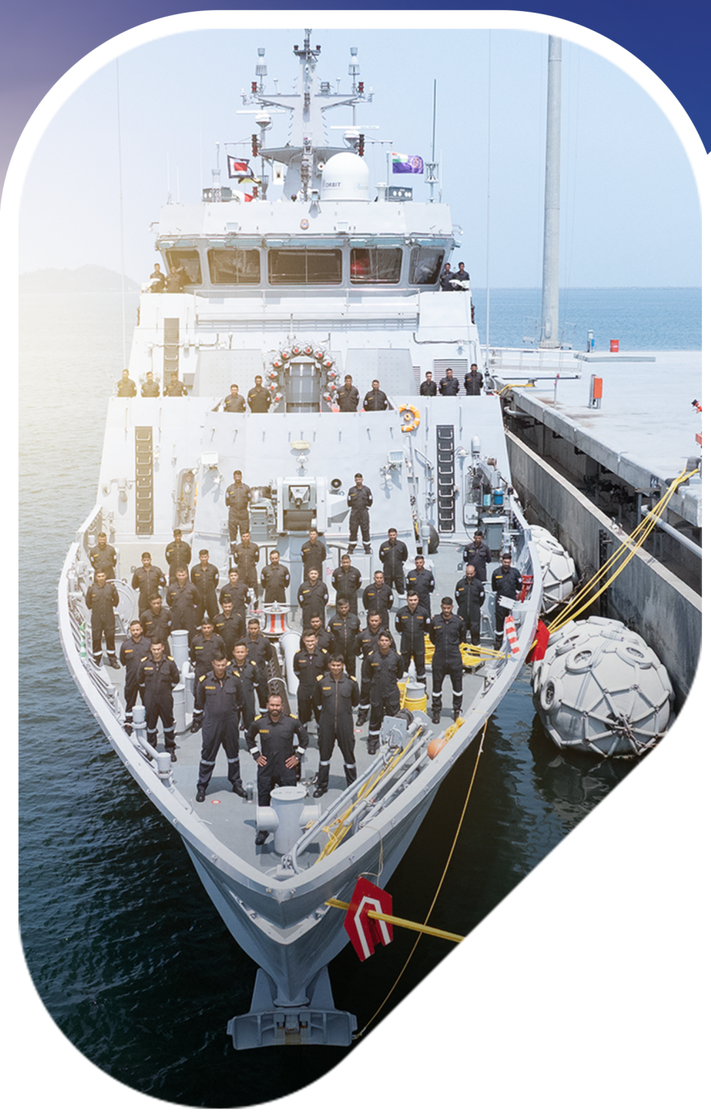


NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026





INDIAN NAVY **MONTHLY**

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026

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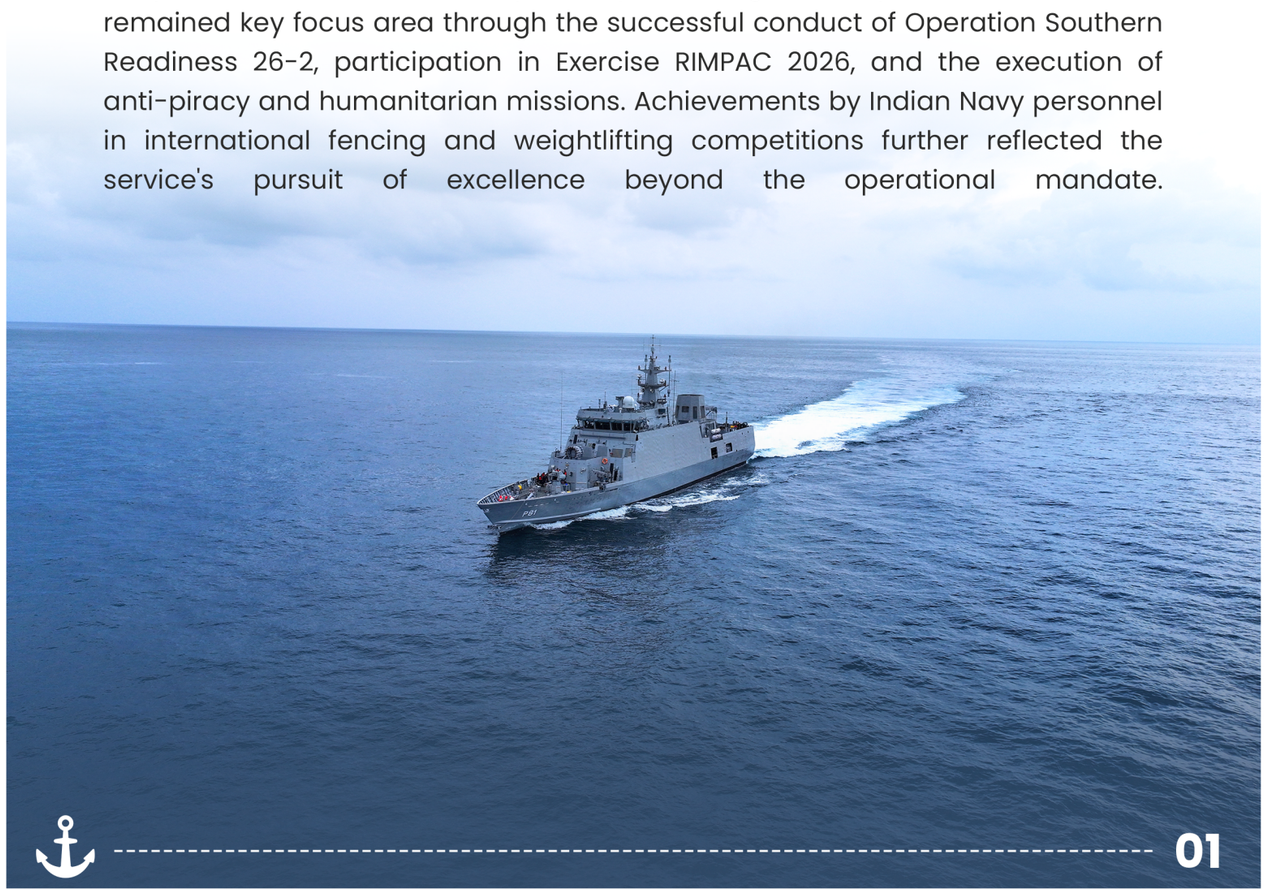
LOVEPREET SINGH, CPO COM(TEL) WON SILVER AND SET COMMONWEALTH GAMES RECORD

Lovepreet Singh, CPO COM(TEL) of the Indian Navy won the silver medal in the +110 kg weightlifting event at the Commonwealth Games 2026. He registered a total lift of 388 kg, comprising a 176 kg snatch and a 212 kg clean and jerk. His 176 kg snatch established a new Commonwealth Games record in the category. The achievement added the second medal to Indian Navy's tally at the Commonwealth Games 2026.



INTRODUCTION

July 2026 witnessed significant developments across Indian Navy's operational, strategic and institutional activities. The commissioning of INS Mahendragiri, the sixth Project 17A stealth frigate, and INS Malvan, the second Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, marked important additions to the Navy's combat capability while reinforcing India's indigenous warship-building programme. The month also saw Indian Naval Ships continue overseas deployments and port visits, specially with participation in Lokayan 26 and the SAIL 250 celebrations, reflecting the Navy's continued commitment to maritime cooperation and defence diplomacy. Training and operational readiness remained key focus area through the successful conduct of Operation Southern Readiness 26-2, participation in Exercise RIMPAC 