



SAGAR

Newsletter on International Cooperation Activities
of Indian Coast Guard

सागर



01 Jan 2022 - 31 Dec 2022



The motto of the Indian Coast Guard is "*Vayam Rakshamah*" which translates as "*We Protect*"

We

⟨ Protect those at sea ⟩

⟨ Protect Maritime & other National interests ⟩

⟨ Protect the Nation against Seaborne threats ⟩

⟨ Protect the sea & its Resources ⟩

From the Director General's Desk



Dear Reader,

I am delighted to introduce fourth edition of 'SAGAR', the newsletter of International Cooperation division of Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The newsletter is aimed at highlighting the activities undertaken by ICG at global and regional forums towards strengthening partnerships with maritime agencies of the Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs).

ICG, one of the promising and responsible Coast Guards in IOR, has been at the forefront of establishing cooperative international engagements in consonance with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision 'SAGAR' meaning 'Security and Growth for All in the Region'. ICG, being a multi mission maritime force with benign and peacetime roles in ocean keeping and rules based order has thus been furthering maritime diplomacy in sync with the GoI vision.

Under the framework of International Conventions and Treaties to which India is a signatory and the GoI vision towards international cooperation, ICG engages partner maritime agencies at multilateral forums such as Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM), Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS) and Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) etc., towards addressing the shared maritime concerns and challenges. ICG has strengthened its bilateral relations with Coast Guards/ Maritime agencies of Bangladesh, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam through institutionalised Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/ Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC).

During the year gone by, ICG hosted the 18th HACGAM at New Delhi from 14-18 Oct 22 with an overwhelming response from contracting parties to this multilateral forum. The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri and attended by 55 delegates from 15 member countries. High Level Meetings with Japan Coast Guard, Royal Oman Police Coast Guard under the provisions of MoU and Bangladesh & Sri Lanka Coast Guard ships participation in National Pollution Response Exercise was testimony to our cooperative engagements.

Owing to relevance of ocean ecosystems, Govt of India has entrusted ICG with the responsibility of establishing India-ASEAN Marine Pollution Response Centre (IAMPRC) at Chennai. The centre will augment regional efforts in oil spill response and provide professional training to ASEAN member states in the marine environment protection.

The sustainable use of Ocean resources and Blue economy necessitates concerted cooperation in the four pillars of ocean governance which includes, maritime law enforcement, security of public interest, protection of marine environment and safeguarding of life at sea. ICG has been able to achieve enhanced confidence and mutual trust with partner agencies of FFCs and is committed to maintain an effective safe and secure maritime environment while promoting rules based order.

Jai Hind ... VAYAM RAKSHAMAH...

New Delhi

(Rakesh Pal)
Additional Director General
Director General (Addl. Charge)
Indian Coast Guard

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the fourth edition of 'SAGAR', the Newsletter dedicated to the International Cooperation endeavours of the Indian Coast Guard. Indian Coast Guard strives for establishing new linkages and strengthening the existing cooperative mechanism with partner maritime agencies/ Coast Guards of the Friendly Foreign Countries.

Coast Guards are emerging as important national institutions world over and especially in the Indo-Pacific region and Indian Ocean Region with the potential to make a major contribution to Maritime Safety, Combating Transnational Maritime Crimes and Preservation/ Protection of Marine Environment besides promoting rules based order in our area of interests.

The initiatives of the Indian Coast Guard, both at bilateral & multilateral level in year 2022, were aimed at capacity and confidence building with partner agencies towards developing regional framework in maritime Search and Rescue, Maritime Pollution Response and Maritime Law Enforcement. It has been my sincere attempt to highlight the significant activities undertaken by the Indian Coast Guard at the international cooperation front. I look forward for your valuable feedback to further improve the contents of this newsletter... Happy Reading...



(Arun Singh)
Deputy Inspector General
Director (International Cooperation)

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MULTIDIMENSIONAL MARITIME COOPERATION

– ICG APPROACH

Oceans are integral to human sustenance and 80 % of world trade passes through the oceans. Security of the sea routes has global dimensions and any disruption to these will affect the global economy. With a rich maritime history and advantageous location in the Indian Ocean, India occupies a pivotal position to play a leading role in the integration of the various international maritime cooperative engagements for achieving a common goal of peace, stability, prosperity and growth.

