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# Indian Coast Guard Participates in 20th HACGAM

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## Context:

The Indian Coast Guard participated in the **20th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM)** held in **Incheon, South Korea**.

- This important gathering, which **took place from September 2-6, 2024**, brought together *coast guard agencies from across Asia to discuss crucial maritime issues* and strengthen collaborative efforts.
- This is a significant *move towards enhancing maritime security and cooperation in Asia*

## About Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM):

- The HACGAM is an **annual event hosted by one of its member nations on a rotational basis**
- It was **initiated by Japan** to promote cooperation among regional coastguards.
- The forum has **23 member Coast Guard agencies and two associate members**—

1 **The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP)** and

2 **The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**.

- It was **launched after the capture of the pirated vessel MV Alondra Rainbow by the Indian Coast Guard in November 1999**.

## Objectives:

- The primary focus of the HACGAM is **to foster cooperation between the coast guards of the member Asian states** to ensure and promote **safe, secure and clean seas in the region**.
- To achieve this, **HACGAM comprised four working groups** that enable a focused and goal-oriented approach towards coordinated response and synergy towards common maritime issues.
- The **Indian Coast Guard chairs the search and rescue (SAR) working group** and is a proactive member of the other working groups, which include **environmental protection, controlling unlawful acts at sea, and information sharing**
- **In 2022, the 18th edition of the meeting was hosted by the ICG in New Delhi.**

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