2026, and the execution of anti-piracy and humanitarian missions. Achievements by Indian Navy personnel in international fencing and weightlifting competitions further reflected the service's pursuit of excellence beyond the operational mandate.



VICE ADMIRAL AN PRAMOD ASSUMED CHARGE AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF

Vice Admiral AN Pramod, AVSM, YSM assumed charge as the Deputy Chief of Naval Staff on 01 August 2026, succeeding Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti, UYSM, AVSM, VSM, who superannuated on 31 July 2026 after more than 38 years of distinguished service. Commissioned into Indian Navy on 01 July 1990, Vice Admiral AN Pramod has held several key command, operational, instructional and staff appointments. Prior to assuming the appointment, he served as Director General Naval Operations, where he was closely involved in the planning, preparedness and operational readiness of Indian Navy during Operation Sindoor and maritime security operations amid the ongoing West Asia crisis.



INDIAN NAVY RESPONDED TO PIRACY ATTEMPT ON MV GOLDEN ARSENAL



Indian Navy responded swiftly to an attempted piracy attack on MV Golden Arsenal, a St. Vincent and the Grenadines-flagged bulk carrier, approximately 300 nautical miles east-northeast of Djibouti on 1 July 2026. INS Trikand, deployed in the Gulf of Aden, conducted a sanitisation operation after specialist teams boarded the ship. Supported by aerial surveillance from a P-8I aircraft, the operation ensured the safety of all 21 crew members and enabled the vessel to resume its voyage.

