

PRESS RELEASE

VISIT OF INDIAN COAST GUARD SHIPS TO SRI LANKA

New Delhi, 24 Jan 2026:- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Offshore Patrol Vessel **ICGS Varaha** and Fast Patrol Vessel **ICGS Atulya** made a port call at **Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 24 Jan 26**, as part of their overseas deployment to the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**. This deployment underscores India's steadfast commitment to strengthening regional maritime cooperation, enhancing interoperability with partner agencies, and fostering mutual goodwill across the IOR.

During their stay, ICG ships will engage in professional interactions with the **Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG)**, focusing on capacity building and the exchange of best practices. The focus of professional interactions will be on core maritime operation domains such as **Maritime Search and Rescue (M-SAR)**, **Marine Pollution Response (MPR)**, **Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE)**, **Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS)**, aimed at sharing best practices and building collective capability to address maritime challenges effectively.

In addition to professional engagements, the visit will also feature **courtesy calls, friendly sports fixtures and cultural exchanges** to promote camaraderie and people-to-people connect. The crew will also undertake **community service activities**, reflecting India's commitment to constructive outreach and goodwill. The visit will also serve to showcase India's shipbuilding capabilities, supporting the concept of "Atmanirbhar Bharat." The ships will also be **open for visitors**, providing an opportunity for local dignitaries, youth, students and community groups to interact with ICG personnel and gain insight into Indian Coast Guard capabilities and maritime operations — a key component of people-to-people outreach.

Aligned with the Government of India's initiatives on environmental stewardship and community participation, ICGS Varaha and ICGS Atulya will undertake **beach clean-up drives, awareness programmes on marine environmental protection**, and engage with **local youth organizations and community groups** to spread awareness about protecting marine ecosystems — reflecting sustained commitment to marine conservation and the *Puneet Sagar Abhiyan*.

During their stay at Colombo, ICGS Ships will also participate in the Republic Day Ceremony at India House, marking a significant occasion to celebrate India's national day overseas and further strengthening diplomatic and people-to-people ties. Following the port call, on **27 Jan 26**, the vessels will undertake Exercise **SAGAREX off the coast of Colombo** with their Sri Lankan counterparts, focusing on coordinated responses in pollution response operations.

This mission reiterates India's vision of '**SAGAR — Security and Growth for All in the Region**', showcasing the Indian Coast Guard's commitment to building robust partnerships, enhancing regional maritime safety and security, and ensuring **safe, secure and clean seas** across the Indian Ocean Region.

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