



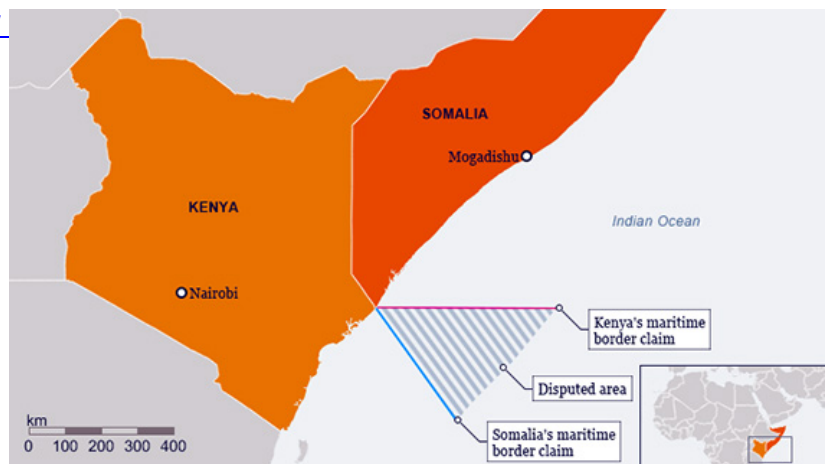
Kenya-Somalia Dispute

Why in News

Kenya has declined to take part in proceedings of the [International Court of Justice \(ICJ\)](#) over its maritime border dispute with **neighbouring Somalia**.

Key Point

- **Direction of Maritime Boundary:** [//](#)



- The main point of disagreement between the two neighbours is the **direction** in which their **maritime boundary** in the Indian Ocean should extend.

- **Somalia's Stand:**

- The sea border should be an **extension of the same direction** in which their land border runs as it approaches the Indian Ocean, i.e. **towards the southeast**.

- **Kenya's Stand:**

- The maritime border should **run parallel to the equator**.

- **Importance of Disputed Area:**

- The triangular area thus created by the dispute is around 1.6 lakh sq. km. large, and **boasts of rich marine reserves**.
- It is also believed to have oil and gas deposits.

International Court of Justice

- ICJ was established in **1945** by the [United Nations charter](#) and started working in April 1946.
- It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, **situated at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands)**.
- It **settles legal disputes** between States and gives advisory opinions in accordance with international law, on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.

- Its **rulings are binding**, though the court has no **enforcement powers** and countries have been known to ignore its verdicts.

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