

A DAY AT SEA

A remarkable adventure had embarked on the morning of 17th April 2022. Emerging onto the sea with the blazing sun guiding us. The Naval Wing NCC cadets of Kerala and Lakshadweep directorate were exposed to the tough and limited living conditions in a naval ship and the various aspects of the life of the sailors including the various activities done in a ship to ensure proper completion of the task at hand. The journey had embarked on 2 naval ships- INS Magar and INS Sunaina with 100 SD's and 50 SW's and 5 ANO's. The cadets were made aware of the rules and instructions to be followed for the next 2 days onboard.

The three days presented me one of the most remarkable journeys of my life. After entering naval base on 16th April we were seated in a hall for documentation after which we boarded the ship - INS MAGAR. INS MAGAR INS Magar is the lead ship of Magar-class amphibious warfare vessels of the Indian Navy. She was commissioned on 15 July 1987. She was an LST and now it mainly functions as a training ship for naval trainees . 130 cadets were on board INS MAGAR and rest 20 SD's were on board INS SUNAINA. After boarding the ship we were shown our living quarters and were instructed to take rest. The quarters were quite conditioned and provided a comfortable abode for us during our stay. The quarters had 18 bunk beds and we were comfortable in it. After dinner we were taken onto the deck for further instructions and it gave us an opportunity to capture the beautiful night above us with the cool breeze going past us. We were then dispersed off and the next morning around 9:30am we left the dock after providing us with lifejackets to be worn at all times on the open deck. We were shown the various operations that happen during sailing. We first saw Halo deck operation. The helipad was thoroughly cleared of even the minute of things to avoid any problems while helicopter landed . The helicopter landed on the ship while it was sailing with the most accurate precision. We then saw how a helicopter rescues a drowning person midsea. We then saw Jackstay and Light Jackstay. A jackstay is a cable or bar between two points to support and guide a load between those points, or as an anchor to attach something to be constrained along that line. The light jackstay is used for transferring personnel, provisions, and light stores. Then 15 cadets were taken boating around the ship. It was a very adventurous experience. We also watched firing in the evening. An object was shot into the air and it was chased by the bullets fired. We were able to see the fired red bullets very clearly against the clear blue sky. After watching a beautiful sunset we went off to the quarters. We then woke up super early the next morning and witnessed a charming sunrise and we witnessed how a ship is anchored in the middle of the sea. We also saw the sunset ceremony onboard the ship . We reached back to Kochi harbour by 10am on 18th April . We were also taught about fire fighting onboard. We disembarked the ship by afternoon and were left in awe with the whole journey.

It was a wonderful opportunity to be part of the naval ship for atleast two days. We learned about discipline and respecting others on a whole new level. We learned how to adapt and live in limited conditions too. Along with great experiences we also made great friendships and bonds. We went as strangers in there and came out together waving goodbyes to our dear friends. We helped and learned

with each other. As an NCC cadet and as a person, for me, it was a marvelous three days and consider myself lucky to have been able to attend a camp like this. The 'Day at sea' has been permanently marked into our hearts as a beautiful journey with lots of memories.

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