



First Joint Naval Exercise: US, UAE, Bahrain and Israel

Why in News

Forces from the **United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Israel and the United States Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT)** began a **multilateral maritime security operations exercise in the [Red Sea](#)**.

- This is the **first publicly acknowledged naval exercise** between the United States, Israel and the two Gulf countries.

Key Points

▪ About:

- The **UAE and Bahrain in 2020 normalised diplomatic relations with Israel under a US-brokered deal known as the [Abraham Accords](#)**, brought together by shared worries about Iran and hopes of economic gains.
 - The **US 5th Fleet/NAVCENT** is based in the Gulf island state of Bahrain and operates in the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and parts of the Indian Ocean.
- Since February 2021, **Iran and Israel have been accused of engaging in what analysts have called a "shadow war"**, in which vessels linked to each nation have come under attack in waters around the Gulf in tit-for-tat exchanges.
- **Negotiations between Iran and major powers (P5+1) on reviving a [2015 nuclear deal](#)** will resume in Vienna on 29th November 2021, with failure carrying the risk of a sharp spike in regional tensions.
- The **five-day exercise** in the Red Sea is **intended to enhance interoperability between participating forces**.
 - Maritime collaboration **helps safeguard freedom of navigation and the free flow of trade**, which are essential to regional security and stability.
- The exercises include **boarding, search and seizure training on the USS Portland**, an amphibious transport dock ship.

▪ Red Sea:

- The Red Sea is a **semi-enclosed tropical basin**, bounded by **northeastern Africa, to the west**, and the **[Arabian peninsula](#), to the east**.
- The elongated and narrow-shaped basin **extends between the [Mediterranean Sea](#)**, to the north-west, **and the Indian Ocean**, to the south-east.
- At the northern end, it **separates into the Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez**, which is connected to the Mediterranean Sea via the **[Suez Canal](#)**.
- At the southern end, it is **connected to the Gulf of Aden, and the outer Indian Ocean**, via the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb.
- It is **surrounded by [desert or semi-desert areas](#)**, with no major freshwater inflow.
- **6 Bordering Countries:** Yemen; Saudi Arabia; Egypt; Sudan; Eritrea; Djibouti.



[Source: TH](#)

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