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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Visit of Indian Naval Ships (INS), INS Deepak and INS Tabar to Al-Shuwaikh Port (13-15 September 2015)**

As part of a goodwill visit to strengthen the bilateral relations between India and Kuwait, two Indian Naval Warships INS DEEPAK and INS TABAR have entered Al-Shuwaikh Port on 13 September 2015.

While INS Deepak is a modern fleet tanker designed to be utilized as a fleet support ship, INS Tabar is the latest of the three Talwar class Stealth Frigates. INS Deepak has adequate facility for providing frontline support to fleet ships and has an advanced Integrated Platform Management System which seamlessly integrates auxiliaries and battle damage management of the ship using microprocessor based digital control systems. INS Tabar is one of the frontline combatants of the Western Fleet of the Indian Navy. Her versatility, stealth and enhances sensor / weapon capability makes Tabar an indispensible asset, always ready on call to protect the maritime assets and sovereignty of the Nation.

During their short stay in Kuwait, the ships are scheduled to undertake various professional interactions with their counterparts in the Kuwait Navy, including exercise at Sea. The visit would also include training and sports events between the two navies. The members of the Indian community as well as school children from Indian schools in Kuwait are visiting the ships in large number. This deployment would add to another chapter to the cordial relations between India and Kuwait while enhancing bilateral defence cooperation. The last Goodwill call by Indian Navy was made in 2013, when INS Mysore and INS Tarkash had berthed in Shuwaikh port. Subsequently, INS Mysore revisited Kuwait on three occasions in June/July 2014, to facilitate the possible evacuation of Indian citizens from Iraq. Defence ties between both countries would further strengthen by increased service to service exchanges.

INS Deepak and INS Tabar will leave the Al-Shuwaikh Port on 16 September 2015.

**14 September 2015**