

Offshore Patrol Vessel

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Why in News?

Recently, *INS Sharda*, an Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) of the Indian Navy, made a successful port call at Colombo, strengthening maritime cooperation and friendship between the two navies.

- **Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs)** - A medium-sized, highly versatile naval or coast guard ship
- **Role** - Maritime surveillance, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) patrolling, anti-piracy operations, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) and protection of offshore assets.

Offshore assets - Infrastructure located in the sea, such as oil rigs, drilling platforms, and gas pipelines.

Feature	Sukanya-class	Saryu-class
Active No. of Ships	6 with Indian Navy, 1 with Sri Lanka Navy.	4 with Indian Navy, 2 with Sri Lanka Navy.
Built by	Korea Tacoma (first 3), Hindustan Shipyard Limited	Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)
Commissioned	1989-1993	2013-2014
Range	5,800-7,000 nautical miles at 15 knots	6,000 nautical miles at 16 knots
Primary Role	Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) patrol, surveillance, missile testbed (Dhanush)	Blue-water operations, surveillance, shipping lane control, offshore oil installation protection

Feature	Sukanya-class	Saryu-class
Names of Vessels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INS Sukanya (P50) • INS Subhadra (P51) • INS Suvarna (P52) • INS Savitri (P53) • <i>INS Sarayu (P54) to SLNS Sayura,</i> • INS Sharda (P55) • INS Sujata (P56) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INS Saryu (P54) • INS Sunayna (P57) • INS Sumedha (P58) • INS Sumitra (P59) • SLNS Sayurala (P623) • SLNS Sindurala (P624)
Limitations	Light armament, less effective in high-threat environments, aging fleet with reduced capability compared to modern OPVs.	More expensive to build and maintain, requires advanced crew training and logistics.

SLNS Sayura is an ex-INS Sarayu (P54), transferred from Indian Navy.

SLNS Sayurala & SLNS Sindurala are Indian-built Saryu-class Advanced OPVs, delivered directly by GSL.

References

1. [PIB | INS Sharda](#)
2. [OPV | DDMOPD](#)