INDIAN NAVY FENCERS REACHED MAIN DRAW AT SENIOR WORLD FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Indian Navy fencers Chief Petty Officer Taniksha Khatri and Petty Officer Prachi Lohan created history by becoming the first Indian women Épée fencers to qualify for the Main Table of 64 at the Senior World Fencing Championships in Hong Kong. Their qualification for the Direct Elimination Round marked an unprecedented achievement for Indian fencing. Khatri secured 43rd place overall, the highest-ever individual finish by an Indian at the Championships, while Lohan finished 58th, securing a historic double qualification inside the top 60.



CHANAMBAM RISHIKANTA SINGH, CPO(PT) WON SILVER AND SET COMMONWEALTH GAMES RECORD



Chanambam Rishikanta Singh, CPO(PT) of Indian Navy won the silver medal in the 60 kg weightlifting event at the Commonwealth Games 2026. He registered a total lift of 264 kg, comprising a 121 kg snatch and a 143 kg clean and jerk. His 121 kg snatch established a new Commonwealth Games record in the category. The achievement marks a significant milestone for Indian weightlifting and reflects Indian Navy's continued excellence in international sporting competitions.

REAR ADMIRAL SRINIVAS MADDULA ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE WESTERN FLEET

Rear Admiral Srinivas Maddula assumed command of the Western Fleet from Vice Admiral Vivek Dahiya on 29 July 2026. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, the United States Marine Corps Command and Staff College, Virginia, and the Indian Naval War College, Goa, he has held several key command and staff appointments, including command of IN ships Nipat, Ganga, Godavari and Trikand, INS Kadamba, and INFAC T-80. He previously served as Flag Officer Sea Training at Southern Naval Command and Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff (Foreign Cooperation and Intelligence) at Naval Headquarters.



RAKSHA MANTRI FELICITATED CREW OF IASV TRIVENI



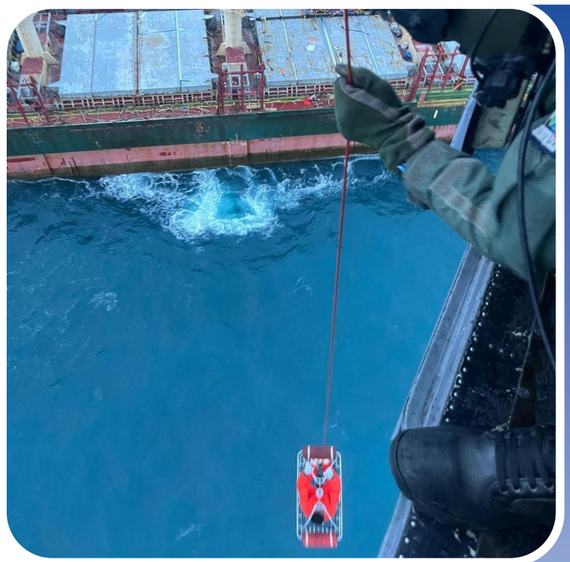
Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh felicitated the nine women officers of Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force who successfully completed Samudra Pradakshina, the first-ever Tri-service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition, on 30 July 2026. Interacting with the crew in New Delhi, he lauded their courage, determination and achievement in completing the 314-day voyage covering nearly 25,500 nautical miles across four oceans. He described the expedition as a symbol of Tri-service jointness and Nari Shakti, highlighting its role in inspiring future generations and showcasing India's maritime capability and military professionalism.

INDIAN NAVY CONDUCTED MEDICAL EVACUATION FROM MT DESH SHAKTI

An Indian Navy Sea King helicopter from INS Shikra carried out an emergency medical evacuation of an injured seafarer from the Shipping Corporation of India crude oil tanker MT Desh Shakti off Mumbai on 04 July 2026. Despite incessant rain, poor visibility and rough sea conditions, the helicopter successfully evacuated the casualty. After stabilising the patient onboard, the crew transported him ashore for urgent medical treatment, reaffirming Indian Navy's role as a First Responder at sea.



