

INDIAN NAVY IN THE YEAR 2013

MAJOR OPERATIONS & EXERCISES-2013

Tropex-13. The annual theatre level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX) was conducted from end Jan to early Mar 2013 on the Western seaboard. The exercise included Weapon firing, amphibious operations, and tactical operations, and tactical operations comprising both the Eastern and the Eastern Fleets.

DGX – 13. The annual Defence of Gujarat Exercise (DGX) was conducted in Oct 2013 in the North Arabian Sea with active participation by the Indian Coast Guard, Indian Air Force and Indian Army.

Indo-Singapore Exercise (SIMBEX-13). Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) was conducted in the South China Sea from 16 – 23 May 2013. The phases included various maritime operation including surface engagements, Visit Board Search and Seizure procedures, tactical exercises, anti-submarine exercises, interactive presentations, etc. IN Ships Satpura and Kirch represented the Indian Navy. RSS Steadfast and Valiant (including integral helicopters), RSS Conqueror (Submarine) and MR aircraft Fokker 50 represented the Singapore Navy.

Indo-Sri Lanka Exercise (SLINX-13). The IN-SLN (Sri Lankan Navy) Bilateral Exercise (SLINEX) was conducted from 04 – 07 Nov 2013 in the Bay of Bengal. IN Ship Talwar (with integral helicopter) and SLNS Sagara participated in the exercise.

Indo-UK Naval Exercise (KONKAN-13). KONKAN-13 was conducted off the West Coast of India from 14-19 Oct 2013. IN Ship Delhi participated in the exercise. The Royal Navy was represented by HMS Westminster.

Indo-US Naval Exercise (MALABAR-13). The 17th edition of MALABAR was held off the East Coast of India from 05-11 Nov 2013. The USN was represented by USS McCampbell and one shore based P3C Orion Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft. IN Ships Shivalik, Ranvijay and TU 142 M maritime reconnaissance aircraft participated from the Indian Navy.

Indo-Japan Exercise (JIMEX). JIMBEX-13 was planned off Chennai from 19 – 23 Dec 2013. JMSDF Ariake and Setogiri and INS ships Ranvijay, Satpura and Kuthar participated in the exercise.

Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) with Myanmar Navy (MN). The maiden IN-MN Coordinate Patrol exercise was conducted from 17-21 Mar 2013 off the Great Coco Islands, Myanmar. IN Ships Baratang and Battimalv and Myanmar Navy ships MN Aungzeya and Bayintnaung participated in the exercise.

Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) with Thailand. The 16th -17th Cycle of Indo-Thai CORPAT was held in Apr and Nov 2013. INS Bitra and one IN Dornier participated from the IN side while the Royal Thai Navy was represented by HTMS Phuket/ HTMS Sriracha and one Dornier aircraft for these CORPATs.

Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) with Indonesia. The 21st cycle of IND-INDO CORPAT was conducted from 06 – 26 May 2013. IN Ships Mahish and Bangaram along with one IN Dornier participated in the CORPAT. The Indonesian side was represented by KRI Pattinunas and one CASA-50 aircraft. The 22nd IND-INDO CORPA was conducted from 06 – 27 Sep 2013. IN Ships Kumbhir along with one IN Dornier participated in the CORPAT. The Indonesian side was represented by KRI Teiku Umah and one CASA-50 aircraft.

Overseas Deployment. Overseas Deployments (OSD) are undertaken by ships of the Indian Navy for the purposes of Flag showing, fostering better relations with friendly countries and enhancing foreign cooperation. Important overseas deployments in 2013 included the following.

(a) **Eastern Fleet OSD**. Eastern fleet ships Satpura, Ranvijay, Shakti and Kirch were deployed to the South China Sea and Western Pacific from May to Jun 2013. These ships visited ports in Singapore, Vietnam (Danang), Philippines (Manila) and Malaysia (port Klang).

(b) **Western Fleet OSD**. Western fleet ships Mysore, Aditya, Tarkash and Tabar were deployed to the Persian gulf in Sep 2013. During the deployment, the ships visited As-Shuwaik (Kuwait), Port Maiseed (Qatar), Meena Rashid (Dubai) and port sultan Qaboos (Muscat). During the OSD, the Indian Naval Ships also participated in 'Exercise Naseem-Al-Bahar' with the Royal Navy of Oman and undertook passage Exercises (Passex) with Kuwaiti, Qatari and UAE Navies.

(c) **ASEAN Sailing Expedition**. Sailing training ship INS Sudarshini undertook the widely acclaimed 192 day ASEAN sailing Expedition from Sep 2012 to Mar 2013 and visited 13 ports in nine ASEAN countries.

(d) **Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Mhadei**. Lt Cdr Abhilash Tomy became the first ever Indian to complete Solo Circumnavigation of the World on board INSV Mhadei in Mar 2013. On completion of this solo circumnavigation, INSV Mhadei was ceremoniously received at the Gateway of India by the President of India on 06 Apr 2013. The Officer has been awarded the Kirti Chakra by the President of India for accomplishment of this unique feat.

(e) **International Fleet Review at Sydney**. INS Sahyadri represented India at the International Fleet Review at Sydney (Australia) in Sep 2013.

Anti-Piracy Operations in the Gulf of Aden. Indian warships have been carrying out patrol in the Gulf of Aden along the Internationally Recognised Transit Corridor (IRTC). So far over 2287 merchant ships of varying nationalities, including 269 Indian flagged vessels, have been escorted safely by Indian warships. To optimise the escort operations, the Indian Navy coordinated the patrol of the IN warship with that of the other navies present in the Gulf of Aden. Marine Commandos (MARCOS) are also embarked on board IN ships deployed on the Gulf of Aden.

(a) **EEC Surveillance and Anti-Piracy Deployment off Seychelles, Mauritius and Maldives.** With increased incident of piracy near the East African Coast, Mauritius and Seychelles, IN Ships and aircraft are also being deployed for surveillance in their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) at the request of respective host governments.

(b) **Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS).** The 12th Plenary Session of the CGPCS was held on 25 Jul 2012 under the Chairmanship of Spain. India took over the Chairmanship of CGPCS in Sep 2012. The 13th Plenary Session of the CGPCS was held under India's Chairmanship on 11 & 12 Dec 2012 at the UN Headquarters, New York. India will hand over the Chairmanship to USA in Jan 2013.