

# Presidential Fleet Review, 2022

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**In news**—The Indian President Ram Nath Kovind took part in the Indian Navy's 12th Presidential Fleet Review in Vishakhapatnam recently.

## **What is Presidential Fleet Review?**

- Historically, a **Fleet Review is an assembly of ships at a pre-designated place** for the purpose of displaying loyalty and allegiance to the Sovereign and the state.
- In turn, the Sovereign, by reviewing the ships, reaffirms his faith in the fleet and its ability to defend the nation's maritime interest.
- It **showcases all types of ships and capabilities the Navy has.**
- **It takes place once under every President**, who is the supreme commander of the armed forces.
- In terms of significance, the **Navy's Presidential review is second only to the Republic Day Parade.**
- The President is taken on one of the Naval ships, which is called the President's Yacht, to look at all the ships docked on one of the Naval ports.
- The **President's Yacht is an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel, INS Sumitra**, which leads the Presidential Column.
- The yacht was distinguished by the Ashoka Emblem on her side and will fly the President's Standard on the Mast.
- The President was given a 21-gun salute before embarking on the yacht.
- The idea is to showcase not all the Navy's ships, but every type of ship – and the kind of capabilities it has at that time.
- The President also reviewed the Indian Naval Air Arm in a display of spectacular fly-past by several helicopters

and fixed-wing aircraft.

- **The vessels included the Navy's latest acquisitions**, and the events included waterfront activities such as Parade of Sails, Search and Rescue Demonstration at Sea, Aerobatics by Hawk aircraft, and Water Para Jumps by the elite Marine Commandos.
- So far, 11 Presidential Fleet Reviews have been conducted since Independence, of which two have been International Fleet Reviews, in 2001 and 2016.
- **The first was conducted in 1953**, under Dr Rajendra Prasad.
- The next one was done not by the President but by the then Defence Minister, Y B Chavan, in 1964. Since then, it has been the President reviewing the fleet.
- **The longest gap between reviews was 12 years** – between 1989 (President R Venkatraman) and 2001 (President K R Narayanan).
- The last one was done in 2016, under President Pranab Mukherjee.
- The reviews in 2001 and 2016 were International Fleet Reviews, in which some vessels from other countries also participated.
- The Indian Navy too has participated in international fleet reviews in other countries, including Australia, America, Malaysia, Indonesia, South Korea, and the UK.