INDIAN NAVY EVACUATED STRANDED FISHERMAN OFF VISAKHAPATNAM



An Indian Navy Advanced Light Helicopter Mk III from the Eastern Naval Command evacuated a stranded fisherman from a merchant vessel off Visakhapatnam on 06 July 2026. The fisherman, whose fishing boat had gone missing at sea, was rescued by a nearby merchant vessel on 05 July. Acting on a request from the civil administration, the helicopter carried out the evacuation using a rescue hoist. The fisherman was provided medical assistance before being handed over to the civil authorities at Visakhapatnam.

INS SURAT CONDUCTED PASSEX WITH JMSDF SHIP JS TAKANAMI

JS Takanami (DD-110) of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) called at Mumbai on 05 July 2026 for an operational turnaround during her deployment in the western Indian Ocean Region. The ship subsequently conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with INS Surat on 08 July 2026. The exercise validated communication procedures and included coordinated manoeuvres to enhance interoperability and facilitate the exchange of best practices.



OPERATION SOUTHERN READINESS 26-2 CONDUCTED AT SOUTHERN NAVAL COMMAND, KOCHI



Operation Southern Readiness 26-2, a four-day multinational maritime security training engagement, was conducted at Southern Naval Command, Kochi, from 20 July to 23 July 2026. Conducted by Indian Navy in partnership with Combined Maritime Forces under the aegis of Southern Naval Command and Indian Navy-led Combined Task Force 154, the exercise brought together 276 personnel from 27 countries. The programme combined professional discussions, simulator-based instruction and practical training, generating 3,800 training man-hours and reinforcing interoperability, regional capacity-building and Indian Navy's partnership with the Combined Maritime Forces.

ALL INDIA NAU SAINIK CAMP 2026 COMMENCED AT INS SHIVAJI

The All India Nau Sainik Camp (AINSC) 2026 took place from 30 June to 13 July, 2026, at INS Shivaji in Lonavala, Maharashtra, bringing together 612 National Cadet Corps (NCC) Naval cadets, including 204 women cadets, from 17 NCC Directorates across the country. The 12-day camp focuses on maritime training, leadership, discipline, teamwork and adventure activities, providing participants with an opportunity to develop essential naval skills and leadership qualities. The camp reflects Indian Navy's continued commitment to nurturing the next generation of maritime leaders and seafarers.



REAR ADMIRAL VISHAL BISHNOI ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE EASTERN FLEET



Rear Admiral Vishal Bishnoi assumed command of the Eastern Fleet from Rear Admiral Alok Ananda, YSM, at a ceremonial parade on 24 July 2026. Commissioned on 01 July 1994, he is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Defence Services Staff College and the College of Air Warfare. A fighter pilot, Rear Admiral Bishnoi has held several key operational and command appointments, including command of aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, INS Trikand, INS Gharial, the naval air station INS Dega, and Indian Naval Air Squadron 300.

INS MALVAN COMMISSIONED INTO THE INDIAN NAVY

Indian Navy commissioned INS Malvan, the second indigenously designed and built Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), at Karwar on 22 July 2026. The commissioning ceremony was presided over by Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, in the presence of Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command. Built by Cochin Shipyard Limited with over 80 per cent indigenous content, INS Malvan will enhance the Navy's anti-submarine warfare, mine warfare, coastal defence and maritime domain awareness capabilities.



6TH INDIAN NAVY STATION COMMANDERS' WORKSHOP HELD AT VISAKHAPATNAM



The 6th Indian Navy Station Commanders' Workshop was held at INS Circars, Visakhapatnam, from 14 to 16 July 2026. Chaired by Vice Admiral C. R. Praveen Nair, Controller of Personnel Services, the three-day workshop was attended by over 50 Station Commanders and other officers from across the Navy. Deliberations focused on enhancing administrative efficiency, infrastructure modernisation, sustainability, and personnel and veteran welfare, with an emphasis on strengthening administrative practices and improving support systems across Indian Navy.

LOKAYAN 26: INS SUDARSHINI DEPARTED BOSTON AFTER SAIL 250

INS Sudarshini, Indian Navy's sail training ship, departed Boston, USA, on 25 July 2026 as part of the ongoing Lokayan 26 deployment. During her stay, the ship represented India at the SAIL 250 celebrations and the International Naval Review 250, highlighting the nation's maritime heritage through professional and cultural engagements. Having participated in events at Norfolk, Baltimore, New York and Boston, INS Sudarshini hosted dignitaries, members of the Indian diaspora and international naval delegations before setting course for Ponta Delgada, Azores, Portugal.



