

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

COMBINED NAVAL - AIR EXERCISES  
MINISTERS AND M.Ps TO WITNESS

New Delhi, September 2, 1962  
Bhadra 11, 1884

Nine ships of the Indian Navy, including the Flagship INS VIKRANT, and a number of aircraft of the Navy and the Air Force, will carry out combined air-sea exercises in the Arabian Sea from September 11 to 15. To be held under the tactical command of Vice-Admiral B.S. Soman, Chief of the Naval Staff, the exercises will be conducted by Rear-Admiral A.K. Chatterji, Flag Officer Commanding the Indian Fleet, their main aim being to exercise surface and air forces in maritime operations.

A number of dignitaries, including some Central and State Ministers, Members of Parliament and senior Service and civilian officers, are expected to be embarked in the ships of the Fleet during this period.

The exercising Fleet will comprise, in addition to the VIKRANT, about six anti-submarine and anti-aircraft frigates, which were recently acquired by the Navy, a destroyer and smaller craft. The aircraft taking part are the Seahawk jets and Alizes of the VIKRANT, the Fireflies of INS GARUDA, the Navy's Air Station situated at Cochin, and the Liberators and Hunters of the Air Force.

The exercises will commence with the ships' departure from Cochin on Sept. 11 and terminate on their arrival at Bombay on Sept. 15.

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