Ocean states are significantly dependent on ocean governance, which acts as a conduit between ocean resources and the overall economic well being. Ocean governance against maritime challenges is dynamic and progressive that needs continuous evolving maritime strategy aimed at ensuring ocean governance for peaceful utilisation of global commons.

These dynamic maritime challenges require collective response from all nations to keep them better equipped to respond to any contingencies. The cooperative engagements are multi dimensional and include areas such as search and rescue, maritime safety, marine environment protection, maritime law enforcement, anti narcotics, anti smuggling, IUU fishing etc requiring distinct strategies for different threats. Coast Guards are being used more widely in the national interest as instruments of foreign policy in waters even beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and to address these challenges. Cooperation between Coast Guards ensures mitigation of threats of mutual concerns in areas of interest.

Indian Coast Guards (ICG) foreign cooperation initiatives have been cohesively aligned with the vision 'SAGAR' and maritime policy enunciated by Hon'ble PM for a free, open, inclusive region with rule-based order that embraces us all in a common pursuit of progress and prosperity. The efforts of ICG are aimed at maximizing maritime partnerships with Coast Guards of Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs) towards establishing safety, security and stability in the maritime domain. These activities range from training FFCs on specialised courses such as Maritime Law Enforcement, Maritime Search and Rescue and Maritime Pollution Response, gifting of assets for enhancing capacity, participation in various IMO organised meetings of maritime significance, the conduct of workshops/training, exercises etc.

ICG has been at the forefront of leading the regional response and has promptly deployed its resources during the maritime disasters resulting from MV Wakashio incident off Mauritius, fire onboard MT New Diamond and MV X-Press Pearl both off Colombo. ICG responded to the oil spill in Mauritius from MV Wakashio and had deployed ten member specialist team with 30 tons of pollution response equipment to assist Mauritius against the environmental emergency; ICG had deployed its ships and aircraft and was the first responder to assist Sri Lanka in dousing of massive fire onboard MT New Diamond carrying 2,70,000 Metric Tons of crude oil thereby preventing an oil spill that could have caused an environmental catastrophe of unimaginable proportions on all ocean states with more telling effect than war; ICG ships and aircraft were deployed for fire fighting and Pollution Response operations during the fire onboard MV X-Press Pearl anchored off Colombo, Sri Lanka in challenging weather conditions, displaying an indomitable spirit and preventing catastrophic implications to ocean ecology. These operations amongst many other have highlighted the significance of collaborative operations against peacetime maritime challenges and has showcased ICG as a dependable partner which has stood testimony of time.

The announcement by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri for establishment of India-ASEAN Marine Pollution Response Centre by ICG at Chennai for providing training to ASEAN countries on Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response is indicative of India's collective engagement with FFCs for collective ocean governance and sustained economic growth.

Maritime operations during peacetime are required to be viewed rather holistically and use of Gun Boats fitted with major weapons systems is not reasonable for addressing the maritime challenges. These are constabulary challenges and requires law enforcement ships with better agility and reach towards resolving them. In recent times, where Coast Guards have evolved such as Philippine Coast Guard, Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency, BAKAMLA (Indonesia's de facto nascent Coast Guard), and the Vietnam Coast Guard, their navies have started relinquishing their constabulary roles.

Indian Coast Guard being maritime law enforcement organisation was raised for undertaking these functions at economical and rational manner with low cost platforms. Peaceful and non military demeanour of ICG, places it at the centre of peacetime maritime strategy for cooperative engagement with FFCs towards collectively ensuring safe, secure and clean oceans.

ICG platforms with comprehensive capabilities are indigenously designed (Atmanirbhar Bharat) at low cost capable of undertaking constabulary roles and peacetime maritime operations. ICG in interaction with partner agencies of FFCs have been propagating the capability of the Indian Ship building industry proficient of making advanced Coast Guard platforms at low cost which is the need of the hour for ocean states for constabulary roles towards ensuring safety and security of their seas.

ICGs multi-dimensional approach for cooperation with FFCs has ensured strengthening of cooperation ties, sharing of information and resources for common threats, capacity building and mitigation of myriad maritime challenges leading to regional integration. Due to the inherent nature of Coast Guard functions, ICG's multilateral cooperation at various forums aligns with mutual interest of respective Coast Guards for ensuring property, stability and economic growth for peaceful utilisation of global commons. Continuous ICG engagement at international stage with Coast Guards of FFCs has quintessential tangibles of augmenting the efforts towards collective maritime governance through enforcement of both domestic and international maritime law.

