

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

I.N.SHIPS' GOODWILL CRUISE TO EAST AFRICA

New Delhi, May 22. - INS DELHI, Flagship of the Indian Naval Squadron accompanied by the three Destroyers INS RAJPUT, RANJIT, and RANA and three Frigates INS JUMNA, CAUVERY and SUTLEJ will sail from Bombay on May 31, on a six-week goodwill cruise to East Africa and Madagascar.

En route the seven ships, under the command of Rear-Admiral G. Barnard, Rear Admiral Commanding the Indian Naval Squadron, will visit Cochin. Admiral Sir Edward Parry, C-in-C, I.M. and Air Commodore Arjun Singh, Air Officer Commanding, IAF Operational Command are also expected to take passage on board INS DELHI as far as Cochin where they will disembark on June 3.

Leaving Cochin on 5th June the I.N.Squadron will first call at Mombasa on 14th June and remain there for about a week. The three Frigates INS JUMNA, CAUVERY and SUTLEJ under the command of Captain B.S.Soman will visit Seychelles Islands on the 10th before calling at Mombasa. Sailing from Mombasa on June 21, INS DELHI and the Frigates will arrive on the following day at Dar-es-Salam where they will remain till about the 26th. From Dar-es-Salam, INS DELHI will sail for Diego Suarez (Madagascar) for a four-day visit from 30th June to July 4, while the Frigates will proceed to Lindi. In the meanwhile the three Destroyers, INS RAJPUT, RANJIT and RANA under the command of Captain A.Chakraverti will visit Tanga and Mikindani on East African coast.

The seven ships of the Squadron will meet again on 6th July before proceeding to Addu Atoll off Maldives in the Indian Ocean where they will anchor on July 10th. On completion of the cruise INS DELHI will return to Bombay on July 21st while the Destroyers and the Frigates will arrive at Cochin on the 20th.

A warm welcome, it is understood, awaits the I.N.Squadron at East Africa where receptions and sports fixtures are being organised for the officers and men of the I.N.Squadron.