

**HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
WINDHOEK**

PRESS RELEASE

An Indian Navy ship, **INS Tarkash**, will be making a Port Call at Walvis Bay from June 15-18, 2017. INS Tarkash is a part of the Western Fleet of Indian Navy, which is based in Mumbai under the Western Naval Command, and is currently on a two month long overseas deployment in the Atlantic Ocean and the Western Indian Ocean.

INS Tarkash is a 'Stealth' Frigate commissioned into the Indian Navy on 09 Nov 2012. The ship gets its name from a Sanskrit word meaning a "Quiver" of arrows. Tarkash is truly a "Quiver" of a high density of weapons and sensors manned by its highly motivated crew, making her one of the most potent platforms of the Indian Navy. The ship carries cutting-edge weaponry which includes Supersonic Anti-ship missiles, advanced Surface-to-Air missiles, 100 mm Medium Range Gun, Close-in Weapon System, Anti-Submarine and Anti-Ship Torpedoes and Rocket Launchers. The INS Tarkash has total 30 officers and 250 sailors onboard.

The port call by INS Tarkash at Walvis Bay is a demonstration of India's warm ties with Namibia and its commitment to the maritime security in the region and its solidarity with friendly countries. India and Namibia have very close and cordial political and diplomatic relations. The visits of President Dr. Hage G. Geingob to India in October 2015 for the India Africa Forum Summit meeting, and of President Pranab Mukherjee to Namibia in June 2016 have given a fresh impetus to the bilateral relations. Both countries are continually strengthening their ties in various other fields, including economic, culture, defence, etc. A number of bilateral agreements for co-operation and exchange exist between the two nations. Trade between India and Namibia is growing steadily. A MoU for defence cooperation between India and Namibia was signed in 2009 during the visit of former President Pohamba to India.

Indian Naval assets have been increasingly deployed in recent times to address the main maritime concerns of the region, including piracy off the coast of Somalia. In addition, the Indian Navy has also been involved in assisting countries in the Indian Ocean Region with Hydrographic Survey, Search and Rescue, EEZ Surveillance and other such capacity-building and capability-enhancement activities. During the Operation Rahat launched in April 2015, INS Tarkash helped evacuate stranded Indian citizens and foreign nationals from Yemen.

INS Tarkash along with three other warships of the Indian navy, namely INS Mumbai, INS Trishul and INS Aditya earlier visited several other countries in the region and had friendly engagements with the navies concerned. Before arriving in Walvis Bay, INS Tarkash had made port calls in United Kingdom (where it participated in training exercises with the Royal Navy), Portugal, Morocco, Nigeria and Angola.

During its visit to Walvis Bay, the Commanding Officer is expected to pay courtesy calls on the local leaders including senior defence officers of Namibia to discuss bilateral cooperation. The officers and sailors of the Indian warship will also have interaction with the Namibian Navy, including friendly basketball and volleyball matches which would go a long way in enhancing co-operation and understanding between the two navies. The ship will be open for visit by Namibian public from 9 a.m. to 12 am on June 17.
