

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
(GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)

PRESIDENT TO REVIEW NAVAL FLEET

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The President, Shri R. Venkataraman who is also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, will review the ships of the Navy at Bombay on February 15, 1989. Fleet Reviews are held periodically and this is the fifth such Review since India became a Republic.

A fleet of over 80 ships and 12,000 officers and men would participate in the Presidential Review on Wednesday. The most remarkable aspect of the review would be that of the presence of the Indian-made frigates and destroyers including nine warships built by Mazagon Dock Ltd.

The large fleet participating represents the country's entire maritime power, including the Navy, the Coast Guard, the Merchant Marine, the Institute of Oceanography and Naval Dockyard. On completion of the Review of Ships when Shri R. Venkataraman disemarks from his yacht, a flypast of over 35 Naval Aircraft will be presented to him. Sea Harriers, IL 38S, TU142 M, Alizes, Dorniers, Kirans, F 27S, Islanders, Kamoves and Chetaks will all participate in the flypast.

The flag of Admiral JG Nadkarni, Chief of the Naval Staff will fly in INS Viraat, the second Aircraft Carrier of the Indian Navy. Apart from the Chief of the Naval Staff, the Flag Officers Commanding-in-Chief, Western, Eastern and Southern Naval Commands and the Fleet Commanders of West and East also will be flying their flags and will be positioned in the 7th row of the

line-up in the order of their seniority. The fleet will be formed in eight lines A to H.

A Fleet Review begins with a formal reception of the President, firing of the 21 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 ceremonial 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.

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.

TK/VNS