

INS Sandhayak Makes Maiden Port Call at Port Klang, Malaysia
16 – 19 July 2025

India's indigenously designed and constructed hydrographic survey vessel, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sandhayak, made its maiden port call at Port Klang, Malaysia, from 16 to 19 July 2025, marking the first visit by an Indian hydrographic ship to Malaysia.

The landmark visit reinforced the growing hydrographic cooperation between the Indian Navy and the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN). During the visit, officers and crew of INS Sandhayak interacted with counterparts at Malaysia's National Hydrographic Centre (NHC) and paid a courtesy call-on to the Director General of NHC, Rear Admiral Dato' Hanafiah bin Hassan.

INS Sandhayak hosted 13 officers from the Royal Malaysian Navy, who are alumni of India's National Institute of Hydrography (NIH), Goa, for an interactive session on board, further cementing bonhomie between the two professional navies. NIH is a premier hydrographic training institution that trains both Indian and foreign naval personnel.

A series of Subject Matter Expert (SME) exchanges onboard the ship facilitated professional interactions and sharing of hydrographic technologies and best practices, enhancing mutual understanding and interoperability. The visit concluded with a friendly volleyball match between teams from INS Sandhayak and the NHC.

Well apart from the official engagements, the ship also welcomed students from the Global Indian International School (GIIS), who were briefed on the science of hydrography and the ship's specialized survey equipment.

On 17 July, Captain N Dheeraj, Commanding Officer of INS Sandhayak, and the High Commission of India in Malaysia co-hosted an onboard reception, attended by dignitaries from the Royal Malaysian Navy, diplomatic corps, Malaysian defence industry, and the Indian diaspora. First Admiral Dato' Roslee bin Mohamad Isa, Assistant Chief of Staff Naval Intelligence, RMN, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his address, he warmly welcomed INS Sandhayak to Malaysia highlighting the bonhomie and enhanced cooperation between the two Navies. Ms Subhashini Narayanan, Deputy High Commissioner of India to Malaysia, congratulated INS Sandhayak on its maiden overseas trip and in her address, outlined the robust domestic defence manufacturing capabilities of Indian defence industry.

Commissioned in February 2024, INS Sandhayak is the first of the Sandhayak-class vessels built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE). Equipped for coastal and deep-water surveys, oceanographic data collection, and humanitarian operations, the ship represents a key capability of the Indian Naval Hydrographic Department (INHD).

This visit underscores India's commitment to regional maritime cooperation and supports the vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) through sustained hydrographic collaboration and capacity building.

PHOTOS : PRESS RELEASE

