

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

.....

PRESIDENT TO REVIEW NAVAL FLEET

New Delhi, Magha 13, 1905
February 02, 1984

The President, Shri Zail Singh who is also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, will Review the ships of the Navy at Bombay on February 12, 1984. Fleet Reviews are held periodically and this is the fourth such Review since India became a Republic.

Assembled will be 46 men-of-war from the Navy and ships from the Coast Guard, the Department of Ocean Development, rigs from the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and vessels of ^{the} Indian merchant marine. These will be formed in eight lines, A to H.

Amongst the naval ships lined up will be the indigenously designed and built frigate, INS Godavari and other vessels including the recently acquired Kashin class guided missile destroyers, IN Ships Rajput, Rana and Ranjit. The flag of Admiral O. S. Dawson, Chief of the Naval Staff will fly on INS Vikrant, the recently modernised air-craft carrier.

The Fleet Air Arm which was formed in 1953 has completed three decades of service and the Fleet Review will also include a fly-past by naval aircraft. Leading the flypast will be the versatile Sea Harriers which arrived in India in December 1983. The other aircraft include IL-38's, Islanders, Alizes, Kirans, Sea Kings, Kamovs and Alouettes. In addition one Fokker Friendship F-27 aircraft of the Coast Guard will also participate in the flypast.

.....2/-

A Fleet Review begins with a formal reception of the President, firing of the 31 gun salute and an inspection of the President's Guard of Honour. Thereafter, the President embarks in a special barge to review the assembled fleet. All the upper decks of the ships are manned by the sailors of each ship in their formal uniform dress. As the Presidential barge passes each ship, the entire ship's company raise their caps and offer their greetings with three lusty roars of "Rashtrapati-ki-Jai". This is followed by the flypast by helicopters and aircraft of the Air-Arm.

In the evening there is "beating retreat" and the ceremonial lowering of the Flag, at the precise moment of sunset. This is followed by a synchronised lighting up of the fleet. Thereafter, once the sky has darkened completely the ships end the evening with a firework display to embellish the occasion.

CUB/HCP