

## Indian Navy's Inshore Patrol Vessels

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*In the naval scheme of things small ships largely live a life of ignominy-they have no great recall value or brand equity. They are invariably herded into squadrons or divisions and some lowliest of the low such as LCUs and SDBs don't even have a name but only a number. All this is very strange because in almost all major naval operations be it 1971 conflict, Op Pawan/Tasha or Op Swan it is the small ships that have been in the forefront. Almost all naval officers graduate through small ships and each of us will swear that they taught us a great deal and afforded us great memories.*

- *Captain Srikant B Kesnur (Indian Navy)  
Writing for the naval magazine *Quarterdeck**



*T52 – Possible SDB Mk.2 Off Bombay Jan 1982 ([Karsten Petersen](#))*

**Type:** Patrol Boat  
**Class:** Pulicat Class

Pennant	Name	Status
53 (ICG)	INS Pamban	Transferred to newly formed Indian Coast Guard in 1977. Decommissioned.
?	INS Puri	Transferred to newly formed Indian Coast Guard in 1977. Decommissioned
?	INS Pulicat	Transferred to newly formed Indian Coast Guard in 1977. Decommissioned
?	INS Panaji	Transferred to newly formed Indian Coast Guard in 1977. Decommissioned
?	INS Panvel	Transferred to newly formed Indian Coast Guard in 1977. Decommissioned Part of "Force Alpha" in 1971 river ops in East Pakistan



*Image: INS Pamban in ICG service*

**Type:** Seaward Defence Boat (SDB) Mk.1

**Class:** Ajay Class (Ford Class SDB)

Name	Status	Commission	De-commission Date (or Transfer Date)
INS Ajay <i>Later P313 BNS Surma</i>	Transferred	?	July 1974
INS Amar <i>Later MNS Amar. Later CGS Amar</i>	Transferred	11-Jul-1969	Mar 1974
INS Ajit	Decommissioned / Foundered	9-Dec-1969	July 1971
INS Atul	Decommissioned	11-Jun-1970	1980s
INS Akshay <i>Later P312 BNS Padma</i>	Transferred	?	April 1973
INS Abhay	Decommissioned	?	1980s



Image: BNS Padma

**Type/Class:** Seaward Defence Boat (SDB) Mk.2.

Names are informal. Series possibly starts from T51.

Pennant	Name	Status	Builder	Yard Number	Commission	De-commission Date
T54	Seaward	Decommissioned Sunk to be made into an artificial reef "DIVERS REEF 54." <a href="#">Link</a>	GRSE	2005	1-Sep-1982	20-Jan-2006
T55	Seawater	Decommissioned ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	GRSE		20-Aug-1983	2008 – 2009



**Type/Class:** Seaward Defence Boat (SDB) Mk.3.  
Names seem to be informal.

Pennant	Name	Status	Builder	Yard Number	Commission	De-commission Date
T56	Seawind	Decommissioned	GRSE		31-Oct-1984	31-Jan-2008
T57	Seawaves	Decommissioned	GSL	1093		NA
T58	Seastorm	Decommissioned > Will be placed ashore at the INS Chilka, as a training model > Last Seaward Defence Boat to be decommissioned	GRSE		26-Mar-1985	20-Jul-2010
T59	Seasand	Decommissioned ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	GSL	1094		7-Sep-2009
T60	Searock	Decommissioned ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	GRSE			7-Sep-2009



Image: [Bharat Rakshak](#).

**Type:** Survey Ship (Based on SDB Mk.2)

**Class:** Makar Class

Pennant	Name	Status	Builder	Yard Number	Commission	De-commission Date
J31	INS Makar	Decommissioned	GSL	1089		4-Apr-05
J32	INS Mithun	Decommissioned	GSL	1090		31-Mar-07
J33	INS Meen	Decommissioned	GSL	1091		
J34	INS Mesh	Decommissioned (Likely)	GSL	1092		



*(INS Makar) The 37.5 metre long vessel was commissioned into Naval service on January 31, 1984. Initially inducted as a minor survey vessel, it did numerous surveys for the Navy and the Hydrographic Department of India till 1993. Following the Navy's decision to increase its presence in the Palk Bay in the wake of LTTE insurgency off the Tamil Nadu coast, the role of INS Makar was changed from surveying to local defence and its base port from that of Kochi to Chennai. Under the changed role, the ship was deployed for the first time in the Palk Bay on January 2, 1994 and thereafter it was involved in innumerable exercises and operations. ([The Hindu, 05-Apr-2005](#))*

