

CLASS 48 REUNION AT INS SHIVAJI

Thanks Giving note delivered by Sant Khanna - 28.11.2018



Cmde K Srinivas, The Commanding Officer, I N S Shivaji, Capt. P C S Belliappa, The Executive Officer, I N S Shivaji, Capt. A K Chakrabarty O/I CMET, Officers, MC ERA Bhatti, Master Chief Saheb, Chief Sahebs Our Young Artificers Apprentices of Class 141, Ladies and my colleagues.

Wish anyone could imagine the feelings, which we 17/18 are going through, want to ask the person sitting next to me to pinch my hand, want to know, am I awake, or having a wonderful dream.

Want to cry, cry out loud to express my happiness (but we were taught that men in uniform never cry and that has gone in our blood.

Short while ago we travelled by bus, a small distance of 10 Kms. but it took ages to reach, once the bus wheeled towards Shivaji, for us time got frozen, wanted to reach as fast as we could... our desire to step in on this Soil, wish to touch our forehead to this on this Holy Land, you name it as I N S Shivaji, we call it as our Janam Bhoomi.

I must have crossed the Main gate N Number of times, on our routine Monsoon family trip to Lonavala. But one incident touched my heart. When my Grand Daughter reminded me by saying "Nanu Your Janam Bhoomi "Each member of our family has deep regards for I N S Shivaji

When we entered here in July 1966, we all were 16/17 yrs young boys, fresh from School/Colleges. Were like peace of iron, which went through the heat of Oven and faced the cutting tools of Lathes, but when we went of this Place as a working Robot with Brain on completion of 4 yrs of tough training.

We had joys, we had fun, we went through class room lecture and handsome workshop grilling and when on board operational ship, we made this institution proud with our performance and the call to duty. We are the proud Warriors of 1971 Indo-Pak war. I was on Board I N S Trishul, the flotilla, which attached Karachi and crippled Pakistan Navy, Blocked Karachi Harbor and was one the factors to bring Pakistan on her Knees. Major part of the credit for this success goes to the Stanford's, Harvard's and Nalandas of Indian Navy, we also call them as Shivaji, Valsura, Garuda, Vishavkarma and others. Once again, we express our gratitude to these institutions.

On completion of our first innings with Navy, some of continued with the Navy on taking commission whereas others went on to play the second inning in Shipping/industry/and the corporate world. Where this training helped us and proved far superior to our counterparts. This inning was far more satisfying, where, we build our homes, saved a reasonable wealth, imparted higher and professional education to our children today most us have hung boots and are enjoying with the grand Children. We spend time visiting the world, being with nature and wish to enjoy the life.

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For all the knowledge success and achievements, we bow down our head to these Institutions, Officers and our Instructors for imparting us the perfect training and giving us this fine shape. Millions time we say Thanks to Indian Navy for what we are today.

I convey my sincere thanks to Capt. Belliappa and Cdr. Kumar for making a number of Phone calls and conveyed that we are most welcome to visit and did provide all possible help and guidance... Thank you sirs

We are also thankful to Cmde Srinivas who hosted this Tea session for us and our wives we are honored sir that you could find time to attend to us oldies from his very tight and busy schedules. We are touched by your gesture, which we will convey to the rest of the veteran's world.

We all also join you in congratulating and wishing you all a Grand Success in the celebrations of Platinum Julie of I N S Shivaji. I was also told that in your Archives, you have reasonable information photographs from 80's onwards. We do promise you to provide more information /snaps of Old Shivaji, as we are in touch with veterans, who landed here in 1949/50 onwards we will obtain all possible information/proofs from them and pass it on to you.

Once again on behalf of my colleagues and ladies convey my sincere thanks to you all sir, for this heart touching gesture, which will remain as Silk Touch Memory in our heart and mind.

Thank you sir.

Jai Hind

