

Offshore Patrol Vessel-6 “VAJRA”

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Recently Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV-6) 'VAJRA' was launched at Chennai. It will guard the Indian coast including an exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

About VAJRA

- OPV-6 is truly state of the art platform which will enhance the capabilities of the Indian Coast Guard in terms of Operation, Surveillance, Search & Rescue.
- The ship would be utilized for day and night patrol/surveillance along with anti-terrorist/ anti-smuggling operations in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) as well as Coastal Security.
- The OPV will have two Navigation Radars with ultra-modern technology, Sophisticated navigational and latest communication systems.

A brief note on Indian Coast Guard

- The Indian Coast Guard is a multi-mission organization, conducting round-the-year real-life operations at sea.
- The organization is headed by the Director General Indian Coast Guard (DGICG) exercising his overall command and superintendence from the Coast Guard Headquarters (CGHQ) located at New Delhi.
 - **Regions:** For effective command and control, the **Maritime Zones of India are divided into five Coast Guard Regions**, namely, North-West, West, East, North-East and Andaman & Nicobar, with the respective Regional Headquarters located at Gandhinagar, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Port Blair.
- The Coast Guard Regions are commanded by Officers of the rank of Inspector General.
- **The regions are further divided into twelve Coast Guard 'Districts'**, one each for the nine coastal states on the mainland, two in the Andaman & Nicobar Region, and one at Kavaratti in the Lakshadweep and Minicoy Islands.
 - Each Coast Guard District comprises one or more Coast Guard Stations.
- In addition, there are Coast Guard Air Stations (CGAS) and Air Enclaves (CGAE) for air operations from various locations along the coastline.