Image: [Bharat Rakshak.](#)

**Type:** Fast Patrol Vessel

**Class:** Trinkat Class

Pennant	Name	Status	Builder	Yard Number	Commission	De-commission Date (or Transfer Date)
T61	INS Trinkat Possibly now CGS Guardian (Mauritius)	Active / Transferred (?)	GSL	1095	28-Sep-2000	NA
T62	INS Tillanchang Now CGS Huravee (Maldivian Coast Guard)	Transferred	GRSE		17-Mar-2001	16-Apr-2006
T63	INS Tarasa	Active	GRSE		24-Aug-2001	NA
T64	INS Tarmugli Now SCG PS Topaz (Seychelles Coast Guard)	Transferred ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	GRSE		4-Mar-2002	23-Feb-2005

*Minister of State for Defence and National Security of Maldives Uz Mohamed Muiz Adnan described the ship as the most valued gift of India. "Huravee has enhanced our defence capabilities. It had played a key role in confronting an LTTE vessel and taking it into our control," he said and added that the ship had also played a vital role in search and rescue operations and saving a number of public lives in the island nation. ([The Hindu, 12-Feb-2010](#))*



*Image: INS Tillanchang*

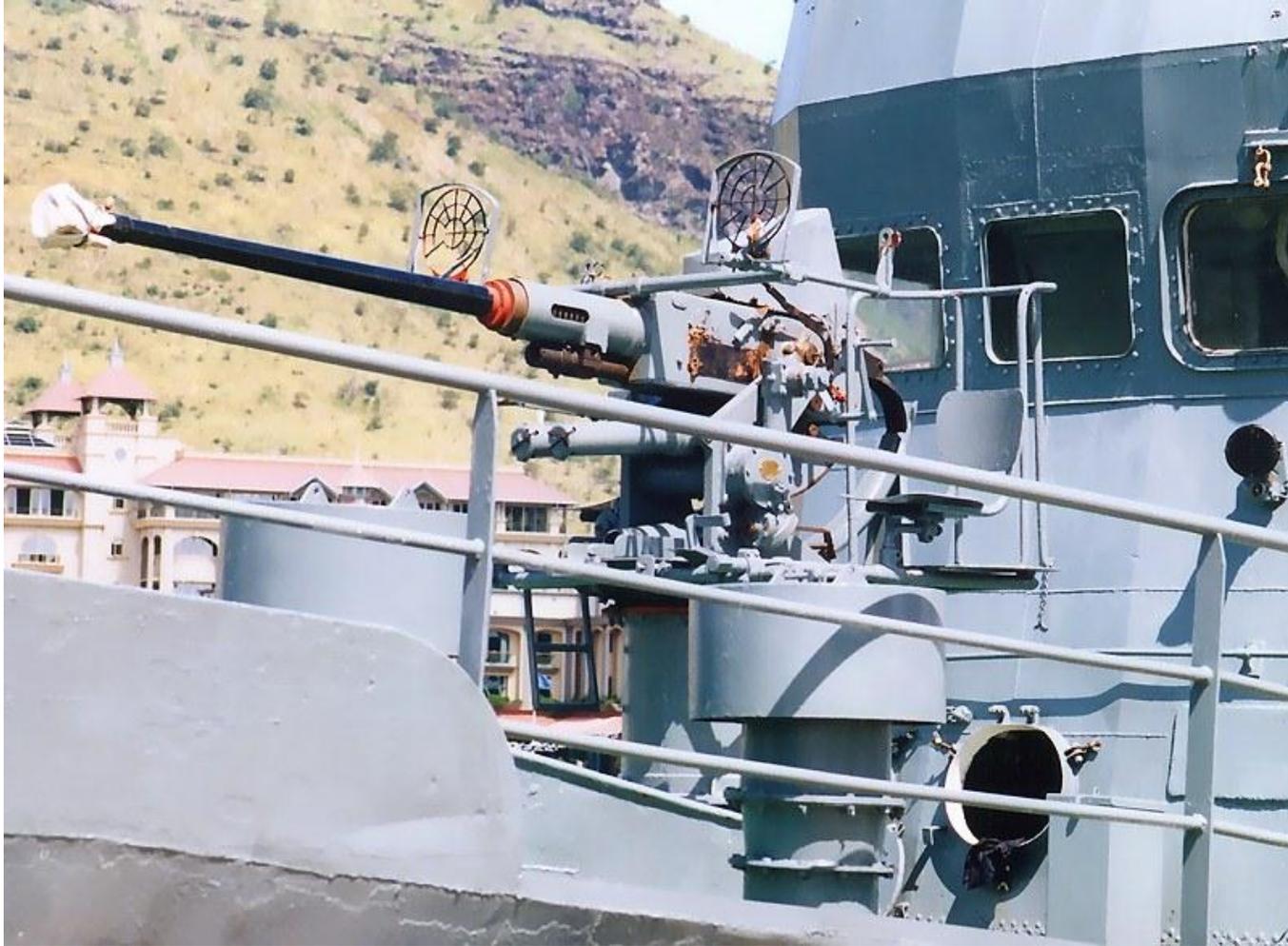


Image: Bofors L40/60 Cannon aboard the CGS Guardian ([Source](#))

**Type:** Fast Patrol Vessel

**Class:** Bangaram Class

Pennant	Name	Status	Builder	Commission
T65	INS Bangaram	Active	GRSE	10-Feb-2006
T66	INS Bitra	Active	GRSE	28-Mar-2006
T67	INS Batti Malv	Active	GRSE	31-Jul-2006
T68	INS Baratang	Active	GRSE	12-Sep-2006



*Named after the island Bangaram in the Lakshadweep group of islands, INS Bangaram is a 320 tonne-ship, 46 metres in length and capable of doing speeds over 20 knots facilitating extensive surveillance in and around the Islands. The ship is capable of covering over 2000 nautical miles (3704 kms) without replenishment. The speciality of this ship is that she is a modern and capable warship in every respect and almost entirely Indian - in design, construction and weapon package. She is fitted with sophisticated navigational and communication equipment, close range anti-aircraft gun, CRN 91 with a range of about 5 kms. It can fire at the rate of 500 rounds per minute. ([Sainik Samachar](#))*

Note the altered forecastle compared to previous classes.

