



INDIAN NAVY'S SAIL TRAINING SHIP SUDARSHINI SETS SAIL FOR LOKAYAN 26

**Lokayan 26- Ten month long Transoceanic Expedition
Flagged off from Southern Naval Command, Kochi**

**INS Sudarshini embarks on a landmark Global voyage
showcasing India's Seafaring Heritage**

**Building Bridges of Cooperation and Trust Across the Oceans
with the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and vision of
MAHASAGAR**

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Vice Admiral Sameer Saxena, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command, flagged off INS Sudarshini from Naval Base, Kochi, on **20 Jan 2026**, marking the commencement of Lokayan 26—a long range sailing expedition. This landmark voyage serves as a powerful symbol of India's maritime endeavour, showcasing nation's prominence in global maritime activities and Indian Navy's commitment to professional training and excellence in ocean sailing expedition.

The Flag off ceremony was **witnessed by senior officers, enthusiastic members of the Naval community, school children along with the family members of the ship's crew and media personnel.** On this occasion, Lokayan 26 plaque was unveiled by FOC-in-C, South. During his interaction with the crew, he underscored the ship's pivotal role as India's "Ambassador at Large." He emphasised that the voyage transcends oceans and borders, forging "**Bridges of Friendship**" across the globe. The traditional send-off, saw the three-masted barque unfurl her sails to the stirring accompaniment of the Naval band.

During the **ten month long deployment**, INS Sudarshini will traverse approximately **22,000 nautical miles, visiting 18 ports in 13 countries.** One of the key highlights of the voyage is participation of the ship in Escale à Sète, France. Making her debut at one of Europe's premier maritime festivals in March–April 2026, INS Sudarshini will represent India alongside renowned Tall ships in the Mediterranean. Further, as part of **USA's 250th Independence Day celebrations in July 2026**, the ship will join a grand international flotilla- Sail 250 at New York during the International Parade of Sails.

Built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited, INS Sudarshini is a **54-metre** sail training ship of the Indian Navy equipped with **20 sails** covering a sail area of more than **1,000 square** metres. The vessel offers an unparalleled platform for sea trainees and officer cadets to develop the timeless art of seamanship and navigation guided by wind and waves.

As INS Sudarshini sails along ancient trade routes and modern sea lanes, she carries the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam furthering the vision of **MAHASAGAR** (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions).





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