

Indian-Vietnamese navies team up for joint naval exercise



With a goal to strengthen military ties with Vietnam, and henceforth other nations in the Asia Pacific, the Indian Navy has declared to hold its first-ever naval exercise with its Vietnamese counterparts next week.

With an eye on China, three Indian Navy warships – the stealth frigate INS Sahyadri, missile corvette INS Kamorta and fleet tanker INS Shakti, are en route towards Vietnam and will be entering the Tien Sa Port (Danang) on Monday. The naval trip is a part of an ongoing operational deployment of its Eastern Fleet ships to Southeast Asia and Northwest Pacific regions and after completing the harbour phase, there will be a joint naval exercise. Indian Navy and Vietnam have agreed upon conducting first-ever joint naval exercise from between May 21 and May 25 this year. During the exercise, there would be professional interaction between personnel of both the navies, official calls and interaction with dignitaries of the Vietnamese government.

For India, this visit and naval exercise will give a booster to maritime cooperation between the two Navies and will further bolster the strong bonds of friendship between the two countries and contribute to security and stability in the region. This naval exercise will also help to build bonds of friendship between the two countries and contribute to security and stability in the region and the world at large. To affirm India's friendship on a serious note, Indian defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman will be visiting Vietnam in June to strengthen bilateral military ties. With this, it is necessary to mention that the chief of general staff of the Vietnam People's Army and the commander-in chief of Vietnam People's Navy are will also be visiting India later on this year.

India is ready to train Vietnamese fighter pilots to fly the Sukhoi-30 fighter jets, similar to what it has been doing for sailors from Vietnam by teaching the complex art of operating Kilo-class submarines since the past four years. At the same time, India has come forward for defence cooperation, which includes expansion in military visits and exercises along with training and technology-sharing, with many Southeast Asian countries like Singapore, Myanmar, Malaysia and Indonesia – to counter China.