Commandant Manoj Kumar
Joint Director (IC-II)
Coast Guard Headquarters



BILATERAL ACTIVITIES AND INTERACTIONS

- **India-USA Homeland Security Dialogue.** Joint Director (IC), CGHQ participated in the Sub-Cabinet level meeting held under India-USA Homeland Security Dialogue (HSD) through VC on 12 Jan 22. During the meeting, both countries reviewed the ongoing cooperation and identified further steps that can be taken to explore opportunities and synergies in advancing cooperation in counter-terrorism, cyber security, securing critical infrastructure and global supply chains, maritime security, aviation security, customs enforcement and trade security.

- **Interaction with British High Commission.** Commander Coast Guard Region (East) interacted with senior representatives of British High Commission, Delhi and Deputy High Commission, through VC on 27 Jan 22. During the interaction, discussions were held on modalities of interaction of crew of ICG ship during Royal UK Navy Ship visit to Chennai.

- **India-Maldives Defence Cooperation Dialogue.** 3rd India-Maldives Defence Cooperation Dialogue was held from 13-15 Feb 22 at Male, Maldives. The Indian delegation was led by Defence Secretary, Gol. Director General, Indian Coast Guard also participated in the dialogue.



Inauguration of Composite Training Center Phase-I Annex by Indian Defence Secretary at Maldives



Defence Dialogue with Maldives

- **Meeting with Australian High Commissioner.** An introductory meeting between DG ICG and Hon Barry O'Farell AO, Australian High Commissioner was conducted on 17 Feb 22 at CGHQ on the request of Australian High Commission. Australian High Commissioner accompanied by Defence Adviser and Counsellor, Australian Border Force (ABF) discussed areas of enhancing maritime cooperation between the two organisations.



Engagement with Australian High Commissioner

- **Interaction with Australian Border Force.** A courtesy meeting between Counsellor Australian Border Force (ABF) and Commander Coast Guard Region (West) was held at Headquarters, Coast Guard Region (West), Mumbai on 24 Feb 22. During the meeting, avenues of mutual cooperation between ICG and ABF were discussed and dovetailed with maritime security cooperation between India and Australia.



Synergizing Efforts at Multiple Level

- **French Delegation Visit.** A French delegation led by Rear Admiral Jacques Fayard, Joint Commander of French Forces in Indian Ocean (ALINDIEN) based at Abu Dhabi, UAE visited CGHQ, New Delhi on 24 Feb 22 for a meeting with DG ICG to discuss operational matters and cooperation in the maritime domain. The delegation was on tour of India to meet various



Extending Maritime cooperation with France

agencies for discussing operational matters and cooperation in the mutual areas.

- **Meeting on India-Japan Cooperation Issues.** A meeting under the Chairmanship of Defence Secretary, GoI was held on 08 Mar 22 to discuss cooperation and other issues related with Japan. During the meeting, Deputy Director General (Operations & Coastal Security), Coast Guard Headquarters presented ongoing engagements between ICG and Japan Coast Guard. ICG also shared a concept paper on ICG being a proponent for cooperation avenues in Indo-Pacific region through concept of white hull diplomacy for enhancing Coast Guard cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

- **18th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Experts Working Group Meeting.** 18th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Experts Working Group meeting on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (ADMM-Plus EWG on HADR) was organised virtually by HQ IDS under the aegis of MoD from 11-12 May 22. DIG P Rajesh represented ICG and delivered a presentation on "Preparation of Contingency Plan and Measures towards HADR involving ASEAN Region" in the meeting.

- **13th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Inter-Sessional Meeting.** 13th ARF Inter Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security co-chaired by Indonesia, India and USA was held through VC on 12 May 22. Three ICG officers participated in the meeting wherein discussions on maritime law enforcement cooperation, sustainable fisheries management including current and emerging maritime threats were undertaken.

- **11th India-UAE Joint Defence Cooperation Committee Meeting.** Director (IC), CGHQ participated in the 11th meeting of India-UAE Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) between 24-25 May 22 at New Delhi and co-chaired by JS(AF), MoD. The meeting was also attended by representatives from MEA, DDP, DRDO, Army, Navy, Air Force and HQ IDS.



20th HLM with JCG. The Memorandum of Cooperation, signed between ICG and JCG on 24 Nov 2006, aims to establish a collaborative relationship to combat crimes at sea and development of regional cooperation between both Coast Guards. During the HLM, while deliberating on various agendas, both Coast Guards reaffirmed their commitment towards ensuring safe, secure and clean seas in the region.



