

PASSAGE EXERCISE (PASSEX) BETWEEN RUSSIAN FEDERATION NAVY AND INDIAN NAVY IN EASTERN INDIAN OCEAN REGION

Relevant for: International Relations | Topic: India - Russia

The Indian Navy (*IN*) is undertaking a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Russian Federation Navy (RuFN) in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region (IOR) from 4 to 5 December 2020. The exercise involves participation of RuFN guided missile cruiser *Varyag*, large anti-submarine ship *AdmiralPanteleyev* and medium ocean tanker *Pechenga*. *IN* is being represented by indigenously constructed guided missile frigate *Shivalik* and anti-submarine corvette *Kadmatt* along with integral helicopters.

The exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability, improving understanding and imbibing best practices between both the friendly navies, and would involve advanced surface and anti-submarine warfare exercises, weapon firings, seamanship exercises and helicopter operations.

PASSEXs are conducted regularly by *IN* with units of friendly foreign navies, whilst visiting each other's ports or during a rendezvous at sea. This exercise, being conducted in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region, reflects the strong long-term strategic relationship between the two countries and particularly, defence cooperation in the maritime domain.

This exercise is being conducted on the occasion of 'Navy Day' of the *IN* on 4th December, which emphasizes the strong bonds of friendship shared between the two friendly militaries. This PASSEX would be another step towards strengthening Indo-Russian defence relations. The two navies have built a robust relationship through regular exercises such as INDRA Navy conducted biennially, with the last edition held in the Northern Indian Ocean Region from 4 to 5 September 2020.



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