*The anti-poaching measures by ANC continued to bear positive results with 11 poachers being apprehended on 06 Mar 11 by Indian Naval Ship Batti Malv. This ship had earlier apprehended another Myanmar boat with 14 poachers in the month of Sep 2010.*

*INS Batti Malv, whilst on routine patrol off Interview Island on 06 Mar 11, apprehended 11 Myanmar poachers. On sighting the warship, the poachers attempted to flee at high speed. The poachers' boat was intercepted by INS Batti Malv after hot pursuit and was apprehended. The boat was towed by Batti Malv to be handed over to Port Blair police.*



**Type:** Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC)

**Class:** Car Nicobar Class

Pennant	Name	Status	Builder	Yard Number	Commission
T69	INS Car Nicobar	Active	GRSE	2057	16-Feb-2009
T70	INS Chetlat	Active	GRSE	2058	16-Feb-2009
T71	INS Kora Divh	Active	GRSE	2059	10-Sep-2009
T72	INS Cheriyam	Active	GRSE	2060	10-Sep-2009
T73	INS Cankarso	Active	GRSE	2061	29-Jun-2010
T74	INS Kondul	Active	GRSE	2062	29-Jun-2010
T75	INS Kalpeni	Active	GRSE	2063	14-Oct-2010
T76	INS Kabra	Active	GRSE	2064	8-Jun-2011
T77	INS Koswari	Active	GRSE	2065	12-Jul-2011
T78	INS Karuva	Active	GRSE	2066	25-Aug-2011

This class of ships are improved version of the fast attack craft, built earlier by GRSE, with more efficient hull-form designed and proven after extensive model testing to achieve speed in excess of 35 knots. The ships measure close to 50 metres in length and displace 325 tons.



2 generations: INS Bitra (FPV) and INS Cankarso (WJFAC).

Note the different hull designs. ([Stratpost](#))



Two of the three HamiltonJet HM811 Water Jets of the INS Cankarso. The Cankarso is a Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (FAC). The propellers are actually fitted inside pipes through which water is pushed out at high speed. This also makes the Water Jet FAC much quieter. ([Stratpost](#))

The Car Nicobar Class are the first water jet propelled ships in service with the IN.



The gun controls for the CRN 91 cannon, and the spring-mounted gyro in the bridge ([Broadsword](#))



INS Car Nicobar - Close up of the EO turret. Furuno navigation radar also visible.