Enhancing Engagements & Defence Cooperation

- **Training on Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response to Mauritius.** Joint Director (Fisheries & Environment), CGHQ visited Mauritius and conducted two weeks training session from 06-17 Jun 22 on oil pollution preparedness and response to the personnel of Mauritius Port Authority and National Coast Guard.



- **Coast Guard Global Human Resource Development (CGGHRD).** Nippon Foundation and Japan Coast Guard jointly hosted the 'Online Programme for CGGHRD from 13-14 Jul 22. Two ICG Officers participated in the programme through VC which was aimed at sharing best practices on Search and Rescue.



- **High Level Meeting (HLM) with Japan Coast Guard (JCG).** A three member ICG delegation led by Director General VS Pathania, PTM, TM, DG ICG visited Tokyo, Japan from 12-14 Sep 22 for participating in the

Maiden HLM with JCG post COVID

- **Implementation of SOP with Bangladesh.** A MoU has been signed in 2015 for establishment of collaborative relationship to combat transnational illegal activities at sea and develop regional cooperation between Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG) and the ICG. Towards implementing various provisions of MoU, an SOP has also been established for swift coordination between the two Coast Guards. In Oct 22, 24 Bangladeshi fishermen were rescued from sea by ICG ships and repatriated to BCG ship Shadhin Bangla in accordance with the modalities of SOP.



Coordinated SAR effort with BCG

- **High Level Meeting with Royal Oman Police Coast Guard.** A three member ICG delegation led by Director General VS Pathania, PTM, TM DG ICG visited Muscat, Oman from 12-14 Dec 22 for participating in the 4th High Level Meeting (HLM) with Royal Oman Police Coast Guard (ROPCG). The HLM co-chaired by DGICG and Brigadier Staff Engineer Ali Saif Al Maqbali, Commanding Officer, ROPCG was held under the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two Coast Guards in 2016. The HLM focused on augmenting the operational level interaction and capacity building in areas of Search and Rescue, Pollution Response and Maritime Law Enforcement.



Engagement with ROPCG on Common Maritime

- **India-Mozambique Cooperation.** India had gifted 02 Interceptor Boats (IBs) to Mozambique in 2019. Accordingly, an Indian Coast Guard Afloat Support Team (ICGAST) comprising 01 Officer and 03 sailors have been positioned in Mozambique since 2019. Considering the complexity of the machineries in these boats requiring maintenance by team of experts, ICGAST assists and trains Mozambique Navy personnel in the operation and maintenance of these IBs.



Assisting foreign partners in Capacity Building

SHIP VISITS

- **Visit of Bangladesh Coast Guard Ship.**

Bangladesh Coast Guard Ship *Kamaruzzaman* visited India in Apr 2022 and participated in National Pollution Response Exercise-22 conducted off Goa from 17-20 Apr 22. The ship also made port call at Chennai on 24 Apr 22 for professional interaction with Indian Coast Guard. The aim of the visit was to enhance cooperation between the two Coast Guards and boost interoperability in the field of maritime Search and Rescue, anti-piracy operations and other maritime law enforcement operations.



BCG Ship Kamaruzzaman participation in NATPOLREX - 22

- **Visit of Sri Lanka Coast Guard Ship.** Sri Lanka Coast Guard Ship *Suraksha* visited India for participation in the National Pollution Response Exercise-22 conducted off Goa from 17-20 Apr 22.



SLCG Ship Suraksha participates in NATPOLREX - 22

- **Visit of United States Coast Guard (USCG) Cutter.** USCG Cutter *Midgett* visited Chennai from 16-19 Sep 22 for professional interaction with Indian Coast Guard. Also, joint exercise at sea between ICG ships and USCG cutter was undertaken off Chennai.



USCG Midgett & ICG Ship Joint Exercise off Chennai

- **ICG Ship Visit to Maldives.** Indian Coast Guard Ship Saksham visited Maldives from 19-24 Sep 22 for Turn around of ICG Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH). ICG has been extending capability enhancement support to Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) Coast Guard (CG) by positioning an ICG ALH at Maldives alongwith support staff towards augmenting Search and Rescue (SAR) capabilities of MNDF(CG). ALH, which is an indigenously built platform, can undertake maritime reconnaissance and carry out SAR at extended ranges both by day and night. In 2022, ICG ALH in Maldives undertook 34 Medical Evacuation and 06 SAR sorties resulting in saving of 35 precious lives.



