

We can't afford sea blindness: Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi

■ Staff Reporter

"FOR a nation to become world power, it has to be the top maritime power. Considering the current political scenario, our geographical positioning, and the kind of assertive neighbours India has, every Indian needs to understand the importance of maritime domain," said Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi, AVSM, NM, Chief of Personnel, Indian Navy.

The Vice Admiral was speaking on 'Importance of Indian Navy and Insights on Leadership' during a programme organised at Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Nagpur, here. "Existential threats from our friendly neighbours are real. We have to be ready to deal with it. China

wants to become world power by 2049 and is focusing on becoming maritime power. She has officially overtaken the US as the largest Navy in the world in terms of number of ships," he pointed out.

There is a positive approach in the Indian corridors of power regarding the need of becoming a maritime power, he observed. Earlier, it was seldom talked about. Quoting an article by Centre for Maritime Security in 2020, he stated that 66 per cent of global wealth came from or near the sea, 80 per cent of world population was coastal, 90 per cent of goods arrived from the seas, 99 per cent of international digital traffic went by submerged cables. Any disruption in these could lead to catastrophic effects, he observed.



Dr Bhimaraya Metri, Director, IIM-Nagpur, felicitating Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi, Chief of Personnel, Indian Navy.

"We can't afford sea blindness. The people who came by

sea colonised us and we are suffering till today because of ignoring the power of the sea. As much as 95 per cent of India's trade by volume and 70 per cent by value comes from the sea," he added. Further, 96 per cent of crude oil and 85 per cent of gas comes through sea. If anything goes wrong here, it will take just a couple of weeks for petrol pumps to go dry, aviation sector to come to a halt, and no cooking gas will be available. Therefore, it is very important to ensure that the seas remain safe.

Indian Navy has managed to push back piracy threat, and illegal fishing, human trafficking, maritime terrorism are major concerns. The Vice Admiral said that Indian Navy was at the forefront in 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. In 1961,

India built her first ship. Today, 130 ships are built completely in India, he added.

"Management is a mindgame while leadership is a game of the heart. You have to strike a balance between the two. Leadership needs to think ahead of times and prepare the team towards it. The team must know how to respond and not react. Tough times do not last but tough people do. This should be the mantra of every team," said the Vice Admiral.

Dr Bhimaraya Metri, Director, IIM-Nagpur, said that the expertise and advice of Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi would help his team at IIM-Nagpur to have insight on different styles of leadership for better results. Dr Metri felicitated Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi on this occasion.