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	• INS Sukanya (P50) • INS Subhadra (P51) • INS Suvarna (P52) • INS Savitri (P53) • *INS Sarayu (P54) to SLNS Sayura*, • INS Sharda (P55) • INS Sujata (P56)	• 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

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