Augmenting SAR capabilities of MNDF - Coast Guard



ICG Ship Saksham at Gan, Maldives

MULTILATERAL ACTIVITIES AND INTERACTIONS

Meetings & Webinars

● **HACGAM.** Indian Coast Guard is a founding member of Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) which is a global forum of 23 member countries viz. Australia, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Brunei, Cambodia, China, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam and one region Hong Kong (China). The responsibility for hosting High Level Meeting and Working Level Meeting of HACGAM is rotated amongst the participating member countries on a voluntary basis. HACGAM has recognized Search and Rescue, Environmental Protection, Controlling Unlawful Acts at Sea and Capacity Building as the four pillars of cooperative activities to enable coordinated response and synergy in common maritime issues. ICG is the Chair of the Working Group on Search and Rescue and has developed the website of the Forum. Indian Coast Guard hosted 8th HACGAM in 2012 and the 18th HACGAM in 2022 at New Delhi.

✓ **Working Level Meeting (WLM).** Towards the prelude to the HACGAM, a WLM was conducted by ICG at New Delhi from 01-04 Aug 22. During the WLM, delegates from twelve countries viz. Australia, Bahrain, Brunei, France, India, Japan,

Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Turkiye and Vietnam had physically participated whereas delegates from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong (China), Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand attended the meeting through VC.



Working Level Meeting - Prelude to 18th HACGAM HLM



✓ **High Level Meeting (HLM).** High Level Meeting for 18th HACGAM was organised at New Delhi from 14-18 Oct 22. The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri of India on 15 Oct 22 in presence of esteemed Heads of the Asian Coast Guard Agencies and other senior officials from MoD, MEA and ICG. A total of 55 participants from member countries and associate members participated in the meeting.



18th HACGAM Inauguration by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri



Glimpses of 18th HACGAM HLM

- **13th Nautical Forum Webinar.** The Officer-in-Charge, MRCC (Mumbai) participated in the 13th Nautical Forum Webinar conducted by Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Information Sharing Centre (ISC) on 18 Jan 22 and delivered a talk on "Maritime Search and Rescue operations and role of the Indian Coast Guard".

- **Capacity Building Senior Officers' Meeting (CBSOM).** Four officers from ICG participated in the CBSOM-21 conducted by ReCAAP ISC on 27 Jan 22 through VC which was aimed towards enhancing capacity building of Contact Point/ Focal Points (FP) as per the laid down objectives. ICG participants also delivered presentation on 'Efforts to enhance the relationship with shipping industry and its Outcome' and 'Efforts to improve the timelines of reporting by sub-Focal Points' during the meeting.

- **16th Governing Council Meeting.** Director General, Indian Coast Guard participates in the Governing Council meetings held annually by ReCAAP ISC as the Governor from India. Governing Council comprising representatives from contracting parties reviews the agenda points received and takes final decision based on the consensus. Accordingly, DG ICG attended the 16th Governing Council Meeting from 15-16 Mar 22 through VC.

- **Capacity Building Workshop (CBW).** A virtual CBW was conducted by ReCAAP ISC on 23 Jun 22 to strengthen the competence of Focal Points (FPs)/ Contact Point (CP) through sharing experiences and best practices. ICG delegation participated in the workshop led by the Officer-in-Charge MRCC (Mumbai) and delivered a presentation on 'Brief on the recent piracy incident and measures to prevent re-occurrence'.

- **Participation in IFC Maritime Security (MARSEC) Webinar.** Ten ICG officers participated in the 2nd IFC Maritime Security (MARSEC) Webinar and 42nd Shared Awareness Meeting (SAM) organised by ReCAAP ISC from 14-16 Nov 22 through VC. The Webinar was aimed to provide a platform for operational commanders and other key stakeholders from MARSEC and shipping community on latest MARSEC development, exchange perspectives and strengthen collaboration.

- **Capacity Building Senior Officers' Meeting (CBSOM).** ICG representative participated in the CBSOM - 2022 organised by ReCAAP ISC from 13-16 Dec 22 at Manila, Philippines. The annual CBSOM is an endeavor of the ReCAAP ISC, which provides a platform for the ReCAAP member nations to deliberate on the trends and challenges of maritime crimes and accordingly evolve counter measures.

