



CHAPTER 1

Indian Coast Guard – An Overview

1.1 Introduction

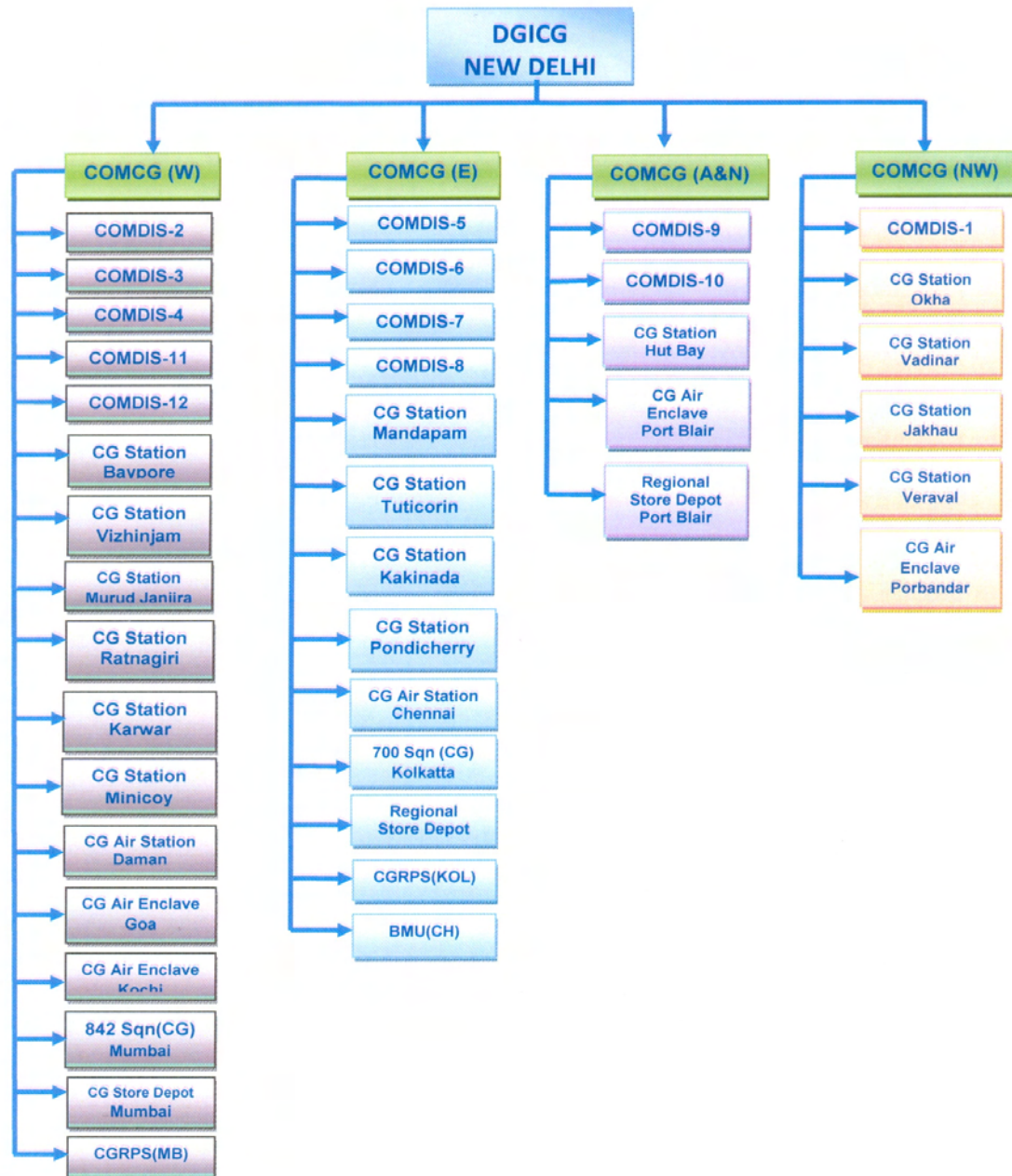
The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is a maritime armed force operating under the Ministry of Defence. Formally constituted in August 1978 under the Coast Guard Act 1978, the ICG is mandated to protect the Maritime and other national interests of India in the Maritime Zones of India by way of providing protection to offshore and other structures, protection to fishermen and assisting in anti smuggling operations. The ICG, working in co-ordination with other Union agencies, institutions and authorities, safeguards the maritime interests and security of India, assists vessels and fisherman in distress and protects the maritime environment.

