

Raksha Mantri unveils landmark policy reforms for ICG personnel & their families

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 28 JUL 2026 12:33PM by PIB Delhi

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has unveiled two significant policy reforms for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) aimed at promoting gender parity in the induction & service conditions of officers, and streamlining the administrative procedures for granting ex-gratia to the families of personnel reported missing at sea while on duty. Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, DG ICG Director General Paramesh Sivamani and other senior officials attended the event at Kartavya Bhavan-2, New Delhi on July 28, 2026.

Lauding the ICG for its exemplary service over the past five decades, Raksha Mantri exuded confidence that these forward-looking policies will further strengthen the morale and operational efficacy of the force as it marches toward its Swarnim Jayanti (Golden Jubilee) in 2027. He reaffirmed Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi-led Government's resolve to strengthen the ICG as a modern, capable and future-ready maritime force.

Gender-neutral induction & career progression

The first policy directive establishes a comprehensive, women-centric approach by ushering in a gender-neutral framework for the induction of officers into the ICG. The highlights of the policy include induction of women candidates into both Short Service Appointments (SSA) and Permanent Appointments (PA) at par with their male counterparts. SSA has also been opened for male candidates.



The policy ensures equal opportunities for career progression, commencing right from the ab-initio training phase. The existing PA women officers shall also be considered for promotion to higher positions subject to fulfilment of eligibility conditions. The existing serving women officers on SSA will also be provided an option to convert their service to a PA, subject to the fulfilment of stipulated conditions. This progressive step reflects the Government's commitment to Nari Shakti and equal opportunity in the nation's maritime security apparatus.

Streamlined ex-gratia procedures for personnel missing at sea

The second policy reform brings relief and administrative ease to the Next of Kin (NoK) of the personnel who unfortunately go missing at sea in the line of duty. The key highlights of the policy include the authority to declare an ICG personnel missing at sea while on duty as 'presumed dead' for the purpose of ex-gratia. The reform significantly eases and accelerates the process for the grant of ex-gratia compensation and terminal benefits to the NoK. This measure ensures that the families of brave personnel are not subjected to prolonged administrative delays during times of mental trauma.



VK/Savvy

(रिलीज़ आईडी: 2290284) आगंतुक पटल : 3131

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