Conferences

- **Coastal Security Conference.** Shri Giridhar Aramane, Defence Secretary, Government of India inaugurated the Maiden Coastal Security Conference - 2022 conducted by ICG at Chennai from 01-02 Dec 22 under the aegis of Colombo Security Conclave (CSC). Coast Guards from 04 member countries viz. India, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Mauritius participated in the two-day Conference. Bangladesh participated as an observer. The conference was attended by the Heads of Coast Guards of Bangladesh and Mauritius.



Strengthening of Coastal Security Mechanism - CSC

- **World Border Security Congress (WBSC).** A Two member ICG delegation led by DG ICG participated in the 2022 WBSC from 17-19 May 22 at Lisbon, Portugal. The World Border Security Congress is the premier event for the international border protection

and management industry. DGICG delivered a presentation on the "Maritime Challenges at the Border and Beyond" as the forum provides an excellent opportunity and platform to present the challenges, views and thought provoking ideas to key range of senior border security and migration management personnel. On the side lines of the WBSC, ICG delegation visited Headquarters of European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) for a courtesy meeting with Mr. Andrew Tassoni, Head of Executive Office of EMSA.



Addressing Maritime challenges at Global Forum

- **Expert Group of Meeting (EGM).** A two member ICG delegation participated in the 1st Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) EGM on Maritime Security Cooperation in Bay of Bengal held from 05-07 Sep 22

at New Delhi. The meeting conducted by National Security Coordination Secretariat (NSCS), in association with BIMSTEC Division of MEA, was inaugurated by Shri Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor (NSA). EGM identified five focus areas and ICG was nominated as the lead organisation on the focus area of "Oil Pollution Response".

- **7th Women Maritime Law Enforcement Forum.** Dy Comdt Nidhi Gupta of ICG participated in the 7th Women Maritime Law Enforcement Forum organized by UNODC on 18 Nov 22 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. At the forum, the officer also delivered a lecture on the role of ICG in the domain of Maritime Law Enforcement.



ICG participation in Maritime Law Enforcement

EXERCISES AND WORKSHOPS

- **8th National Pollution Response Exercise.**
8th National Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX) was conducted at Goa from 18-20 Apr 22 with participation from ships of Bangladesh Coast Guard



Exercising National Oil Spill Contingencies - 8th NATPOLREX

and Sri Lanka Coast Guard. 30 International Observers from Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs) and other International Organisations attended the exercise encompassing Workshop and Table Top Exercise on Pollution Response including case studies on major marine oil and chemical spill incidents followed by sea exercise on the final day. Further, representatives from the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Ltd (ITOPF) & South Asia Cooperation Environment Programme (SACEP) also participated in the exercise.



- **Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Workshop.**

A two day maiden Maritime Pollution Response Workshop was conducted under the aegis of CSC by Coast Guard Pollution Response Team (CGPRT), West at Mumbai from 21-22 Apr 22 with participation of observers from member and observer nations of CSC.





Coordinated Approach Against Combating oil spill

● **10th National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise.** 10th National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-22) was conducted from 26-28 Aug 22 at Chennai under the aegis of National Maritime Search & Rescue (NMSAR) Board. Considering the burgeoning merchant traffic, civil aircraft operation and cruise tourism in the area of responsibility (AoR) and to understand their imperatives and challenges,



Validating National Maritime SAR Plan at 10th SAREX



International Observers Participation - 10th SAREX

the theme of the SAREX-22 was aptly preferred as “Capacity Building towards Marine Passenger Safety” to highlight the complexities and response mechanism. The two day event was inaugurated by Defence Secretary, Gol in presence of DG ICG. In addition to the 51 participants from National Maritime SAR stake holders/ NMSAR Board representatives and resource agencies, the exercise also witnessed participation of 24 foreign delegates from 16 Friendly

Foreign Countries (FFCs) namely Australia, Bangladesh, Benin, Gambia, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Madagascar, Mauritius, Maldives, Myanmar, Nigeria, Philippines, Qatar, Senegal and Vietnam.



Mass Rescue Operation Simulation

● **IORA Workshop on Maritime SAR.** A two member ICG delegation led by Officer-in-Charge, MRCC (Chennai) participated in the Indian Ocean Rim



Synergy for SAR Operations

Association (IORA) Workshop on Maritime Assistance and Search and Rescue (SAR) at Dhaka, Bangladesh from 05-08 Sep 22. The workshop was conducted by IORA Secretariat in collaboration with Australian Government which was aimed at identification of regional maritime SAR capabilities and ongoing mechanism that can be adopted by IORA to address the gaps towards improving regional maritime safety and security arrangements.

