ICGS Vigraha

Why in News

The **Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV)** **Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Vigraha** was commissioned into the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG).**

- It is the **last vessel in the series of seven OPVs** built by Larsen & Toubro (Private Company) under an Ministry of Defence **contract signed in 2015.**
- In May 2021, **OPV Sajag** was commissioned into the ICG.

Key Points

- **About:** //

  - It is about **98 metres long, 15 metres wide, has 3.6 metres draught,** with 2,140 tonnes displacement and a range of 5,000 nautical miles.
  - It can **attain a sustained speed of up to 26 knots.**
  - It is **fitted with advanced technology** radars**,** navigation & communication equipment, sensors and machinery capable of operating in tropical sea conditions.
  - It is also **equipped with an integrated bridge system,** integrated platform management system, automated power management system and high-power external fire-fighting system.
  - It is **armed with a 40/60 Bofors** gun and fitted with two **12.7 mm Stabilised Remote Control Gun** with fire control system.
- **Special Capability:**
  - To **carry one twin-engine Helicopter and four high speed boats** for boarding operation, search & rescue, law enforcement and maritime patrol.
  - **Capable of carrying pollution response equipment** to contain oil spills at sea.
- **Offshore Patrol Vehicles:**
  - OPVs are **long-range surface ships,** capable of operation in maritime zones of India, including island territories with helicopter operation capabilities.
  - Their roles include **coastal and offshore patrolling,** policing maritime zones of India, control and surveillance, **anti-smuggling and anti-piracy** operations with limited

wartime roles.

Indian Coast Guard

- It is an **Armed Force, Search and Rescue and Maritime Law Enforcement agency** under the Ministry of Defence. It is headquartered in **New Delhi.**
- It was **established in August 1978** by the **Coast Guard Act, 1978** as an independent Armed force of India.
    - The concept of forming ICG came into being after the 1971 war**.** The blueprint for a multidimensional Coast Guard was conceived by the visionary **Rustamji Committee.**
- It has jurisdiction over the territorial waters of India including contiguous zone and **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).**
- 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

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