

# Pollution control vessel launched by Surat co

■ 'Samudra Prahari' first of three vessels for Coast Guard, will help check oil spills

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

SURAT, MARCH 20

WITH the completion of the first of a three-vessel-contract of making Pollution Control Vessels (PCVs) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), Surat-based ABG Shipyard says that they are now ready to make a foray in the very specialised field of defence vessel production.

ABG Shipyard, a public listed company with the BSE, is a major player in construction of ships related to the oil and gas sector.

"We have come a long way from securing our first orders for a Norway-based sea transport liner company. We had been able to sell these ships to the ICG for controlling oil spills. Likewise, we are expecting to bag further defence tenders both for



The PCV has been built by ABG Shipyard. Photo by Dharmesh Joshi

the ICG and the Indian Navy," said Rishi Agarwal, managing director of ABG Shipyards Limited.

The state-of-art diso-electric (diesel and electricity) vessel was launched and christened 'Samudra Prahari' by wife of ICG Vice-Admi-

ral R F Contractor at ABG shipyard on Tuesday. The three PCVs, after they are commissioned in active Coast Guard service, will render an increased tier rating (three tier) for ICG in connection with control and prevention of oil spills. When not

managing oil spills, the 94 meter and 1,250 tonnes vessel would assist the ICG in their usual patrolling duty.

"Considering the heavy increase in movement of oil cargoes through Indian exclusive economic zone, these vessels will come as a major force augmentation for the Coast Guard," said Contractor, also the Director General of ICG.

"The unique propulsion system and the hull design of the ship will make it convenient to take care of oil spills while cruising at very low speed and during high-speed chases," said MD, Rolls-Royce Marine India private limited, Gary Wieland. The company will also assist ABG in putting together all on-board ship equipment, including specialised software to track oil spills.