

**High Commission of India
Nairobi**

Press Release

Indian Naval Ship Talwar Visits Kenya

1. Indian Naval Ship Talwar is participating in Exercise Cutlass Express 2021, being conducted from 26 July 2021 to 06 August 2021 along the East Coast of Africa. The exercise is an annual maritime exercise conducted to promote national and regional maritime security in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean. The 2021 edition of the exercise involves participation of 12 Eastern African countries, US, UK, India and various international organisations like International Maritime Organisation (IMO), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Interpol, European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR), Critical Maritime Routes Indian Ocean (CRIMARIO) and EUCAP Somalia. Indian Navy is participating in the exercise in a ‘trainer role’.
2. The exercise focusses on East Africa’s coastal regions and is designed to assess and improve combined maritime law enforcement capacity, promote national and regional security and increase interoperability between the regional navies. As part of the exercise, the Indian Navy, together with other partners, shall undertake training of contingents from various participating countries in various fields across the spectrum of maritime security operations. Information sharing and information flow between various partner countries with respect to maritime domain awareness is also a key focus of the exercise and participation of India’s Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) would contribute in achieving the same.
3. The **Opening Ceremony** for the Cutlass Express was held on 26 July 2021 at the Bandari Maritime Academy at Mombasa and was addressed by Base Commander Kenyan Navy, India’s Chargé d’Affaires, and Head of US AFRICOM Gen. Stephen Townsend.



4. As part of INS Talwar's visit to Mombasa, during this period, in addition to Cutlass Express – 21, various other professional interactions were also planned with the Kenya Navy. The Ship during its stay at Mombasa also hosted a number of events to build stronger bridges of friendships with Kenya, Indian community and host of other partners in addition to the Cutlass Express participants.

5. **'Walkaround and High Tea'** onboard the ship was organized on 26 July 2021. Cd'A Mr. Ashish Sinha, Gen. Stephen Townsend, Cdr USAFRICOM, Base Commander Mtongwe Navy Base Kenya Navy, **Brig. (Rtd) V L Naisho**, Director General, Kenya Coast Guard Service along with Mr. Eric Watnik DCM US Embassy in Nairobi and Mr. Kiruja Micheni, IMO representative in Nairobi visited the ship.



6. A **‘Deck Reception’** was organized onboard the ship on 27 July 2021. It was organized with a very small number of invitees, strictly observing all COVID-19 protocols. Hon. Ababu Namwamba, MP, EGH, Cd’A Mr. Ashish Sinha, Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya, Hon’ble Dr. Swarup Ranjan Mishra, MP, Brigadier John Sankale Kiswa - Fleet Commander, Brigadier Yahya Abdi - Base Commander Kenya Navy Base Mtongwe, senior officials from Kenya Navy, Mombasa County, prominent business persons & community members were in attendance.



7. Mr. Ashish Sinha, Acting High Commissioner of India to Kenya and CO Talwar, Capt. Partha Bhatt accompanied by the Defence Advisor and Asst. High Commissioner, High Commission of India paid a courtesy call on Maj Gen J L Mutai MGH , MBS ‘ndc’(K) ‘psc’(K) Commander, Kenya Navy on 27 Jul 2021.



8. India’s commitment for the countries along East Coast of Africa, and the Western IOR is further going to be strengthened with the visit of INS Talwar and is in keeping with India's policy or doctrine of maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean region called Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

9. INS Talwar gets its name from the traditional sword, and is the first of the Talwar class stealth frigates commissioned into the Indian Navy in 2003. INS Talwar has a length of 125 meters and is capable of speeds upto 30 knots. She is equipped with an array of weapons and sensors which include surface to surface and surface to air missiles, medium and short-range guns, anti-submarine torpedoes, rockets and an advanced electronic warfare and communication suite. The ship is capable of operating the Kamov 31 Airborne Early Warning, Kamov 28 Anti-Submarine Warfare and Chetak Search and Rescue helicopters. This enables the ship to perform a wide variety of roles which includes coastal and offshore patrolling, monitoring of sea lines of communication, maritime diplomacy, counter terrorism and anti-piracy operations.

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