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## Information Fusion Center of Indian Navy

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The Indian Navy will inaugurate the **Information Fusion Centre (IFC) for the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.

- The Information Fusion Centre will serve countries that have **White Shipping Information Exchange** (White-shipping refers to commercial shipping information about the movement of cargo ships) agreements with India.
- The IFC-IOR is established with the **vision of strengthening maritime security** in the region, by building a **common coherent maritime situation picture** and acting as a **maritime information hub** for the region.
- The IOR apart from being **heavily militarized ocean** also faces **threats like maritime terrorism, piracy, arms-running, human trafficking**.

### Information Fusion Centre (IFC)

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- The IFC has been established at the Indian Navy's **Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) in Gurugram, Haryana**.
- IFC is the single point center **linking all the coastal radar chains** to generate a **seamless real-time picture** of the nearly 7,500-km coastline.
- All countries that have signed white shipping information exchange agreements with India can now position liaison officers at the IFC.
- The IFC-IOR is a separate platform and all members of the **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium are expected to be part of it**. The IONS, launched in 2008, seeks to increase maritime cooperation in IOR.

### Significance

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- Information on commercial shipping will be exchanged with countries in the region to **improve maritime domain awareness** in the Indian Ocean.
- It will strengthen the **mutual collaboration and understanding of the threats prevalent in the region**.

### Trans-Regional Maritime Network (T-RMN)

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- Recently, India has also signed the Trans Regional Maritime Network (T-RMN) agreement.
- The multilateral agreement **comprises of 30 countries and is steered by Italy.**
- This will facilitate information **exchange on the movement of commercial traffic** on the high seas.
- Under the T-RMN, information is available mainly through the **Automatic Identification System (AIS)**, fitted on the merchant ships as mandated by the International Maritime Organisation.
- The AIS is used to identify passenger and commercial ships in international waters. AIS comprises the name, number, position, course, speed, last port visited, destination etc.
- Such multilateral agreements help Indian Navy monitor whole Indian Ocean. As due to the large traffic, the Indian Ocean cannot be entirely monitored by any one nation.

### **Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC)**

- The Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) is **located in Gurugram.**
- It is the **main center of the Indian Navy for coastal surveillance and monitoring.**
- IMAC is the nodal center of the **National Command Control Communications and Intelligence Network (NC3I Network).**
- IMAC is a joint initiative of Indian Navy, Coast Guard and Bharat Electronics Ltd. and functions under the **National Security Adviser (NSA).**

### **National Command Control Communication and Intelligence Network (NC3IN)**

- The Indian Navy has established the NC3IN linking 51 stations, including 20 of the Navy and 31 of the Coast Guard, with a nodal Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC).
- The NC3I links 20 naval and 31 Coast Guard monitoring stations to generate a seamless real-time picture of the nearly 7,500-km long coastline.