**Sinking of Prantalaya 14.** Early in the morning of 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2001, an ICG Dornier aircraft on a routine patrol detected two skiffs FV Prantalay 14 chasing the Bahamian container ship MV Verdi 300 miles west of the Lakshadweep Islands. The pirates in the skiffs spotted the aircraft and immediately abandoned the attack and sailed back to the Prantalay 14. The aircraft reported the sighting and three Indian Navy ships were dispatched, including **INS Cankarso** under the command of First Lieutenant Arun Bahuguna.

A few hours after receiving the Coast Guard's report, Cankarso found the Prantalay 14 about 100 nautical miles north of Minicoy. The Cankarso's radioman tried to contact the pirates, but was ignored, so a warning shot was fired towards the pirates, who returned fire with rocket propelled grenades and AK-47s. An exchange of fire commenced and lasted for twelve hours before shots from the CRN 91 heavily damaged the trawler.

Fuel drums that were stowed on the upper deck ignited and the Prantalay 14 began to burn. At that point the survivors abandoned ship. Thirty-five men went into the water, of whom fifteen were pirates and twenty were Thai and Myanmarese sailors on the vessel when the pirates captured it. Ten pirates were killed in the engagement, and the rest were taken to Mumbai in the Cankarso as prisoners.

**Sinking of Vega 5.** On the night of 12th Mar 2011, at about 2100 hrs INS Kalpeni intercepted a pirate mother vessel called Vega 5 in the Arabian sea about 600 nautical miles west of India. 13 crew members were rescued and 61 pirates have been nabbed.

On 11th Mar 11, a Naval Dornier while responding to a call from MV Vancouver Bridge under pirate attack, located Vega 5 a pirate mother vessel in the area. Seeing the naval aircraft, the pirates immediately aborted their piracy attempt and the mother vessel attempted to escape from the area. Whilst IN Maritime Patrol Aircraft continuously tracked the pirate mother vessel Vega 5, Indian Naval Ships Khukri (a missile corvette) and Kalpeni (a Water Jet Fast Attack Craft) already deployed for anti piracy patrol, were diverted to intercept and investigate Vega 5.

On the night of 12 Mar 11 **INS Kalpeni** closed Vega 5. In the darkness, the pirate mother vessel launched two skiffs which fired at Kalpeni. INS Kalpeni responded with limited firing. Thereafter it was observed that a fire had broken out on Vega 5 (mother vessels are known to carry additional fuel drums to fuel the skiffs). Personnel were also seen jumping overboard. INS Kalpeni in conjunction with INS Khukri recovered 74 personnel comprising 61 pirates and 13 members of the original crew of the fishing vessel. Preliminary investigations revealed that the pirates were carrying about 80 to 90 small arms/rifles and a few heavier weapons (likely to be RPGs).

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INS Kalpeni: One of the 2 aft MMGs



... one of several on the forecastle



A team of Sagar Prahari Bal personnel dispatched from Fast Attack Craft INS Kalpeni in a rigid inflatable boat (RIB) carry out a simulated Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) operation. (The Hindu)



CRN-91: a 30 mm cannon derived from 2A42 cannon that arms BMP-2 IFV (INS Chetlat)



**Type:** Extra Fast Attack Craft (XFAC)

**Class:** Super Dvora Mk.II

Pennant	Name	Status	Builder	Yard Number	Commission
T80	NA	Active	GSL/IAI	1175	24-Jun-1998
T81	NA	Active	GSL/IAI	1176	6-Jun-1999
T82	NA	Active	GSL	1184	9-Oct-2003
T83	NA	Active	GSL	1185	27-Nov-2003
T84	NA	Active	GSL		19-Apr-2004
T85	NA	Active?	GSL		?
T86	NA	Active?	GSL		?



FAC T-81: Note the blue colour scheme ([Bharat Rakshak](#))

*T-84 is fitted with two 20-mm guns on both ends that can fire upto a range of 4 km with electro-optic detection system, capable of tracking and engaging water-borne saboteurs even in pitch dark conditions. Being only 25 metre-long and of light weight aluminum construction, the ship can attain a phenomenal speed of 48 knots. This fast attack craft, the third to be built indigenously, was delivered to the Navy five-and-a-half months ahead of schedule. ([Sainik Samachar](#))*



*T-84 at high speed ([Mritunjoy Mazumdar – Bharat Rakshak](#)).*

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