

INDIAN NAVY IN THE YEAR 2012

MAJOR OPERATIONS & EXERCISES-2012

Tropex-12.. The annual Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX) was conducted from end Jan to early Mar 2012 on the Eastern Seaboard. The exercise included an Independent Workup Phase, Amphibious Phase, Joint Workup Phase comprising both the Western and the Eastern Fleets and a Tactical Phase.

Indo-Japan Naval Exercise (JIMEX-12). The first Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX-12) was conducted on 09 Jun 2012 in Uruga Strait off Yokosuka, Japan. IN Ships Rana, Shakti, Shivalik and Karmuk and JMSDF Ohnami and Hatakaze participated in the exercise. US-2 Amphibious Aircraft of JMSDF also participated in the exercise.

Indo-French Naval Exercise (VARUNA-12). The exercise was conducted from 19 to 22 Jul 2012 in the Mediterranean Sea and included various gun engagement, air-defense, anti-submarine and underway replenishment exercises. FS Surcouf, Commandant, Birot, Musse and Mont Calm represented the French Navy. The *IN* side was represented by Mumbai, Trishul, Gomati and Aditya along with integral helos (Seaking and Chetak).

Indo- US Naval Exercise (MALABAR-12). Exercise MALABAR 12 was conducted in the Bay of Bengal from 07 to 16 Apr 2012. The USN was represented by ships from Carrier Task Force 70 of the USN 7th Fleet. These included the Aircraft Carrier USS Carl Vinson, Guided Missile Cruiser USS Bunkerhill, Destroyer USS Halsey and Logistics Ship USNS Bridge. In addition, one Los Angeles Class nuclear submarine USS Louiseville and one shore-based P3C Orion aircraft participated in the exercise. The exercise was held in three phases, viz., Harbour Phase (07- 09 Apr 2012), Sea Phase I (10-14 Apr 2012) and Sea Phase II (15 and 16 Apr 2012). IN ships Satpura, Ranvijay, Ranvir, Kulish, Shakti and TU 142 M maritime reconnaissance aircraft participated from the Indian Navy.

Indo-Singapore Naval Exercise (SIMBEX-12). SIMBEX-12 was held from 21 Mar to 01 Apr 2012 in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea. The exercise included three sea phases and

two harbour phases. The phases included various exercised, viz., surface engagements, Visit Board Seize and Search procedures, tactical exercises, anti-submarine exercises, interactive presentations, etc. IN ships Shivalik, Ranvir, Jyoti and Kora represented the Indian Navy. RSS Stalwart and Victory with MR aircraft Fokker 50 represented the Singapore Navy.

Indo-UK Table-Top Exercise (KONKAN-12). KONKAN-12 was conducted in Portsmouth, UK from 19 – 23 Nov 2012 as a table-top amphibious operations exercise. Three officers of the IN participated in the exercise.

Coordinated Patrol with Indonesia. IN and Indonesian Navy undertake a bi-annual coordinated patrol (termed IND-INDO CORPAT) along their International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). The 19th Cycle of IND-INDO CORPAT was conducted from 07 – 28 Apr 2012. IN Ships LCU 39 and Bitra along with one IN Dornier participated in the CORPAT. The Indonesian side was represented by KRI Silas Papare and one CASA-50 aircraft. The 20th IND-INDO CORPAT was conducted from 20 Sep to 12 Oct 2012. IN ships Kumbhir and Baratang along with one IN Dornier participated in the CORPAT. The Indonesian side was represented by KRI Sultan Taha Hasanuddin.

Coordinated Patrol with Thailand. The 14th Cycle of Indo-Thai CORPAT was held from 18 – 26 Apr 2012. INS Bangaram and one IN Dornier participated in the CORPAT. The Royal Thai Navy was represented by HTMS Kamronsin and one Dornier. The 15th Cycle of Indo-Thai CORPAT was scheduled from 01-09 Nov 2012. INS Battimalv participated in the CORPAT. The Royal Thai Navy was represented by HTMS Kamronsin.

India – Brazil – South Africa Maritime Exercise (IBSAMAR III). The third edition of IBSAMAR was conducted from 10 – 26 Oct 2012 in/off South Africa. It was scheduled in two sea phases and three harbour phases. The sea phases included gunnery and anti-submarine exercises, replenishment at sea, anti-submarine exercise, replenishment at sea, anti-piracy operations and HADR exercises arising due to an internal unrest situation. IN ships Delhi and Deepak represented the Indian Navy. Brazilian Navy frigate BNS Barraso and South African frigate SANS Amatola also took part.

Indo-Russia Naval Exercise (INDRA-2012). Exercise INDRA-12 was conducted from 02 to

03 Dec 2012 off Mumbai with Russian Federation Naval Ships Marshal Sheposhnikov, Irkut and Alatau from the Russian side, and IN Ships Mysore and Tabar from the Indian side.

IN-USN Submarine Rescue Exercise. The first IN-USN submarine rescue exercise was conducted from 21 Oct to 15 Nov 2012 to test the efficacy of the IN-USN Submarine rescue tie-up. IN is now fully prepared for carrying out the rescue of a submarine crew with international assets, in the time frame necessary for saving their lives.

Overseas Deployment. Overseas Deployments (OSD) are undertaken by ships of the Indian Navy for the purposes of Flag showing, fostering better relations with friendly countries and enhancing foreign cooperation. Important overseas deployments in 2012 included the following.

(a) **Eastern Fleet OSD.** Eastern Fleet ships Rana, Shivalik, Shakti and Karmuk were deployed to the South China Sea and Western Pacific from May to June, 2012. The ships visited ports in Singapore, Vietnam (Haiphong), Philippines (Subic Bay), Republic of Korea (Pusan), Japan (Tokyo), China (Shanghai) and Malaysia (Port Klang).

(b) **Western Fleet OSD.** Western Fleet Ships Trishul, Aditya, Mumbai and Gomati were deployed to the Red Sea and Mediterranean Sea from June to August, 2012. During the deployment, the ships visited Egypt (Alexandria), Spain (Cartagena), France (Toulon), Israel (Haifa) and Djibouti.

© **OSD for IBSAMAR III.** IN Ships Deepak and Delhi were deployed to South Africa for participation in the third edition of India, Brazil, South Africa Maritime Exercise (IBSAMAR-III). On completion of the exercise in South Africa, the ships also visited Mozambique (Maputo and Pemba) and Kenya (Mombasa).

(d) **DIMDEX.** The annual Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition (DIMDEX) held in Doha is a keenly watched event in the naval calendar all over the world. Several prominent navies and defence industries avail this opportunity to exhibit their technological prowess and expertise in defence production to the world. INS Betwa, one of our indigenous frigates, constructed at the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, participated in this event held

in March, 2012.

Navy to Navy Interaction. Such interactions provide an effective forum to develop and implement bilateral cooperation initiatives.

(a) **MILAN.** 'MILAN' is a biennial get together of regional navies to develop a wider cooperative framework, which was first initiated in 1995 with the participation of five Bay of Bengal Rim Navies. This initiative has gained steadily in strength and 14 Navies (including nine ships) participated in MILAN 2012, conducted from 03 – 07 Feb 2012 at Port Blair.

(b) **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS).** The third symposium (IONS-2012) was held at Cape Town from 10-14 Apr 2012, during which it was decided that the inaugural edition of the bi-annual newsletter of the IONS would be published by Indian Navy. Further, it was decided that the IONS Preparatory Workshop and Operational Seminar on the topic "Role and Expectations of Emerging Navies in Cooperative Engagement for Peace and Stability on IOR" would also be conducted by the Indian Navy.