

PRESS RELEASE

INDIAN COAST GUARD SHIP MAIDEN VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA

New Delhi, 03 Oct 25: Indian Coast Guard Ship Sachet, an Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV), made its **maiden port call at Cape Town, South Africa**, on **02 Oct 25** as part of its ongoing overseas deployment.

The Commanding Officer of ICGS Sachet, accompanied by the Defence Adviser, called on **Rear Admiral Handsome T Matsane, Flag Officer Fleet**, at Simon's Town. The interaction underscored the importance of professional engagements between the Indian Coast Guard and the South African Navy to further strengthen maritime cooperation.

As part of community outreach, a group of **26 school children visited the ship**, where they were familiarised with the ship's equipment, systems, and firefighting gear. An ICG documentary film was also screened to provide an overview of the Indian Coast Guard's multifaceted roles in ensuring maritime safety and security.

On the occasion of **Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti**, the Commanding Officer along with 15 crew members, laid floral tributes at the **Mahatma Gandhi Memorial, Aderne Gardens, Cape Town**. The solemn ceremony reflected the shared values of peace, non-violence, and global harmony. Further, to promote cultural exchange and wellness, a **joint yoga session** was conducted onboard ICGS Sachet on 03 Oct 25. The event witnessed participation by **20 officers and sailors from the South African Navy** along with the ICG ship's crew, further fostering camaraderie and people-to-people connect.

During the visit, the crew of ICGS Sachet will engage in professional interactions with South African Maritime Agencies focusing on Marine Pollution Response (MPR), Maritime Search and Rescue (M-SAR) and Maritime Law Enforcement. A **table-top exercise and a harbour demonstration of pollution response equipment** is also planned. The visit aims not only to strengthen ties between the Indian Coast Guard and its South African counterparts but also to showcase India's shipbuilding capabilities, supporting the concept of "Atamnirbhar Bharat." Additionally, the National Cadet Corps (NCC), Assam Rifle personnel embarked aboard ICGS Sachet will participate in an Environment Protection Walkathon towards sensitizing community on ill effects of marine plastic pollution in collaboration with Embassy personnel, South African Navy/ Coast Guard personnel and local youth organizations, contributing to the Gol initiative of "Puneet Sagar Abhiyan" and enhancing international outreach.

The visit of ICGS Sachet marks a significant step in **strengthening maritime ties between India and South Africa** and highlights the Indian Coast Guard's commitment to regional cooperation, capacity building, and promoting maritime goodwill in alignment with India's vision of **SAGAR – Security and Growth for All in the Region**.

Issued by:
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