



MILAN 2026 CONCLUDES SUCCESSFULLY; CLOSING CEREMONY ONBOARD INS VIKRANT MARKS MARITIME MILESTONE

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Exercise MILAN 2026, the Indian Navy's premier multilateral maritime exercise, culminated on **25 Feb 2026** with a closing ceremony conducted onboard India's indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, off the coast of Visakhapatnam.

The ceremony was presided over by Rear Admiral Alok Ananda, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet (FOCEF). Commanding Officers and officers from all participating units attended the ceremony, marking the successful completion of the exercise and celebrating the enduring bonds forged across the vast expanse of the Bay of Bengal.

Held under the theme '**Camaraderie, Cooperation, Collaboration**', **MILAN 2026** witnessed participation on an unprecedented scale, comprising **42 ships and submarines** and, **29 aircraft**. These also included **18 ships from the participating Friendly Foreign Countries**.

Further, apart from integral helicopters onboard the **Friendly Foreign Country ships, maritime patrol aircraft from France, Germany and USA** also participated.

MILAN 2026 commenced with a Harbour Phase that featured bilateral engagements, **Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE)** programme and the **International Maritime Seminar (IMS)**. Professional interactions were complemented by cultural exchanges, cross-deck and outstation visits.

Technological demonstrations and the MILAN of Young Officers (MOYO) interaction facilitated the exchange of best practices, while friendly sports fixtures enabled informal interaction.

This was followed by the Sea Phase, which comprised high-intensity operational drills focused on advanced warfare disciplines including integrated **air defence and antisubmarine warfare exercises, maritime interdiction operations, surface strike coordination, communication exercises, and cross-deck flying operations, enhancing interoperability and collective readiness**.

Live firings as part of surface gun shoots and FPM drills as well as anti-air firings were also undertaken. Emphasis was placed on real-time coordination, joint mission planning and logistical support at sea.

Friendly Foreign navies participated in high-tempo tactical manoeuvres alongside Indian Naval Ships, reflecting growing convergence of maritime interests towards ensuring safe and secure seas. The exercise validated seamless coordination, rapid response capabilities and best practices, aligned with the vision of **MAHASAGAR - Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions**.

During the closing ceremony onboard the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, Commanding Officers of all participating ships expressed their deep appreciation for the professional conduct and meticulous planning that characterised MILAN 2026. They unanimously affirmed that the exercise had

comprehensively achieved its training objectives and operational aims, significantly enhancing interoperability, mutual understanding and collective maritime readiness.

The successful culmination of MILAN 2026 stands as a testament to the shared commitment of participating navies towards strengthening cooperative mechanisms, fostering enduring partnerships for safe and secure seas.





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