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## CISF expands maritime security role, to assess 27 port facilities in 2026-27

*Expands training programmes for stakeholders involved in port security*

**NARESH BISWANI**

**NEW DELHI:** The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is expanding its role in maritime security as India strengthens protection of its coastline and critical port infrastructure amid growing economic activity in the maritime sector.

In a significant development, the CISF was granted the status of a Recognised Security Organisation (RSO) under the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code on May 6, 2026. The designation authorises the force to conduct Port Facility Security Assessments (PFSA) and prepare Port Facility Security Plans (PFSPs) for 264 port facilities across the country.

As part of the initial implementation phase during 2026-27, the CISF is scheduled to undertake security assessments of 27 major and minor ports engaged in export and import operations.

To strengthen its maritime security capabilities, the force has partnered with institutions

### KEY POINTS

- » The CISF was granted the status of a Recognised Security Organisation (RSO) under the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code on May 6, 2026
- » The designation authorises the force to conduct Port Facility Security Assessments (PFSA) and prepare Port Facility



Security Plans (PFSPs) for 264 port facilities across the country

including the Rashtriya Raksha University, Indian Register of Shipping and Indian Maritime University. These collaborations are aimed at developing specialised expertise and creating an in-house pool of maritime security professionals.

According to officials, 45 CISF officers have already been certified in advanced maritime security training, while another 90 personnel are undergoing specialised RSO courses. Upon completion of the programme, the force will have around 135 qualified maritime security consultants capable of independently conducting security assessments and providing

advisory services at ports across the country. The CISF has also expanded training programmes for stakeholders involved in port security. So far, 2,123 personnel from private security agencies have completed specialised port security courses. In addition, 124 officials from government agencies, including Coastal Police units and other regional security organisations, have undergone training under the new framework.

The force has also introduced a dedicated security framework for fishing harbours, fish landing centres and smaller waterfront facilities. New guidelines are being devel-

oped to enhance surveillance, strengthen regulatory compliance and improve coastal security oversight. Officials said that if the proposed Bureau of Port Security is established under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, the CISF could assume a larger role in security assessments, policy formulation, advisory services and training.

With Indian ports becoming increasingly important for trade, logistics, energy supply chains and tourism, the CISF's expanded maritime mandate is expected to play a key role in safeguarding critical coastal infrastructure while supporting the country's economic growth.