



## ICGS Varaha

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Recently, the Indian Defence Minister commissioned the **Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Varaha** at the Chennai port.

- The ICGS Varaha is the fourth in the series of seven 98-m Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- The ship has been designed and built **indigenously** and will operate from the port of New Mangalore on the West Coast (covering Exclusive Economic Zone) up to Kanyakumari.
- It is fitted with the latest navigation and communication equipment which include the Integrated Bridge System, Automated Power Management System and indigenously built Integrated Platform Management System and Halo Traversing System.
- ICGS Varaha is capable of operating the indigenously developed **advanced light helicopter** developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

The ship is well equipped with high-speed boats, medical facilities, and modern surveillance systems for conducting boarding operations, search and rescue, law enforcement and maritime patrolling.
- This ship will enhance the ICG's strength in responding to the threats of maritime terrorism, smuggling, and challenges of maritime enforcement.

### Indian Coast Guard

- It was established on 18<sup>th</sup> August **1978** by the **Coast Guard Act, 1978** of the Parliament of India as an independent Armed force of India.
- It operates under the **Ministry of Defence**.
- Headquarter: **New Delhi**.
- It has jurisdiction over the territorial waters of India including **contiguous zone and exclusive economic zone**.
- It is responsible for marine environment protection in maritime zones of India and is coordinating authority for response to oil spills in Indian waters.

**Source: PIB**