

Around the world in 254 days, all-women crew of INSV Tarini returns home



A crew consisting of only women members which commanded INSV Tarini returned to Goa on Tuesday after achieving success in circumnavigating the globe in a 55-foot sailboat during past more than eight months. Remarkably, this happens to be the first Indian expedition executed only by women sailors.

On return of the crew, defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba remained present to welcome it at INS Mandovi boat pool in Panaji. The 'Navika Sagar Parikrama' expedition was flagged off on September 10. This expedition called the 'Navika Sagar Parikrama' was initiated on September 10 last year. Sitharaman regarded this amazing journey in the form of an expedition as a historic one and stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would meet the six members of the crew in Delhi on Wednesday.

The crew was led by Lieutenant Commander Vartika Joshi, and it comprised of commanders Pratibha Jamwal and Swati P, lieutenants Aishwarya Boddapati, S Vijaya Devi and Payal Gupta. Together they covered a total of 21,980 nautical miles in INSV Tarini, admitted into the Indian Navy on February 18 last year. After meeting the crew back home, Sitharaman said that, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi kept a tab on what is going on (with Navika Sagar Parikrama). Occasionally, he also directly spoke to them and kept the nation's motivation and interest on.?"

She said it was just not only her pleasure to welcome them but she truly felt honoured and humbled on the great achievement of those six women. She praised all of them for creating a history by saying that, "By the grace of God and the grit and courage that the girls have shown, they are back home to join all of us, having made history." Adding to her words of praise for the crew, she said that, "the feat is not about girls' achievement, it is (about) youngsters from India achieving and it is a whole motivation for the youth. The women of the country have shown to youngsters that if they want to do something they can do it indeed".