



Embassy of Italy
New Delhi

PRESS RELEASE

Italian Navy's *ITS Morosini* vessel to pay a port-call in Mumbai, India 10-13 August 2023

The Italian Ambassador to India, the Consul General of Italy in Mumbai and the Italian Navy are pleased to announce that the Italian multipurpose offshore patrol vessel “*ITS Francesco Morosini*” will pay a port call in Mumbai, India from 10 to 13 August 2023.

In the framework of the current Italian Navy's five-months naval diplomacy campaign throughout the Indo-Pacific area, this visit aims at demonstrating Italy's commitment towards the region and at strengthening bilateral cooperation and mutual understanding between Navies and showing the excellence of Italian naval and defence industry.

Named after the famous 17th century Doge of the Venetian Republic Francesco Morosini, the Thaon di Revel-class multipurpose offshore patrol vessel has been entirely built in Italy to showcase a pioneering combination of cutting-edge technologies, advanced engineering solutions and extensive use of modularity. An excellence of the Italian defence industry, *ITS Morosini* also features enhanced “dual use” properties allowing it to perform both military tasks and civil protection activities at their best.

Featuring a 143 meters length and a 137 members crew, the vessel can reach a maximum 32 knots-speed, progressively reducing fuel consumption thanks to a peculiar wave-piercing double bow solution optimizing its performance in terms of hydrodynamics. A naval cockpit allows the management of sailing and air and naval operations by only two operators.

ITS Morosini will be mooring in Mumbai port from Thursday, August 10th until Sunday, August 13th, under the command of Commander Giovanni Monno.

On August 10th, the Italian Ambassador to India, H.E. Vincenzo de Luca, and the Consul General of Italy in Mumbai, Mr Alessandro De Masi, will attend a welcome ceremony on board with the participation of Vice Admiral Andrea Gueglio (Head of Human Resources, Italian Navy), Commander Monno and the ship crew. A press conference and guided ship visit for accredited media will follow at 19:00 hours.

On Friday, August 11th, *ITS Francesco Morosini* will host an invitees-only defence industry event, sponsored by Italian companies Leonardo and Elettronica S.p.A. under the coordination of the Italian Industries Federation for Aerospace, Defence and Security (AIAD). On the same day, H.E. Vincenzo de Luca and Vice Admiral Gueglio will call on Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, Chief of Staff of the Indian Navy Western Naval Command. In the afternoon, the Italian delegation will attend a remembrance ceremony at the Prisoners of War Memorial at the Sewri Christian Cemetery in Mumbai.

On Saturday, 12th August, the Embassy of Italy and the National Maritime Foundation (NMF) have co-organised an *Italy-India Maritime Security Seminar* at the Agastya Auditorium (INHS Asvini, Mumbai). The event will be inaugurated by H.E. Vincenzo de Luca, Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla and Commander Monno. It will offer the occasion to gather different actors from the public and private sector, strengthen the cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region and discuss relevant topics such as maritime synergies, collaborative Maritime Domain Awareness and joint research & development. After the keynote addresses on the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) by Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan (NMF) and the EU's perspective on enhancing the Indo-Pacific security network in the maritime domain by R. Adm. Giovanni Galoforo (Deputy Commander of Operation Atalanta), two panel discussions will follow: the first will address strategic aspects, while the second will involve contributions of the defence industry of both countries.

During its four-day port-call, *ITS Morosini* will also host a number of ship visits on board, welcoming guests from the Indian Navy and from SDA Bocconi University Asia Centre in Mumbai.