

**High Commission of India
Windhoek**

Media Release

**Goodwill Visit by Indian Naval Ship INS Sumedha to Walvis Bay Port from 10-13
November 2023.**

In the spirit of longstanding and friendly ties between India and Namibia, an Indian Naval Ship, INS Sumedha, will be making a Port Call at Walvis Bay from November 10-13, 2023. This will be the fourth visit by an Indian Naval Ship to Namibia in recent years, as INS Tarkash had visited Walvis Bay in 2017, 2019 and 2022. The visit is aimed at further strengthening diplomatic relations, expanding professional and operational ties between the two navies and enhancing maritime co-operation.

INS Sumedha, commanded by Commander MC Chandeeep, is an indigenously designed and built Saryu class Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel (NOPV). Commissioned in March 2014, INS Sumedha is an integral part of India's Eastern Fleet. It has undertaken various Fleet operations, coastal and offshore patrolling, ocean surveillance, defence of offshore oil installations and escorting high value ships, including a 120 days deployment in the anti-piracy role in the Gulf of Aden. The Ship can be deployed in multiple roles such as Combat roles, search and rescue (SAR) roles, Patrol and Presence Showing Missions and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) missions.

INS Sumedha has undertaken numerous operational tasks varying from independent deployments, operations with Eastern Fleet, EEZ surveillance of friendly foreign nations and various port calls at Singapore, Male, Colombo, Djibouti, Salalah, Padang, Ho Chi Minh City, Bali, Fremantle, Sabang, Abu Dhabi, Algiers, Port Sudan, Jeddah, Port Suez, Lagos and Luanda as part of goodwill visits. In its current journey, Sumedha would be arriving in Namibia from Angola.

India and Namibia share strong ties that are rooted in solidarity, shared concerns and mutual support. The bilateral engagement continues to expand to areas of interest and contemporary relevance, including defence and security. The current port call by INS Sumedha 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.

During its visit to Walvis Bay, the Commanding Officer of INS Sumedha is scheduled to pay courtesy calls on Hon'ble Governor of Erongo region and His Worship the Mayor of Walvis Bay and hold discussions with senior Naval officers. Friendly interactions, exchanges and goodwill activities are planned between the officers and sailors of INS Sumedha and their Namibian counterparts to further enhance co-operation, understanding and best practices between the two navies. Yoga session on the ship with participation from members of Namibian Navy, Yoga and meditation practice sessions in Walvis Bay and Swakopmund, tree plantation at Naraville, Ship visits etc. are scheduled during the visit.
