

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as Chief Guest at the Navy Day Reception organized by the Flag Officer Commanding Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Naval Area

Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu participated as Chief Guest at the Navy Day Reception organized by the Flag Officer Commanding Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Naval Area at INS Adyar, Chennai today (04.12.2019) and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor said, "On the occasion of the Navy Day, on behalf of the State of Tamil Nadu, I express our heartfelt gratitude for all the missions the Indian Navy has undertaken in the past year, in defence of our vast seas and coastal areas and I wish the Indian Navy success in every future endeavour.

As you would be aware, the genesis for celebrating 04th of December as the Navy Day arises from the daring attack the Indian Navy undertook on the night of 03rd / 04th December during 'Operation Trident', during the 1971 Indo – Pak war, which caused large scale destruction to the infrastructure in the port of Karachi and led to the sinking of four ships of the enemy.

In the years gone by since then, the Navy has grown from strength to strength and would soon be a two-Carrier Task Force Navy in the near future. A significant proportion of India's trade and energy needs are met through the medium of the oceans. Therefore, the safety of our seas and the maritime commons assume significance and remains a critical requirement, to ensure the economic and social well-being of our nation. The Navy's preparedness and regional presence is therefore of utmost priority in the national calculus.

We are all well aware of the prevailing security scenario in the maritime domain. The continued presence of both traditional and non-traditional threats in the maritime domain, demand constant attention and robust mitigating actions. The Indian Navy is accordingly, actively engaged in ensuring safety and security of India's maritime areas of interest. Several new measures have been adopted to effectively fulfil the Navy's commitment to the nation, which are aimed at making the processes and structures more efficient and outcome-oriented.

I am given to understand, that the Navy has re-oriented its deployment philosophy aimed at greater mission success and presence in the entire Indian Ocean Region and beyond. Accordingly, the Navy has maintained continuous presence off the Horn of Africa for anti-piracy operations. In addition, regular deployment of naval ships and aircraft is being undertaken in the North Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, Persian Gulf, the Andaman Sea and the approaches to the strategically important straits of Malacca, Lombok and Sunda. Judicious utilisation of the assets have also ensured a high degree of maritime domain awareness in our area of responsibility.

In consonance with the nation's foreign policies and to further bolster international cooperation, frequent deployments are undertaken as part of our international maritime engagements in the Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans. This deployment philosophy has ensured a high degree of situational awareness and consequently, the Navy's ability to respond quickly to emerging crisis in important maritime regions across the globe.

The Indian Navy has continued to strive towards fostering the spirit of maritime bonding through various multilateral initiatives such as the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS for short), Goa Maritime Conclave and MILAN series of exercises as part of our Act East Policy since 1995. As also, after its inauguration in 2008, the IONS has grown in strength to 24 members and eight observers; and has become a forum for cooperation and coordination among member states at the Working Level.

MILAN has been another successful initiative by the Indian Navy for promoting engagements at the regional level. It is conducted biennially. Last MILAN 2018 saw participation of 16 Navies and included a joint multi-lateral exercise at sea for the first time, under this construct. The next MILAN is scheduled to be conducted at Visakhapatnam in March 2020 and I am given to understand that around 30 countries would participate.

Coastal security continues to receive its due impetus. Several exercises and operations are conducted throughout the year, which helped in bringing multiple Government agencies together, which inter-alia include the Indian Coast Guard and Coastal Security Group of Tamil Nadu, whilst consolidating the best practices. As a result of these efforts, our readiness to secure our coastal and offshore regions has improved considerably.

The Government of India has announced plans to take our country's economy on a trajectory to be a 5 trillion Dollar economy by 2024. In this context, development of the Blue Economy has tremendous potential in the Indian Ocean Region. It is understood that the Blue Economy worldwide can contribute anywhere from 1% to 4% additional growth to a nation's GDP. The various sectors of Blue Economy include Fisheries, exploration of minerals, marine renewable energy, shipping, port infrastructure and maritime logistics, ship building and ship-repairs. Our Government is investing on all these Blue Economy sectors. This places additional responsibilities on our maritime agencies and the task of security of these assets falls primarily on the Indian Navy.

I recall distinctly what former Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sushil Kumar had said in a public address at Nagpur in 2012: "The Indian Navy is the Prima Donna of the Indian Ocean".

Admiral Sushil Kumar had a fine strategic brain. He had led the Naval Operations during the Kargil conflict, that actually proved the strength of his words.

However, we are missing Admiral Sushil Kumar this Navy Day since he passed away just a few days ago. But the Indian Navy boasts of a fine succession of great leaders who converted it into a formidable force earning respect the world over.

Ladies and gentlemen, due to the high levels of professionalism and commitment displayed by our men and women, the Navy is resolutely marching ahead on the path of progress and Victory in war if the need arises. In addition to safeguarding our national maritime interests and shaping a positive maritime environment in the Indian Ocean Region, naval personnel are also excelling in various other fields to keep the national flag flying high.

On this auspicious day, I once again wish the Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Naval Area, all the very best; and as all mariners of the world say, I wish the Indian Navy "Fair Winds, Following Seas and many a fathom below the keel".

On this occasion, RADM K J Kumar, FOTNA, Nawab Mohammed Abdul Ali, Prince of Arcot, Mrs Asha Kumar, Begum Saheba Sayeeda Abdul Ali and other dignitaries participated.

Raj Bhavan, Chennai – 22

Sd/-

Date : 04.12.2019

Addl. Director (PR)