



# 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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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