

Commissioning of ICGS Varaha – 25 Sep 19

Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Varaha', the fourth in the series of seven Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs), was commissioned at Chennai by Hon'ble Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh on 25 Sep 19 in the presence of Director General Krishnaswamy Natarajan, PTM, TM, Indian Coast Guard and other senior dignitaries of the central and state government.

As per legend '*Varaha*', is the third incarnation of lord '*Vishnu*' who took the form of a boar to rescue goddess earth from the ocean by lifting her on his tusks. 'Varaha' is a projection of Indian Coast Guard's Will and Commitment to 'Serve and Protect' the maritime interest of the nation. The ship is being based at New Mangalore, Karnataka under the operational and administrative control of the Commander Coast Guard Region (West).

This 98 meter OPV has been designed and built by M/s Larsen & Toubro Ltd at Kattupalli, Chennai and is fitted with state-of-the-art navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machineries. She is equipped with a 30-mm and 12.7mm gun with FCS for enhancing the fighting efficiency. The other special features onboard are Integrated Bridge System (IBS), Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS), Automated Power Management System (APMS) and High Power External firefighting system. The ship is designed to carry one twin engine helicopter and four high speed boats including two rigid hull inflatable boats for swift boarding operation, Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement and Maritime Patrol. The ship is also capable of carrying Pollution Response equipment for oil spill response at sea.

The ship draws approx. 2100 tons (GRT) and is propelled by two 9100 kw diesel engines and attains a maximum speed of 26 knots, with an endurance of 5000 nautical miles. The sustenance and reach, coupled with the latest and modern equipment and systems, provides her the capability to perform the role of a Command platform to accomplish the Coast Guard charter of duties.

The ship, on joining Coast Guard Western fleet, will be deployed extensively for EEZ surveillance and other duties as enshrined in the Coast Guard charter, to safeguard the maritime interest of India. Indian Coast Guard presently has a fleet of 142 ships & boats and 62 aircraft. Further, 65 ships are at various stages of construction at different shipyards in India and 16 ALH are under production by M/s HAL, Bangaluru.

ICGS Varaha is commanded by Commandant Dushyant Kumar and has compliment of 14 officers and 89 men.