INDIAN NAVY PARTICIPATED IN EXERCISE RIMPAC 2026



The Indian Navy participated in the 30th edition of Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2026, conducted in and around the Hawaiian Islands. During the exercise, the Indian Navy assumed the role of Deputy Commander Task Force for Theatre-level Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) for the first time, marking a maiden milestone in its participation. The Indian Naval contingent, comprising officers, sailors and a P-8I Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft, took part in mission planning, technical coordination, operational briefings and professional exchanges with partner navies. These engagements culminated in the sea phase of the exercise, during which the Indian Navy participated in coordinated Anti-Submarine Warfare operations, enhancing interoperability and reinforcing maritime cooperation with partner navies.

INDIAN NAVAL SHIPS UDAYGIRI, SHAKTI AND KAVARATTI CONCLUDED SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO SINGAPORE

Indian Naval Ships Udaygiri, Shakti and Kavaratti of the Eastern Fleet, led by Rear Admiral Alok Anand, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, concluded a three-day port call at Changi Naval Base, Singapore, as part of Indian Navy's operational deployment. After the successful completion of a port call at Sattahip, Thailand, this visit was conducted in alignment with the ASEAN–India Year of Maritime Cooperation and the Government of India's Act East Policy. It included cross-deck interactions to enhance interoperability and naval cooperation. School students also visited INS Kavaratti, gaining first-hand exposure to naval operations and life onboard a warship.



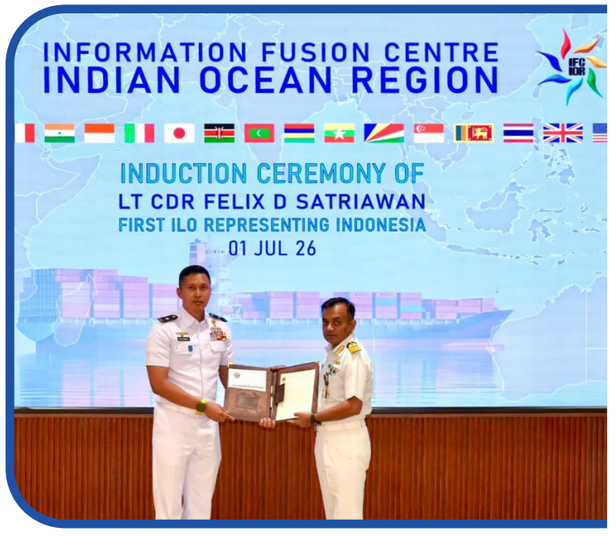
11TH INDIAN NAVY-ROYAL MALAYSIAN NAVY STAFF TALKS HELD IN NEW DELHI



The 11th Indian Navy–Royal Malaysian Navy Staff Talks concluded in New Delhi on 01 July 2026. The talks were co-chaired by Rear Admiral Srinivas Maddula, Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff (Foreign Cooperation and Intelligence), and Rear Admiral Dato' Pahlawan Mohd Fadzli Kamal bin Mohd Mohaldin, Assistant Chief of Staff (Operations and Training), Royal Malaysian Navy. Discussions focused on strengthening bilateral engagements, enhancing maritime cooperation and advancing collaborative efforts towards maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.

FIRST INDONESIAN INTERNATIONAL LIAISON OFFICER INDUCTED AT IFC-IOR

The Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) inducted its first International Liaison Officer (ILO) from Indonesia on 22 July 2026. Lieutenant Commander Felix Dimas Satirawan joined the Centre as the first Indonesian ILO, with the induction ceremony attended by Brigadier General Marines Burhanudin, Defence Attaché, Embassy of Indonesia, New Delhi. The inductions increased the Centre's ILO strength to 16, further strengthening maritime information sharing and regional cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region.



INS MAHENDRAGIRI COMMISSIONED INTO THE INDIAN NAVY



Indian Navy commissioned the indigenously built stealth frigate INS Mahendragiri into the Eastern Fleet at Visakhapatnam on 11 July 2026, in the presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh. Designed by Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, the sixth Project 17A frigate has over 75 percent indigenous content and is equipped with advanced stealth features and modern weapon systems. The ship was constructed in record time, from keel laying to commissioning, clearing all trials in single sea sortie. Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command; Captain Jagmohan (Retd), CMD, MDL, senior naval officers, veterans, representatives of the shipbuilding industry and other invited guests attended the ceremony.