

## **XXXV COAST GUARD COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE (28 - 30 SEP 2016)**



1. The XXXV Coast Guard Commanders' Conference was held at Coast Guard Headquarters, New Delhi from 28 to 30 Sep 2016. Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, Shri Manohar Parrikar inaugurated the conference on 28 Sep 16, in the presence of DG Rajendra Singh PTM TM, Director General Indian Coast Guard and other Senior Officers of Ministry of Defence and the Indian Coast Guard.
2. During the conference which lasted for two days, a roadmap for the future was put forth and various issues related to the growth of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), including augmentation of force-levels, infrastructure, Logistics and manpower were discussed. The operational readiness of both the surface and air assets were also reviewed.
3. Addressing the Inaugural Session of the Conference, Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, Shri Manohar Parrikar conveyed his appreciations to all the ICG personnel for serving the nation with utmost dedication and professionalism. He stated that in last four decades, the ICG had made a place for itself amongst the five best Coast Guards in world. Whilst lauding the operational achievements of the ICG, the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri stated that the responsibilities of the Service had increased manifold and hence, new methodologies needed to be devised in order to ensure safe and secure Maritime Zones. The Hon'ble RM also appreciated the conduct of 'Subordinate Officer's Conclave' by the ICG. He stated that such fora give an opportunity to the Subordinate Officer's to share their ideas and hence supports immense value addition. He stated that this novel concept could be emulated by other services also.

4. On 29 Sep 16, Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, the Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) interacted with the Coast Guard Commanders. He highlighted the need to maintain the existing coordination and cohesion between various agencies involved in coastal security. He stated that the coastal security SOPs need to be continually evolved and hence, improving procedures and enhancing awareness will remain a work in progress for both the Navy and the Coast Guard. The CNS also stated that the deployments of Indian Navy and Coast Guard assets for surveillance have contributed effectively to keep our nation's waters secure.

5. DG Rajendra Singh PTM, TM, Director General Indian Coast Guard (DGICG) whilst addressing his first Commanders' Conference as the Director General, highlighted some of the major achievements of the Service. He stated that the Service today stands tall amongst the largest Coast Guards in the world and its recognition by the nation, and the international maritime fraternity, is a source of pride, and enduring inspiration. He appraised the forum that the action plan of the Coast Guard is closely aligned with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of inclusiveness – **"Sab ka Saath, Sab ka Vikas"**.

6. DGICG stated that a Pradhan Adhikari who directly reports to the DG and attends purely to issues of Enrolled Personnel, in outlying field stations. He also highlighted the conduct of a two-day Conclave of Subordinate Officers in June 2016, which enabled collaborative decision-making, and was perhaps, one-of-its-kind initiative, amongst any of the services. The DGICG stated that in consonance with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of "Digital India", transformation to digital Coast Guard is in the making. Accordingly, Phase One of *IT* Roadmap envisages networking of 87 sites, covering units and jetties across 50 geographical locations.

7. DG Rajendra Singh PTM, TM reiterated that the ICG's organizational goal is, **"to protect"**, and the same flows directly from the motto of the Service. He, hence, stated that everything that the ICG does is necessarily aimed at the protection of "the national interests in the maritime zones of India" in particular, and mariners and marine environment in general. He underlined the fact that, the same reflects in the tagline adopted for the year viz. **'चार दशको से समुद्री सेवा एवं सुरक्षा में सदैव तत्पर'**.

8. Concluding his address, the DGICG stated that the ongoing phase was very critical for the Coast Guard. The challenges faced by the Service would only make it stronger, more effective and responsive. He concluded by stating that the ICG's role in the overall progress of the nation is undeniably critical and hence he would encourage all personnel of the Coast Guard to 'Pull together', so as to ensure that the Service lives up to the motto "**VAYAM RAKSHAMAH**".

