

PERSONNEL FROM 16 FRIENDLY FOREIGN COUNTRIES COMPLETE HARBOUR TRAINING AS INDIAN NAVY STRENGTHENS REGIONAL MARITIME COOPERATION THROUGH 'IOS SAGAR' INITIATIVE

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Indian Navy's IOS SAGAR initiative achieved a significant milestone in advancing regional maritime cooperation with the successful completion of an intensive Harbour Training Phase at the Southern Naval Command, Kochi. The initiative reinforces India's commitment to collaborative security and capacity building in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

In an evolving maritime environment, the IOR faces a range of shared challenges, including maritime security threats, piracy, illegal fishing, trafficking, natural disasters, and the growing need for safe and secure sea lines of communication. Addressing these complexities requires enhanced interoperability, shared operational understanding, and coordinated responses among regional navies.

Over a period of two weeks, the multinational crew underwent an intensive and comprehensive training capsule across the premier professional schools of the Indian Navy. The training programme was designed to build foundational and advanced competencies across a broad spectrum of naval operations. It included seamanship, navigation, communication procedures, safety of life at sea, firefighting, and damage control drills, along with specialised modules such as Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) operations and advanced bridgemanhip.

A key highlight of the training was the extensive use of state-of-the-art simulators and modern training infrastructure, enabling realistic, scenario-based learning. These advanced facilities provided participants with hands-on exposure to complex maritime situations, enhancing decision-making and operational readiness in a controlled environment. The integration of theoretical instruction with practical application ensured a holistic learning experience aligned with contemporary maritime challenges.

Training under the aegis of Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST) further enabled international crew to familiarise themselves with Indian Navy procedures and best practices. The Indian Naval Workup Team conducted focused sea training modules aimed at fostering seamless coordination and operational synergy among participating nations.

The IOS SAGAR initiative exemplifies the spirit of '*One Ocean, One Mission*' with participants demonstrating exceptional professionalism, teamwork, and camaraderie. The interactions also facilitated meaningful exchanges of *Best Practices*, strengthening mutual trust and enhancing interoperability among partner navies.

Following the successful completion of the harbour phase, IOS SAGAR will now transition into the operational deployment phase, which will include joint activities at sea and port engagements across the region.

The initiative reaffirms the Indian Navy's role as a preferred maritime training partner and underscores its commitment to strengthening regional cooperation under the broader vision of *MAHASAGAR*. Through such collaborative endeavours, the Indian Navy continues to build enduring partnerships and contribute to a secure, stable, and prosperous maritime domain in the IOR.







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