East Asia, but, more significantly, would also mark the contemporary maritime linkages of trade and technology, which are today contributing to the human resource development and the economic growth of India and ASEAN countries. During the course of the 12,000 mile expedition of INS Sudarshini, she will visit 13 ports in nine countries in South East Asia. The ship will visit the ports of Padang, Bali, Manado (Indonesia), Muara (Brunei), Cebu, Manila (Philippines), Da Nang (Vietnam), Sihanoukville (Cambodia), Bangkok, Phuket (Thailand), Singapore, Port Klang (Malaysia) and Sittwe (Myanmar). Various cultural and business events, in addition to people to people interactions, are scheduled during the stay of the ship in these ports. International trainees will embark on board in different legs of the voyage from ASEAN countries to strengthen Navy to Navy ties. The ship will return to Kochi on 29 March 2013.



Flag Off by The Chief of The Naval Staff





ASEAN EXPEDITION



The Journey So Far

