

FIRST TRAINING SQUADRON DEPARTS SEYCHELLES

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The ships of First Training Squadron (1TS), comprising **INS Tir, INS Shardul and ICGS Sarathi**, departed Port Victoria, Seychelles on **04 Sep 2025** marking completion of a successful visit, as part of ongoing Long Range Training Deployment. During the **four-day visit**, bilateral activities between the Indian Navy (*IN*) and Seychelles Defence Force (SDF) included multiple professional exchanges, training visits & social interactions, bolstering ties between the two maritime nations.

During the port call, Capt Tijo K Joseph, Senior Officer 1TS, along with Commanding Officers of INS Shardul and ICGS Sarathi, called on Mr. Sylvestre Radegonde, Seychelles Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism and Major General Michael Rosette, Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), SDF. The discussions highlighted the enduring partnership between Seychelles and India, emphasising the military collaboration between Seychelles Defence Forces and Indian Armed Forces.

A deck reception was hosted onboard 1TS ships which was attended by senior leadership of SDF, members of the Indian diaspora, diplomats and other distinguished guests. Maj Gen Michael Rosette, Chief of Defence Forces, SDF, acknowledged the contribution of *IN* in strengthening regional maritime cooperation and reaffirmed Seychelles' commitment to enhanced bilateral ties between the two nations.

During the port call, combined *yoga* sessions onboard 1TS witnessed enthusiastic participation by local populace and the Indian diaspora. The Indian Naval band showcased their proficiency in a breathtaking performance at Victoria Town Clock Tower, earning plaudits from Seychelles citizens. A friendly football match was played between *IN* and SDF personnel, further boosting bonhomie and camaraderie amongst the two forces. As part of the community outreach activity, essential supplies and medical health checkups were provided to residents of an elderly home in Point Larue.

The visit was enriching for the Indian Naval trainees, who visited Seychelles Coast Guard Base and Maritime Training & Support Centre. As part of cross training visit, SDF personnel were imparted training on handling of small arms and firefighting onboard 1TS ships. **Further, professional interactions were undertaken with the Spanish Navy during the visit of *ESPS Navarra* at Seychelles.**

The extant deployment consolidates strong bonds of friendship between the two nations and underscores Indian Navy's commitment to strengthening maritime cooperation and regional partnership in line with the vision of ***MAHASAGAR* (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions)**.





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