

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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NEW NAVAL COMMAND - SOUTHERN NAVAL AREA UPGRADED

New Delhi:- Kartika 4, 1899  
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The Government has approved the upgradation of the Southern Naval Area of the Indian Navy with its Headquarters at Cochin, to the status of a full-fledged Naval command at par with the Western and Eastern Naval Commands. Rear Admiral, VEC Barboza, who was earlier Flag Officer Commanding Southern Naval Area, has been promoted Vice Admiral and reappointed as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command.

The Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command, as he will now be called, is responsible for operations in a maritime area stretching South from approximately the Latitude of Goa and West from the Palk Straits. Within this jurisdiction lie the Lakshadweep group of islands, as well as the major East-West shipping routes to and from the Gulf countries and to Europe through the Suez Canal.

The Southern Naval Command is responsible for providing basic and specialist training facilities for officers and sailors of the Navy. Basic training for officers is imparted at the Naval Academy established in Cochin a few years ago. Specialist training for officers and sailors of the Seaman

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Branch is imparted at the various schools also established in Cochin. Cochin is the home port for the Training Squadron of the Navy, which comprises of a cruiser and three Frigates.

The Southern Naval Command is also the parent Command for naval aviation. The two major naval air bases at Cochin and Goa are located within the jurisdiction of this Command, which in addition to the operational aviation aspects, meets in full the requirements of maintenance and shore support for the several types of aircraft of the Navy.

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