

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **INDIAN COAST GUARD MARKS KEY MILESTONES WITH KEEL LAYING, PLATE CUTTING, AND GIRDER LAYING CEREMONIES FOR FAST PATROL VESSELS AND AIR CUSION VEHICLES**

New Delhi, 30 Oct 25: The Keel Laying of second Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV), Plate Cutting of fifth FPV under the 14 FPV Project, and Girder Laying Ceremonies for the second and third indigenously built Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs) of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) were held today at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai, and M/s Chowgule's Rassaim Yard, Goa, respectively. The ceremonies were graced by Inspector General Harman Preet Singh, Deputy Director General (Technical), Coast Guard Commander (Western Seaboard) and Inspector General Sudhir Sahni, TM, Deputy Director General (M&M), Coast Guard Headquarters respectively. Senior officials from MDL, Chowgule & Company, and ICG were also present on the occasion.

The contract for design and construction of 14 FPVs was concluded on 24 Jan 2024 with MDL. These water-jet propelled vessels, with an approximate displacement of 340 tons, are designed for coastal security, search and rescue, and law enforcement operations, featuring a minimum indigenous content of 60%.

Each FPV is equipped with indigenously built gearboxes by M/s Triveni, Mysore, and water jets by M/s MJP India. The vessels will also feature state-of-the-art machinery, including AI-based predictive maintenance systems and multipurpose drones, underscoring the integration of advanced technologies into India's maritime defence capabilities.

The contract for six ACVs, signed with the Ministry of Defence on 24 Oct 2024, marks a major milestone under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. It reinforces the Government of India's commitment to self-reliance in advanced maritime platforms.

These state-of-the-art hovercraft, based on the proven Griffon Hoverwork (UK) design, are being indigenously built with over 50% local content. Once commissioned, they will represent a technological leap in India's coastal security infrastructure.

Capable of high-speed patrolling, reconnaissance, interception, interdiction, and all-weather search and rescue operations, the ACVs will serve as agile force multipliers ensuring swift response and seamless mobility across shallow waters, marshes, and open seas.

The Keel Laying, Plate Cutting, and Girder Laying ceremonies mark significant milestones in the overall project timeline. The 14 FPVs and 6 ACVs are being built in consonance with the nation's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', and will greatly augment the Indian Coast Guard's presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

The landmark collaboration between the ICG, MDL, and M/s Chowgule & Company Pvt. Ltd. underscores India's growing prowess in indigenous shipbuilding, a testament to innovation, vision, and national pride, truly riding on the cushion of air.

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