Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the significance of India's maritime security operations in the Arabian Sea. Discuss the challenges posed by piracy and suggest measures to strengthen regional maritime security.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Maritime security; piracy on the high seas; Indian Navy; MARCOS; UNCLOS; freedom of navigation; regional cooperation; maritime domain awareness

Model Answer

Introduction

The Arabian Sea is strategically important for India's trade, energy imports and connectivity with West Asia and Africa. Piracy and armed attacks on vessels threaten seafarers, commercial shipping and regional stability.

Significance of Indian Maritime Operations

1. Protection of Human Life: Rescue operations safeguard hostages and demonstrate India's capacity to respond to maritime emergencies.

2. Security of Trade Routes: Naval deployments help protect commercial shipping and maintain confidence in international sea routes.

3. Regional Stability: Cooperation with regional states strengthens collective efforts against piracy and maritime crime.

Major Challenges

Pirates may exploit weak coastal governance, remote sea areas and vulnerable commercial vessels. Vast maritime spaces, limited surveillance and jurisdictional complexities complicate detection, interception and prosecution.

Way Forward

India should strengthen maritime domain awareness through surveillance aircraft, satellites, coastal radar and information-sharing mechanisms. Cooperation with regional navies, the IMO and relevant international mechanisms should be expanded. Anti-piracy operations must comply with international law, while rescued seafarers should receive appropriate medical and legal assistance.

Conclusion

A combination of naval preparedness, international cooperation, legal enforcement and information-sharing is essential to secure the Arabian Sea and protect global maritime commerce.

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