

Press Release

Visit of Indian Navy's Western Fleet to Bahrain – Strengthening Maritime Security and Bilateral Ties

Three ships from Western Fleet of the Indian Navy, under the command of Rear Admiral Rahul Vilas Gokhale, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet, made a port call at Manama, Bahrain, from 8 – 11 Sep 25. The ships, INS Mormugao, INS Tarkash and INS Tabar reaffirmed the strong and growing partnership between India and the Kingdom of Bahrain, and underscored India's steadfast commitment to regional maritime security under its vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

During the visit, FOCWF held extensive one-on-one discussions with Vice Admiral George Wikoff, Commander US Naval Forces Central Command (USNAVCENT) and Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). The dialogue focused on enhancing operational coordination, information sharing, and capacity-building initiatives in the Arabian Gulf and broader Western Indian Ocean region. FOCWF also engaged with senior officers of the Bahrain Defence Force and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, highlighting the growing convergence of interests between India and Bahrain in the maritime domain.

A reception was also hosted onboard the Indian Naval warships to commemorate the visit. The event was attended by dignitaries from the Kingdom of Bahrain, members of the diplomatic community, Commander USNAVCENT, representatives of CMF nations, and defence officials. In his welcome address, FOCWF underscored the Indian Navy's vital role in ensuring maritime safety and stability across the Arabian Sea, the Gulf, and the wider Indian Ocean Region. He highlighted India's active participation in CMF operations, anti-piracy patrols, and humanitarian missions, emphasizing the Navy's role as a net security provider. The Chargé d'affaires from Embassy of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain, spoke of the deep-rooted civilizational and cultural ties between India and Bahrain, and how defence and security cooperation has become a vital pillar of this historic friendship. He underlined India's commitment to working closely with Bahrain and CMF partners to secure sea lanes of communication and safeguard global commerce.

A major highlight of the visit was the professional training imparted by Indian Naval officers and sailors to members of the Bahrain Defence Force and CMF personnel. The sessions included practical demonstrations and best practices in areas such as boarding operations, damage control, and shipboard safety procedures. The training was well received and further

demonstrated India's willingness to share expertise for the common goal of regional stability.

India and Bahrain share a multifaceted relationship anchored in shared history, cultural linkages, and people-to-people ties. Defence and maritime security cooperation form an increasingly important dimension of this partnership. The visit of the Western Fleet ships not only strengthened India's bilateral engagement with Bahrain but also reinforced its multilateral cooperation with CMF and partners committed to upholding the safety of international waters.

The Western Fleet's visit to Bahrain was marked by strong diplomatic outreach, operational cooperation, and constructive engagement with regional and international partners. The goodwill generated during the visit will further consolidate India's strategic footprint in the region and contribute to the collective efforts for peace, stability, and security in the maritime domain.