1.2 Organisational set up

The ICG is headed by a Director General, an officer of the rank of Vice Admiral of the Indian Navy. The Director General is assisted by other officers who are responsible for different duties and responsibilities.

The Director General Coast Guard (DGCG) exercises his command from Coast Guard Headquarters at New Delhi through Commander Coast Guard Regions (COMCG) West, East, North West and Andaman & Nicobar. The Regional Commanders exercise their command through District Commander (COMDIS), CG Stations and CG Air Stations. Most of the ships are under operational control of the COMCG's while some are also under the control of Air Enclave/District Commanders and ICG Stations. The organisational set up of ICG is given below:

1 Organisational set up of Indian Coast Guard



Geographically, the ICG functions through four Regional Headquarters (RHQs) located at Mumbai, Gandhi Nagar¹, Chennai and Port Blair. Under these RHQs, there are 12 District Headquarters². Other major operating units include independent CG Stations, Aviation units and 26 miscellaneous units

¹ The fourth North Western RHQ was set up at Gandhi Nagar in August 2009.

² Porbandar, Mumbai, New Mangalore, Kochi, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Paradip, Haldia, Diglipur, Campbell Bay, Kavaratti and Goa.

like store depots, refit and production teams etc. These are shown in the map given below:

2 Coast Guard Units



Source: Indian Coast Guard

1.3 Evolution of the Indian Coast Guard

The establishment of the ICG as a new service was the result of an awareness that had been growing for some time in the Government of India for the requirement to enforce National Laws in the waters under national jurisdiction and ensure safety of life and property at sea. It was also considered desirable that these law enforcement responsibilities be undertaken by a service suitably equipped and modelled on the Coast Guards of advanced nations like the United States of America, United Kingdom, etc leaving the Indian Navy to exercise the fleet for its wartime role.

A committee was, therefore, constituted in September 1974 with Mr K F Rustamji as its chairman to study the problem of seaborne smuggling and the question of setting up a Coast Guard type of organization. At that time, the United Nations Convention on Law of the Seas (UNCLOS) had also gained momentum extending jurisdiction of coastal states upto 200 nautical miles (NM), i.e. the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), for economic exploitation of maritime resources. The Maritime Zones of India (MZI) Act was passed on 25th August 1976. Under this Act, India claimed 2.01 million sq km of sea area in which she would have exclusive rights for exploration and exploitation of resources, both living and non-living, at sea.



ICG Interceptor Boat

The ICG in its present shape was formally inaugurated on 18th August 1978 as an independent armed force of the Union with the enactment of the Coast Guard Act 1978.

At the time of its formation, the ICG had a force level of two Naval Frigates and five patrol boats. The strength has increased over the years and the Service today (as of December 2010) has a force level of 82 ships and 46 aircraft.

The ICG has (as of December 2010), 1037 officers and 6387 enrolled personnel (EP).

1.4 Duties and functions

The ICG is mandated by its founding Act to protect the maritime and other national interests of India in the maritime zones of India. This includes:

- (a) ensuring the safety and protection of artificial islands, offshore terminals, installations and other structures and devices in any maritime zone;
- (b) providing protection to fishermen including assistance to them at sea while in distress;
- (c) taking such measures as are necessary to preserve and protect the maritime environment and to prevent and control marine pollution;
- (d) assisting the customs and other authorities in anti-smuggling operations;
- (e) enforcing the provisions of such enactments as are for the time being in force in the maritime zones; and
- (f) such other matters, including measures for the safety of life and property at sea and collection of scientific data, as may be prescribed.

INDIAN COAST GUARD RANK STRUCTURE

- Director General
- Inspector General
- Deputy Inspector General (Senior)
- Deputy Inspector General (Junior)
- Commandant
- Commandant (Junior Grade)
- Deputy Commandant
- Assistant Commandant
- Assistant Commandant (Trainee)

Officers are commissioned in the Indian Coast Guard in one of the three branches viz. General Duty Officer, Pilot Officer or Technical Officer. Women are also commissioned as officers in all the three branches, but they serve only on shore installations. They are not deployed on board Indian Coast Guard ships.

General Duty Officers

General Duty Officers of the Indian Coast Guard are assigned with operational tasks including command of weapons systems, navigation systems, crews and vessels. Command of ships at sea is exercised by General Duty Officers. Command of Coast Guard operations at sea, and the safety of crew and ships is the primary responsibility of the officers.

