

Indian Navy's All Woman Air crew Creates History

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In news– Recently, **five officers of the Indian Navy's INAS 314** based at Naval Air Enclave, Porbandar, created **history by completing the first all-women independent maritime reconnaissance and surveillance mission** in the North Arabian Sea onboard a **Dornier 228 aircraft**.

Key updates-

- The aircraft was captained by the Mission Commander, Lt Cdr Aanchal Sharma, who had **pilots, Lt Shivangi and Lt Apurva Gite, and Tactical and Sensor Officers, Lt Pooja Panda and SLt Pooja Shekhawat** in her team.
- **INAS 314 is a frontline Naval Air Squadron** based at Porbandar, Gujarat and **operates the state-of-the-art Dornier 228 maritime reconnaissance aircraft**.
- The Indian Navy has been a front-runner in driving transformation in the Armed Forces.
- Its impressive and pioneering women empowerment initiatives include induction of women pilots, selection of women Air Operations Officers into the helicopter stream and **conducting an all-women sailing circumnavigation expedition across the globe in 2018**.
- **This first-of-its-kind military flying mission** was, however, unique and is expected to pave the way for women officers in the aviation cadre to assume greater responsibility and aspire for more challenging roles.
- It perhaps **marks a unique achievement for the Armed Forces that a crew of only women officers undertook an independent operational mission** in a multi-crew maritime surveillance aircraft.
- **Note:** On 2nd December 2019, Sub Lieutenant (SLt) Shivangi created history when she became the first woman

pilot of the Indian Navy, on successful graduation from the course (7th Dornier Conversion Course (DOCC)).