

TOP STORY

CISF "Great Indian Coastal Cyclothon" Concludes at Kanyakumari

Kanyakumari

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) proudly announced the successful completion of its Mega Event, "The Great Indian Coastal Cyclothon" 2025, an ambitious initiative themed "Surakshit Tat, Samridh Bharat" (Secure Coast, Prosperous India). The grand concluding ceremony took place at Kanyakumari, where a large crowd of enthusiastic locals cheered the CISF cyclists near the iconic Vivekananda Rock Memorial and the statue of Tamil Saint and philosopher Thiruvalluvar. The Director General of CISF graced the event as the chief guest, marking the culmination of an extraordinary journey that aimed to fortify partnerships with coastal communities and reinforce India's maritime security framework.

The Cyclothon, flagged off virtually by the Union Minister of Home and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, on March 7, 2025, from the Rajaditya Cholan CISF Regional Training Centre in Thakkolam, Ranipet District, Tamil Nadu, saw 125 dedicated CISF personnel, including 14 women, undertake a grueling journey spanning 6,553 kilometers. Over a span of 25 days, the cyclists traversed 11 coastal states and Union Territories, drawing immense public support. More than 1,200 participants joined the Cyclothon at different stages, underscoring the widespread enthusiasm and commitment toward the initiative.

Throughout the journey, CISF personnel stationed along the coastline, in collaboration with various state and central government agencies, facilitated the event. Major coastal cities and heritage sites hosted grand receptions and flag-off ceremonies, amplifying



the Cyclothon's core message. Key locations such as Paradip Port, Konark Sun Temple, Gateway of India in Mumbai, Vishakhapatnam, Mangalore, Chennai, Kochi, and Puducherry served as significant touchpoints in this monumental effort.

At the heart of the Cyclothon was a profound acknowledgment of the role played by coastal communities in safeguarding the nation's maritime interests. By recognizing and empowering these communities as "Tat Praharis" (Sentinels of the Coast), CISF sought to instill a sense of shared responsibility and vigilance. The event effectively raised awareness about security threats looming over India's vast coastline, including illicit smuggling activities involving drugs, weapons, and explosives. Participants and spectators alike were educated about the importance of maintaining heightened vigilance against intrusion and preserving the

fragile coastal ecosystem.

The Cyclothon significantly enhanced collaboration between CISF, other security agencies, and coastal communities. These interactions fostered a robust and resilient coastal security network, ensuring better communication and cooperation in addressing security challenges. Beyond its security dimension, the event also served as a bridge connecting inland communities with the nation's rich coastal heritage. It showcased the vibrant coastal culture, diverse flora and fauna, and the deep-rooted traditions that define India's coastal identity.

The event saw unprecedented public engagement, with an estimated 30 lakh people actively participating in rallies, awareness drives, and cultural programs organized along the Cyclothon's route. The event's reach extended far beyond physical participation, as its message resonated with an

astounding 2.5 crore individuals through various online platforms and social media engagements.

The Cyclothon also garnered substantial support from eminent personalities across different fields, further solidifying its significance. Distinguished dignitaries such as Puducherry Lt Governor Kuniyal Kailashnathan, Puducherry Chief Minister N. Rangaswamy, Odisha Deputy Chief Minister Pravat Parida, and renowned sports and cultural figures lent their support. Arjuna Awardee Pramod Bhagat, former Indian hockey goalkeeper Mir Ranjan Negi, Raja Shri Shivendra Narayan Bhanj Deo (King of Kanishka), and Padma Shri awardee sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik were among the many who graced various events associated with the Cyclothon.

The initiative also witnessed overwhelming backing from sports icons, including Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra, champion shooter Manu Bhaker, cricket legends MS Dhoni, Sunil Gavaskar, and Krishnamachari Srikkanth. The Bollywood and South Indian film industry also contributed to the event's popularity, with renowned actors such as Rajinikanth, Mohanlal, Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty, Jackie Shroff, and Manju Warrier extending their support and inspiring masses to rally behind the cause of coastal security. A defining feature of the Cyclothon was the extensive participation of coastal communities across India. The event successfully engaged 58 communities from the 11 coastal states and Union Territories, strengthening their role in ensuring the nation's maritime safety. On the west coast, communities such as Kharva, Macchi, Ahir, and

Vagher in Gujarat; Koli, Gabit, Bhoi, and Agri in Maharashtra; Kharvi, Bhandari, and Ramponkars in Goa; Mogaveera, Koraga, and Billava in Karnataka; and Mukkuvar, Mappila, and Arayar in Kerala participated enthusiastically. Similarly, on the east coast, coastal communities from West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu actively joined the initiative, reinforcing their role as crucial stakeholders in maritime security.

The Cyclothon's journey was punctuated by 26 major events and 118 local interactions, where participants engaged in insightful discussions on coastal security, environmental conservation, and the unique challenges faced by coastal dwellers. Cultural programs showcasing traditional songs, dances, martial arts, and indigenous attire enriched the experience, celebrating the vibrant heritage of India's coastal regions.

As a result of this massive undertaking, valuable insights were gained regarding the specific vulnerabilities and security challenges faced by different coastal regions. These learnings will serve as a vital reference in fortifying India's coastal security framework in the years to come.

The conclusion of "The Great Indian Coastal Cyclothon" marks not just the end of an extraordinary physical endeavor but the beginning of a strengthened alliance between CISF and India's coastal communities. The success of this initiative is a testament to collective effort, national spirit, and an unwavering commitment to ensuring that India's vast coastline remains secure and prosperous.