



INS Valsura

Why in News?

Recently, the President of India presented the **prestigious President's Colour to INS** (Indian Naval Ship) **Valsura**.

What does the President's Colour mean?

- It is the **highest award bestowed on a military unit** in India in recognition of its exceptional services to the nation.
 - Out of the three defence forces, the [Indian Navy](#) was the **first Indian Armed Force to be awarded the President Colour by [Dr. Rajendra Prasad](#) in 1951.**
- **The Tradition:** The origin of Colours in the military **is as old as the service itself**. In ancient India, the armies of various Kings carried the '**Dhwaj**' or the flag whenever it went into a battle.
 - The same is also true for the military traditions of ancient **Egypt or Rome** where the armies carried flags and the 'Roman Eagle' into battle.
 - In India, as well as many Commonwealth nations, the **tradition of Colours has been drawn from the British Army.**
 - Traditionally, there have been **four kinds of symbols associated with Colours** —Standards, Guidons, Colours and Banners.
 - The Infantry regiments, army establishments, and Naval and Air Force units are all awarded Colours by the President while the Armoured Regiments are awarded the Standards.
 - The battle honours of the regiments are displayed on the Colours and therefore **serve as a link to the regiment's past.**
 - The only exception is the **Regiment of Artillery**. In Artillery, the **guns are considered to be the Colours** and losing a gun in battle is similar to losing the Colour of the entire regiment.

What is INS Valsura?

- **History:** The name "Valsura" **was derived from the combination of two Tamil words, 'Vaal'** (meaning sword) and '**Sorrah**' (shark). It was considered appropriate due to the variety of **swordfish** found off the **coast of Saurashtra**.
 - Swordfish was also the name of the famous Second World War **torpedo-carrying aircraft.**
 - The unit was commissioned as a **torpedo training school during [World War II](#) to enhance the capability of the Indian Royal Navy.**
 - The establishment was commissioned on 15th December, 1942 by then **Maharani Gulab Kunverba Sahiba of Nawanagar**. After Independence, HMIS Valsura was **renamed as INS Valsura** on 1st July, 1950.
- **Remarkable Outreach Activity:** In the aftermath of the **devastating earthquake in Gujarat**, Valsura performed a remarkable 'Outreach' activity.
 - It played an important role in the restoration of the earthquake-ravaged Moda village and

the **construction of a new Navy Moda village** in record time.

- This achievement was recognised by the Navy when the **Special Unit Citation** was bestowed on the unit in December 2001, an honour **normally reserved for operational units**.

▪ **Current Status of INS Valsura:** The unit imparts **quality training on contemporary and niche technologies** through progressive augmentation of training infrastructure.

- The setting up of **Artificial Intelligence**, Big Data, and Medium Voltage labs in recent years exemplify its quest for technological excellence in contemporary technology and also in training officers and sailors.
- INS Valsura has **also emerged as the preferred training destination for Friendly Foreign Navies**.
- INS Valsura has also **helped India strengthen bilateral ties with countries in the [Indian Ocean region](#)**.

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