Navika Sagar Parikrama II: India’s Bold Maritime Expedition

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The **Navika Sagar Parikrama II** is a pioneering maritime expedition undertaken by the Indian Navy, featuring two women officers, **Lieutenant Commanders Roopa A and Dilna K**, who are circumnavigating the globe aboard the **Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini**. This ambitious journey, flagged off on **October 2, 2024**, from **INS Mandovi in Goa**, aims to cover approximately **23,400 nautical miles** over an **eight-month period**, with an expected return in **May 2025**.

Expedition Route and Milestones

The circumnavigation follows a route with planned stops at four major ports:

- **Fremantle, Australia**
- **Lyttelton, New Zealand**
- **Port Stanley, Falkland Islands**
- **Cape Town, South Africa**

INSV Tarini successfully reached **Fremantle, Western Australia**, on **November 9, 2024**, after a 39-day voyage covering **4,900 nautical miles**. The crew was warmly received by dignitaries, including the **Consul General of India in Perth** and representatives from the **Royal Australian Navy**.

A significant milestone was achieved when INSV Tarini **crossed Point Nemo on January 30, 2025, at 12:30 PM (IST)**. Point Nemo, also known as the **“Graveyard of Spacecraft”**, is the most remote location on Earth, situated at **48°53′S 123°24′W**. The Spanish research vessel **Hesperides** was the first to reach this location in **1999**. This achievement marks an extraordinary feat in maritime history.

The all-female crew of the INSV Tarini embarked on a journey to traverse **40,000 kilometres**, accomplishing a courageous feat in the **Pacific Ocean** by reaching a destination previously deemed unimaginable. The officers **recently completed the third leg of their journey**, navigating a remote stretch of the **South Pacific Ocean spanning 2,688 kilometres**, near **Ducie Island**, the nearest landmass.

Scientific Collaborations and Objectives

Beyond the sailing endeavor, **Navika Sagar Parikrama II** contributes to scientific

research in collaboration with various institutions:

- **National Institute of Oceanography**: Studying marine microplastics and ferrous content in the seas.
- **Wildlife Institute of India**: Exploring marine megafauna, including large sea mammals.
- **Defence Food Research Laboratory**: Providing customized pre-cooked Indian meals suitable for long voyages.
- **Sagar Defence**: Supplying drones to capture visuals of the entire voyage.

These collaborations aim to enhance understanding of marine ecosystems and support sustainable practices.

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Extreme Challenges and Feats of Engineering

The **Indian Navy's Navika Sagar Parikrama** is currently in its **second edition**, showcasing a remarkable feat of maritime engineering. **INSV Tarini**, a **17-metre-long and 5-metre-wide** sailing vessel, is undertaking this expedition **solely powered by wind propulsion**, with **no engine or external support**. The crew must navigate high seas and extreme weather conditions, covering more than **21,600 nautical miles (over 40,000 kilometres)**.

During the entire journey, the **equator must be crossed at least twice**. In **2017**, six women officers from the Navy successfully completed a similar circumnavigation.

The Significance of Point Nemo

Point Nemo is renowned for its **extreme remoteness**. The closest human presence is often the astronauts aboard the **International Space Station**, orbiting **400 kilometres overhead**. It is also known as the **"spacecraft cemetery"**, a designated location where **decommissioned spacecraft** are deliberately deposited at the end of their operational lives. **NASA's International Space Station** is planned to be **decommissioned in early 2031**, culminating in a controlled de-orbit into this oceanic graveyard.

Legacy and Impact

Navika Sagar Parikrama II builds upon the legacy of **India's first all-women circumnavigation** undertaken by the Indian Navy in **2017-18**. This expedition showcases the **capabilities and resilience** of women officers in maritime operations while emphasizing **India's commitment to gender equality** in the armed forces. It serves as an **inspiration** to future generations and marks a historic milestone in **India's**

maritime achievements.

As the expedition progresses, it continues to garner admiration, symbolizing a significant stride in maritime history and **women’s empowerment** in the Indian Navy.

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