



## Coastal Security

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Nearly 10% of mock attacks launched during the **Exercise Sea Vigil** were successful in breaching the multilayered defences along the coast.

The coastal security enterprise includes:

- **Installation of a three-tier security arrangement** (with the Indian Navy (IN), the Coast Guard (ICG) and the marine police, jointly safeguarding India's maritime zone).
- **Creation of coastal police stations and surveillance infrastructure under a Coastal Security Scheme (CSS)**, the commissioning of **radar stations along the coastline**.
- **Installation of Automatic Identification Systems** and **Joint Operation Centres (JOCs)**.
- Each undertaking is aided by intelligence networks to ensure effective monitoring of maritime activity in the near-seas.

## Exercise Sea Vigil

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- In January, 2019 the Indian Navy and Coast Guard coordinated the **largest coastal defence exercise - Exercise Sea Vigil** off the Indian coast.
- The exercise is a part of the major theatre level tri-service exercise **TROPEX [Theatre-level Readiness Operational Exercise]** which Indian Navy conducts every two years.
- It was simultaneously undertaken on the eastern and western coasts to check coastal safety measures put into place after the November 2008 Mumbai attacks.

## Concerns Related to Coastal Security

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- Around 1 in 10 mock attacks during the exercise breached the multi-tiered defence along the coast.
- The **small boats**, which are less than 20 m in length, are yet to get Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) which remain a primary cause of concern. An AIS automatically provides information about a vessel to other ships and to coastal

authorities.

- The **ill-equipped maritime police forces** of coastal states are also a cause of concern. There is lack of adequate training, motivation and non-availability of boats with state maritime police.
- Slow pace in upgrading coastal security infrastructure.
- Other concerns include **acute shortage of manpower, shortfall in the patrolling efforts, inadequate training for marine police, jetties** under the "**Coastal Security Scheme**" are yet to be constructed, etc.

## Way Forward

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- The potential threat from smaller rogue boats is likely to be addressed through a **satellite-guided friend or foe identification system of the Indian Space Research Organisation** with a **two-way messaging system** in all local languages.
- Enlist sailors who are about to retire, to man the state maritime police forces.
- **Fishermen and coastal communities** should be included in the comprehensive coastal security plan as 'eyes and ears' of security agencies.
- **Capacity building of the maritime police** force both in terms of training as well as resources should be done at par with other maritime security agencies like Navy and Coast Guard.
- **Upgradation of coastal security infrastructure** with latest equipments and gadgets.
- The government is considering **doing away with state maritime police forces** that are in place in the nine coastal states and four union territories.
- There is a proposal that the Coast Guard, which comes under the Defence Ministry's jurisdiction, will now be placed **under the Union Home Ministry** and designated as the **National Maritime Police (NMP)**.
- Regular coastal security exercises like **Sea Vigil, bi-annual Sagar Kavach**, should be conducted to audit the actual security scenario.

## Coastal Security Scheme

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is implementing a comprehensive Coastal Security Scheme (CSS) to strengthen the security infrastructure in the Coastal States in India.
- Phase-I of the Scheme was implemented during 2005-2011 based on the requirements projected by the coastal States/Union Territories.
- Phase-II of the Scheme is underway with effect from 01.04.2011 till 31.03.2020 on the basis of vulnerability/gap analysis.
- Under the Coastal Security Scheme, coastal States/Union Territories have been sanctioned with 204 coastal police stations, 60 jetties, 429 boats, 284 four-wheelers, 554 two-wheelers, 97 check posts, 58 outposts and 30 barracks.