



OPV Sarthak

Why in News

Recently, an **Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** was launched and named as **Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Sarthak'**.

- OPV Sarthak is the **4th in the series of the indigenous project for 05 OPVs**.
- OPVs are long-range surface ships capable of coastal and offshore patrolling, policing maritime zones, control and surveillance, anti-smuggling and anti-piracy operations with limited wartime roles.

Key Points

- **Development:** OPV Sarthak has been **designed & built indigenously** by M/s Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) in line with the government's vision of **'Make in India'**.
 - It has about **70% indigenous content**, thus providing the necessary fillip to the **Indian shipbuilding industry** and a giant leap towards achieving **'Atmanirbar Bharat'**.
- **Features:**
 - The Ship is fitted with **state-of-the-art Navigation and Communication equipment**, sensor and machinery.
 - It is designed to embark and carry a twin-engine helicopter, four high speed boats and one inflatable boat for swift boarding and Search & Rescue operations.
 - It is also capable of carrying limited **pollution response equipment** to undertake **oil spill** pollution response at sea.
- **Use:**
 - The ship will be deployed extensively for **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** surveillance, Coastal Security and other duties as enshrined in the Coast Guard charter of duties, to safeguard the maritime interests of the Nation.

Indian Coast Guard

- The Indian Coast Guard was formally inaugurated on **19th August, 1978**. It operates under the **Ministry of Defence**.
- The organization is **headed by the Director General Indian Coast Guard (DGICG)** exercising his overall command and superintendence from the Coast Guard **Headquarters (CGHQ)** located at **New Delhi**.
- For effective command and control, the **Maritime Zones of India are divided into five Coast Guard Regions**, namely, North-West, West, East, North-East and Andaman & Nicobar, with the respective Regional Headquarters located at Gandhinagar, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Port Blair.
- Further, it keeps an eye on the **Indian exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**.
- ICG has been a pioneer in inducting indigenous assets which has enabled it to remain operationally available throughout the year.

- The mere presence of ICG units at sea serves **dual objectives of “Deterrence” and “Reassurance”**.
- It deters people with ill-intent and at the same time reassures the maritime community, as they are aware that ICG will swiftly respond to any distress call or life-threatening situation at sea.
- The deterrence created by the ICG is **not limited to the Indian waters**, but collaboration with friendly littoral states as per provisions of bilateral cooperation agreements resulted in successful apprehension and seizure of drugs in **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.

Source: PIB

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