



Indian Navy Day 2023

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Why in News?

Recently, the [Prime Minister \(PM\)](#) of India declared on [Indian Navy Day](#) 2023 a government decision to eliminate the colonial military legacy by revealing that designations within the Indian Navy would be revamped to align with Indian cultural roots.

- PM also paid tributes to [Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj](#), and unveiled a grand statue of the 17th century Maratha king at the coastal fort of Sindhugarh, Maharashtra.

What are the Announcements Made on Navy Day?

- **Symbolic Epaulettes and Indigenous Maritime Values:**
 - The PM mentioned that the **epaulettes** (ornamental shoulder pieces denoting rank) **adorned by Naval officers** would now feature the **emblem** of Shivaji Maharaj's army.
 - He connected the Naval flag with the **heritage of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**, emphasizing the inspiration drawn from the historical figure.
 - The PM reiterated Shivaji Maharaj's belief in the **power of controlling the seas** and credited the Navy for embodying this principle.
 - Aligning with the Prime Minister's call to discard the colonial mindset, **the Navy adopted a new ensign in 2022 inspired by the legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.**



INDIAN NAVY DAY

A tribute to Indian Navy for a successful 'operation trident' in India-Pakistan war of 1971

- **Honoring Naval Warriors and India's Maritime History:**
 - The PM paid tribute to historical naval warriors like **Kanhoji Angre, Mayaji Naik Bhatkar, and Hiroji Indulkar**.
 - Indian Navy has named its training establishment in Lonavla as **INS Shivaji**, and the shore-based logistics and administrative hub of the Western Naval Command, Mumbai, as **INS Angre** — after Kanhoji Angre (1669-1729), the celebrated Maratha naval commander.

What were the Naval Legacies of the Maratha Empire under Shivaji?

- Inspired by conflicts with the **Siddis and observing Portuguese naval strength**, Shivaji emphasized the need for a robust navy and efficient port system. He strategically constructed coastal forts like **Vijaydurg and Sindhudurg** to safeguard against adversaries.
- Under Shivaji's leadership, the Maratha navy flourished, establishing strongholds at **Kolaba, Sindhudurg, Vijaydurg, and Ratnagiri**. Surpassing 500 ships, the Maratha navy successfully thwarted both Portuguese and British advances for over four decades. However, **after Shivaji's death in 1680, the Maratha navy weakened, marking a decline in its power and influence**.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims:

Q. What is “Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)”, sometimes seen in the news? (2018)

- (a) An Israeli radar system
- (b) India’s indigenous anti-missile program
- (c) An American anti-missile system
- (d) A defence collaboration between Japan and South Korea.

Ans: (c)

Q. From which one of the following did India buy the Barak anti-missile defence systems? (2008)

- (a) Israel
- (b) France
- (c) Russia
- (d) USA

Ans: (a)

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