ReCAAP ISC Capacity Building Workshop

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The **Indian Coast Guard** (ICG) is **co-hosting** the **12th Capacity Building Workshop with** Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia **(ReCAAP) Information Sharing Centre** (ISC) in New Delhi from 19th -20th June, 2019.

ReCAAP

- The ReCAAP is the **first regional Government-to-Government agreement** to deal with **piracy and armed robbery at sea in Asia.**
- The ReCAAP Agreement was launched in **November, 2006** with 14 Asian contracting parties including North, Southeast, and South Asian countries.
- It has 20 contracting parties as of now, including Europe (Norway, the Netherlands, Denmark, and the United Kingdom), Australia, and the United States.
- **Information sharing, capacity building and mutual legal assistance** are the three pillars of co-operation under the ReCAAP agreement.
- The ReCAAP **Information Sharing Centre** (ReCAAP ISC) was established in **Singapore** on November 29, 2006.
- The Union Government has designated **ICG as the focal point** within India for ReCAAP.

Capacity Building Workshop

- Capacity building workshop is **organised annually by the ISC** and is co-hosted by one of the contracting parties.
- The main **objective** of this workshop is to share **updated situation of piracy** and armed robbery against ships in Asia and best practices of Asian countries.
- The workshop also aims to deepen the knowledge of participants on various issues related to piracy and armed robbery such as international laws, prosecution process, forensics and emerging threats.
- India has hosted the workshop earlier also in November,2011 at Goa and December,2017 at New Delhi.

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG)

- The Indian Coast Guard was **formally inaugurated on 19th August, 1978.** It operates under the **Ministry of Defence.**
- It has a wide range of task capabilities for both surface and air operations.
- 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.**
- Some of the important duties of the Coast Guard include
  - Ensuring the **safety and protection** of artificial Islands, offshore terminals, installations and other structures and devices in any maritime zone.
  - Providing protection and **assistance to fishermen** in distress while at sea.
  - **Preservation and protection** of maritime environment including prevention and control of marine pollution.
  - Assisting the Customs and other authorities in anti-smuggling operations.
  - Enforcement of the **Maritime Zones of India Act.**
  - Precautionary measures for the safety of life and property at sea and collection of scientific data.
- 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.