● **Workshop on development of IORA Declaration.** An ICG Officer participated in the workshop on development of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) declaration on combating Marine Debris and a strategic framework on Marine Debris in the Indian Ocean at Bali, Indonesia from 28-29 Sep 22. The workshop was attended by representatives of IORA member states to discuss the draft agreement on combating marine debris.



Developing Framework on Combating Marine Debris

TRAINING OF FOREIGN OFFICERS & PBORs

ICG has been conducting training for Officers and Sailors of Coast Guards and Maritime Agencies of the Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs) in domain of Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE), Maritime Search and Rescue (M-SAR) and Maritime Pollution Response (MPR). These courses conducted under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) scheme of MEA, GoI are broadly aimed towards enhancing the regional response mechanism and capacity building.

- **Maritime Law and Ops Course (2021-22).** ICG conducted Maritime Law and Ops Course in virtual mode for 20 Officers of 10 FFCs (Bangladesh, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Togo & Vietnam) from 07 Feb 22 to 04 Mar 22 at Coast Guard Training Centre, Kochi. Similar course through virtual mode was also undertaken for 03 Officers & 25 PBORs of 10 FFCs (Bangladesh, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Togo & Vietnam) from 07 Mar to 25 Mar 22.

- **IMO Level I & II Course (2021-22).** Training on Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response is being undertaken by ICG for FFCs. A course on International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Level I was undertaken by Coast Guard Pollution Response Team (CGPRT) East at Chennai from 18-23 Apr 22 for 14 PBORs from 08 FFCs (Bangladesh, Comoros, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nigeria, Seychelles & Sri Lanka). CGPRT East also conducted IMO Level II training at Chennai from 22-29 Apr 2022 for 28 officers of Coast Guard/ Maritime Agencies of FFCs from Bangladesh, Comoros, Iran,

Kenya, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand & Vietnam. The officers were provided with classroom instructions and practical demonstration of Pollution Response equipment for better understanding of pollution response operations.



Training Together for Shared Response Capabilities

- **MRCC Ops and SAR Course.** MRCC Ops and SAR Course was conducted by Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), Mumbai from 23-28 May 22 for 15 foreign trainees comprising 07 officers and 08 PBORs from Coast Guards/ Maritime Agencies of Bangladesh, Maldives, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. The training was focused on strengthening collaborative efforts towards implementation of various guidelines promulgated under Search and Rescue convention.



Sharing best practices with FFCs on SAR Operations

- **Maritime Law and Ops Course (2022-23).** Coast Guard Training Centre, Kochi conducted first Phase of training under ITEC Training Calendar Jul 22 - Jun 23 on Maritime Law and Ops from 10 Oct - 04 Nov 22 for 14 Officers of 08 FFCs



Maritime Law Enforcement Training to FFC

(Bangladesh, Cambodia, Comoros, Ghana, Gambia, Ivory Coast, Republic of Congo & Myanmar) and for 28 PBORs of 09 FFCs (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Comoros, Gambia, Ivory Coast, Republic of Congo, Mauritius, Myanmar & Vietnam) from 07-25 Nov 22.

● **IMO Level I & II (2022-23) Course.** ICG Pollution Response Team (CGPRT), West conducted training on IMO Level I & II training for 07 Officers and 07 PBORs from Bangladesh, Madagascar, Myanmar and

Seychelles between 14-25 Nov 22 and 14-19 Nov 22 respectively at ICG Pollution Response Centre (West), Mumbai.



Preparing for Oil Spill Contingencies Response & Marine Environment Challenges of Mutual Interest

Training Statistics for Year 2022

Course	Countries	Officers	PBORs
Maritime Law & Ops Course	17	37	53
IMO Level I & II Course	17	42	21
MRCC Ops & SAR Course	04	07	08

To commemorate 30 years of India-ASEAN relations in 2022, maiden India-ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting was held in Cambodia on 22 Nov 2022 co-chaired by Defence Minister of India Shri Rajnath Singh and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence of Cambodia General Tea Banh on the side-lines of 9th ASEAN-Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Plus.

