

*\*\*\*\*\*Remarks for 'On-Deck' Reception of INS Teg\*\*\*\*\**

**President of the Court of Appeal, Justice Antony Fernando,**

**Principal Minister, Jean-Fracois Ferrari,**

**Foreign and Tourism Minister, Sylvestre Radegonde.**

**Minister Rangasamy, Minister Vidot, Minister  
Horeau,Minster Joubert,**

**Chief of Defence Forces, Major General Michael Rosette,**

**Dean and fellow members of the Diplomatic Corps,**

**Commanding Officer of INS Teg, Capt Vikas Guleria**

**Senior functionaries of Government of Seychelles,**

**Friends from the Indian diaspora,**

**Members of the media,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Bonsoir

I, along with the Commanding Officer of INS Teg, Captain Vikas Guleria, welcome you all on board INS Teg. Your presence here reinforces the deep and cordial bonds of the India-Seychelles relationship.

INS Teg is making this port call on an auspicious occasion, the 49<sup>th</sup> National Day of Seychelles. In participating in the National Day celebrations, with warm wishes from the people of India, the ship is continuing a tradition that began when Seychelles gained her independence, when INS Nilgiri participated in the first national day of Seychelles in 1976.

**Distinguished guests,**

India and Seychelles enjoy cordial ties. Buttressed by strong political relations, our defence and security ties are robust. This engagement is mutually beneficial as both our countries are part of the Indian Ocean Region and we face the traditional and non-traditional maritime challenges together.

INS Teg arrives in Seychelles in the backdrop of an uptick in bilateral maritime cooperation. This is the fifth visit of an Indian ship to Seychelles this year. Earlier in February, India was proud and happy to hand over Patrol Boat Bouduese to the Seychelles Coast Guard. The hydrography teams of both countries had a productive meeting in Dehradun earlier this month. Just prior the visit of INS Teg, Indian Ocean Ship Sagar visited Seychelles. As we recall, this was a special mission, aligned with India's vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR). Among its crew were 44 from friendly foreign navies and among them, 4 proud Seychellois members from the SDF. The visit strengthened synergies between India and African partner nations, as we collectively navigate challenges such as IUU fishing, piracy, drug and human trafficking, among others.

The port call of INS Teg carries forward this momentum and is marked by several positive developments of its own! The vessel has brought a consignment of spares for Seychelles Defence Forces, which would add to the longevity of the naval assets. Her marching contingent as well as the on-board helicopter will participate in the National Day celebrations tomorrow. INS Teg will also undertake joint surveillance of the Seychelles EEZ along with the SDF. A team of motorcyclists from the Indian army will add to the fun and frolic!

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As part of the Indian Ocean region and dependent on the Indian Ocean, maritime security and promotion of maritime economy is crucial for both India and Seychelles. Recent events have amply demonstrated that the IOR faces several challenges to maritime security. Events in West Asia and other places directly effect the IOR. Non-traditional threats like IUU fishing, drug and human trafficking, and climate change, remain of high concern. All these have to be handled by like-minded partners and friendly countries together.

As we transition from SAGAR outlook to the MAHASAGAR or (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) vision, India's maritime strives towards maintenance of IOR, and the indo-pacific region as a free, open and inclusive space, based on the UN Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS). To achieve this goal, it is India's effort to develop an Indian Ocean community that is stable and prosperous, strong and resilient, and which is able to cooperate closely.

Further, fully aware of the regional dimension of the issue, and the importance of Seychelles in the same, Indian Navy ships and personnel, joined their Seychellois counterparts, in participating, in recent years in the US led Ex Cutlass Express, the French headed IONS Maritime Exercise and the CMFs exercises. Earlier in June, back in India, the EUNAVFOR ATALANTA participated in an exercise involving INS TRIKAND, alongside two frigates from the EUNAVFOR , ANTONIO MARCEGLIA and the Spanish ship REINA SOFIA. The Seychelles based RCOC and the IFC-IOR in India have a MOU for cooperation. We remain committed for regional cooperation.

**Distinguished guests,**

To conclude, we firmly believe that the robust defence and security ties between India and Seychelles, as two responsible and important partners enhances the net security in the region. These synergies will strengthen regional security and augment interoperability between friendly navies to mitigate the ever increasing maritime challenges. I am confident that the visit of INS Teg will further the same.

I would once again like to thank the Government of Seychelles (including the port authorities), Major General Rosette and the Seychelles Defence Forces for their invaluable assistance for the visit of INS Teg .

I also take this opportunity to thank Commanding Officer and tireless crew of INS Teg for organizing this deck reception.

Please enjoy the evening.

Merci Beaucoup!

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