

Defence minister hails Coast Guard

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Defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday asked the top brass of the Coast Guard to deliberate and discuss ways and means to engage fishing communities to adopt technology driven instruments for further enhancing safety and security at sea.

Inaugurating the 37th Coast Guard Commanders' Conference here, she lauded the exemplary efficiency of the Coast Guard and foresightedness of its leadership for scientific and meticulously planned development of the organisation to meet the emergent challenges.

She said the Indian Coast Guard's



admirable capabilities and relentless surveillance efforts in the vast and expansive maritime zones in India are unmatched in the Indo-Pacific region.

The minister appreciated the Coast Guard's exemplary leadership and stellar role in protecting citizens in times of adversity, particularly post cyclone Ockhi as well as for the overwhelming response during the Kerala floods.

While complimenting the Coast

Guard's consistent efforts in filling up the gaps in Coastal Surveillance Network (CSN) Phase-1, she assured the Defence Ministry's staunch commitment for completion of Phase-II in a time bound manner. The director general of Coast Guard, Rajendra Singh, thanked the minister and the Defence Ministry for the unbounded support towards transforming the Indian Coast Guards capacity and capability.

He said regardless of any challenge, the Indian Coast Guard remains diligent in performing its duty of saving life and property in distress at sea, protecting the marine environment and leaving no stone unturned in protecting security interests in the maritime zones of India.