

SUMMARY OF CITATION
SHAURYA CHAKRA
LIEUTENANT COMMANDER DILNA K

Date of Act: 02 Oct 24-29 May 25

Lieutenant Commander Dilna K was selected for Navika Sagar Parikrama II, a pioneering dual-handed circumnavigation aboard INSV Tarini. Between 02 October 2024 and 29 May 2025, she sailed over 25,600 nautical miles through the Indian, Pacific, Atlantic and Southern Oceans, braving isolation, extreme weather and technical challenges. In the Pacific, the vessel suffered total power failure, disabling critical systems and demanding manual navigation under high-risk conditions. While navigating through the perilous Drake Passage in stormy conditions that caused the boat to heeled severely, Regaining control required exceptional skill and extraordinary courage in the face of nature's raw fury. In both incidents, her technical skill, composure and resilience were critical in restoring stability and safety. During the expedition, she along with her crew became the first Indians to reach Point Nemo - the oceanic Pole of Inaccessibility by sailboat. The dual-handed format required 24X7 readiness, navigation, maintenance and emergency responses. Despite fatigue, equipment failures and life-threatening seas, she displayed unwavering courage, seamanship and leadership. Her fearless conduct, professionalism and resolve under dire conditions reflect the highest standards of Naval service. For her exemplary endurance, bravery and devotion to duty in this unprecedented expedition, the officer is strongly recommended for the award of Shaurya-Chakra.