During maiden India-ASEAN Defence Ministers' meeting, one of the major initiatives proposed by Hon'ble Defence Minister of India was establishment of India-ASEAN Marine Pollution Response Centre at (IAMPRC) Chennai by the Indian Coast Guard to address and supplement regional efforts to deal with marine pollution incidents. The centre will also be responsible for imparting training and conduct of workshops for the Officers and PBORs of ASEAN member states to ensure safeguarding of seas of the region against the Marine Pollution.



Ministry of Defence



Raksha Mantri & his Cambodian counterpart co-chair maiden India-ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting in Siem Reap

Shri Rajnath Singh conveys India's continued advocacy for a free, open, inclusive & rules-based Indo-Pacific

“India & ASEAN must work together for maritime security in the region”

To further expand India-ASEAN ties, RM announces initiatives for Women in UN Peace Keeping Operations & Marine Plastic Pollution

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The maiden India-ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting was held today at Siem Reap, Cambodia to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of India-ASEAN relations in 2022, which has also been designated as 'ASEAN-India Friendship Year'. The meeting was co-chaired by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence of Cambodia General Tea Banh. It preceded the 9th ASEAN-Defence Ministers Meeting' (ADMM) Plus scheduled to take place tomorrow.

The Raksha Mantri, in his address, highlighted the historic and robust ties that India shares with ASEAN countries. India-ASEAN relationship was elevated recently to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during the ASEAN-India Summit held in Cambodia on November 12, 2022.

Shri Rajnath Singh emphasised that the centrality of ASEAN in the Indo-Pacific region is the cornerstone of India's Act East Policy. During this maiden India-ASEAN Defence Ministers meeting, Shri Singh proposed two major initiatives for further expanding the scope and the depth of the India-ASEAN defence relations. One of the initiatives proposed by Raksha Mantri was the 'India-ASEAN Initiative for Women in UN Peace Keeping Operations' which includes conduct of tailor-made courses for women peacekeepers of ASEAN Member States at the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping in India and conduct of a 'Table Top Exercise' in India for women officers from ASEAN incorporating facets of UN peacekeeping challenges. The Raksha Mantri underlined the importance of women officers in peacekeeping missions for ensuring lasting peace.



The second initiative announced by Shri Rajnath Singh was 'India-ASEAN Initiative on Marine Plastic Pollution' which includes channelising of the energy of the youth towards addressing the critical issue of marine pollution. Shri Rajnath Singh informed the ASEAN members of the significant work done by the NCC in the cleaning of Indian beaches and raising awareness about plastic pollution in the Indian coastal community. He suggested coordination between the NCC and the equivalent youth organisations of ASEAN countries for a collective effort in this direction in the region. He also proposed establishment of an India-ASEAN Marine Pollution Response Centre at Chennai by the Indian Coast Guard to address and supplement regional efforts to deal with marine pollution incidents.

Both the initiatives were very warmly received by the ASEAN defence leadership who unanimously and strongly endorsed its practicality and relevance. The ASEAN defence ministers also acknowledged the positive role played by India in the region.

The Raksha Mantri also conveyed India's continued advocacy for a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific while also suggesting the need for India and ASEAN to work together for maritime security in the region. He expressed satisfaction towards ASEAN's support for the first India-ASEAN maritime exercise planned to be conducted in May next year. In conclusion, the forum recognised the importance of the India-ASEAN ties for ensuring peace and stability in the region.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERTANDING/ COOPERATION WITH COAST GUARD/MARITIME AGENCIES OF FRIENDLY FOREIGN COUNTRIES

SL.	COUNTRY	MARITIME AGENCY	MOU/MOC SIGNED ON
1.	BANGLADESH 	BANGLADESH COAST GUARD 	06 JUN 2015
2.	JAPAN 	JAPAN COAST GUARD 	24 NOV 2006
3.	INDONESIA 	BADAN KEMSAHSN LSUT REPUBLIK 	06 JUL 2020
4.	OMAN 	ROYAL OMAN POLICE COAST GUARD 	22 MAY 2016
5.	PAKISTAN 	MARITIME SECURITY AGENCY 	03 OCT 2005
6.	SOUTH KOREA 	KOREA COAST GUARD 	13 MAR 2006
7.	SRI LANKA 	SRI LANKA COAST GUARD 	09 MAY 2018
8.	VIETNAM 	VIETNAM COAST GUARD 	25 MAY 2015



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