Pilot Officers

Pilot Officers are commissioned into the Air Wing of the Indian Coast Guard. They serve either on shore at a Indian Coast Guard Air Station or Air Enclave, or operate rotary wing aircraft from Indian Coast Guard ships.

Technical Officers

Technical Officers are responsible for operation of advanced technology and sensor systems on board Indian Coast Guard vessels and aircraft, as well as on shore installations. They also command the maintenance wings of the force. Technical officers are usually required to have an Engineering background.

Enrolled Personnel

Enrolled Personnel in the Indian Coast Guard serve as either a **Yantrik** (Technician) or **Navik** (Sailor). Yantriks are responsible for operating and maintaining mechanical, electrical or aeronautical equipment and systems on board the Indian Coast Guard vessels and aircraft. Naviks serve in the General Duty or Domestic branches. The General Duty Naviks serve as sailors, weapons systems operators, communication specialists, divers, etc. or in specific maritime or aviation support roles. Domestic branch Naviks serve in roles such as stewards, cooks, etc on board Indian Coast vessels.

Source: Indian Coast Guard

Insignia of Indian Coast Guard



RANK INSIGNIA – COAST GUARD OFFICERS

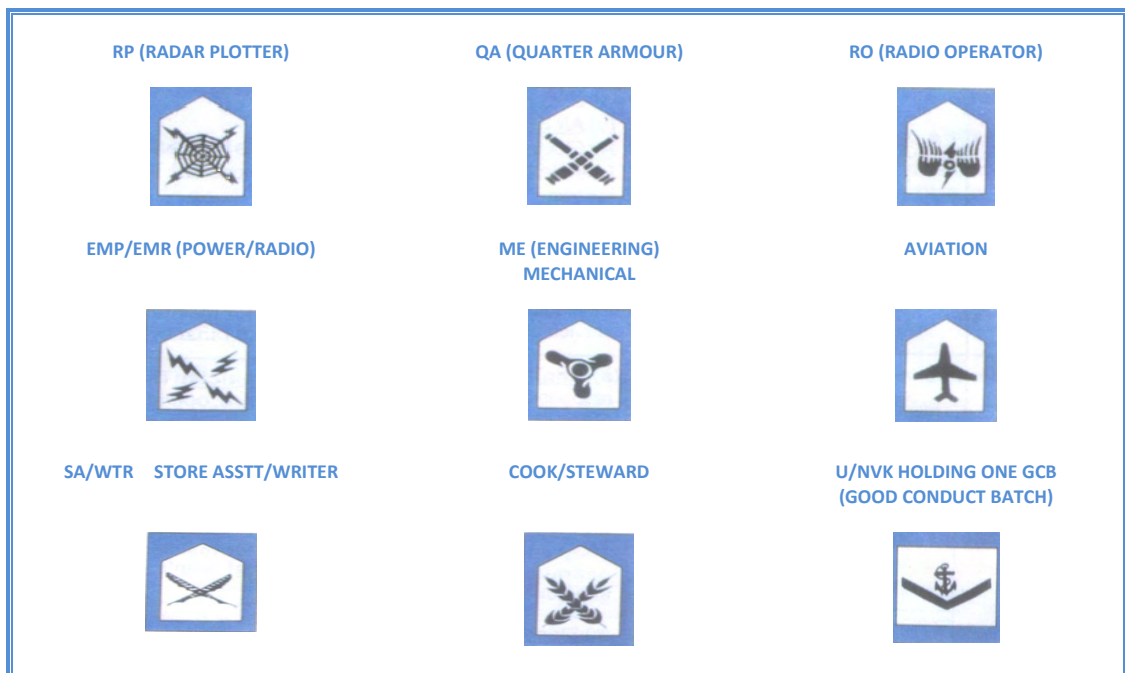
DIRECTOR GENERAL	INSPECTOR GENERAL	DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL (SENIOR)			
					
SHOULDER	SLEEVE	SHOULDER	SLEEVE	SHOULDER	SLEEVE
DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL (JUNIOR)	COMMANDANT	COMMANDANT (JG)			
					
SHOULDER	SLEEVE	SHOULDER	SLEEVE	SHOULDER	SLEEVE
DEPUTY COMMANDANT	ASSISTANT COMMANDANT	ASSISTANT COMMANDANT (TRAINEE)			
					
SHOULDER	SLEEVE	SHOULDER	SLEEVE	SHOULDER	SLEEVE

Source: Indian Coast Guard

RANK INSIGNIA – ENROLLED PERSONNEL



SPECIAL QUALIFICATION ARM BADGE



Source: Indian Coast Guard