



## Second Anti-Piracy Patrol in the Gulf of Guinea

**For Prelims:** Gulf of Guinea(GoG), INS Sumedha, Gulf, Anti-Piracy Patrol, [International Fusion Centre \(IFC\)](#)

**For Mains:** Maritime Security Cooperation and Pirate Burden on Countries, Maritime Security and Related Concerns

[Source: TH](#)

### Why in News?

The [Indian Navy](#) recently completed its **second anti-piracy patrol in the Gulf of Guinea(GoG)** in the [Atlantic Ocean](#), with the Offshore **Patrol Vessel INS Sumedha** playing a pivotal role in this mission.

- The maiden GoG anti-piracy patrol was undertaken by **INS Tarkash** in September/October 2022.

### What are the Key Highlights of the Second GoG Anti-Piracy Patrol?

- INS Sumedha operated in the GoG undertaking a 31-day anti-piracy patrol, which is on an extended-range operational deployment in the Atlantic Ocean along the West Coast of Africa.
  - Sumedha's deployment also ensured enhancing **Navy to Navy connection** with regional navies including Senegal, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Angola and Namibia.
- INS Sumedha's deployment aimed to **boost regional partners' capabilities** through joint training, emphasizing India's commitment to the philosophy of '[Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam](#)'-The World is One Family.
- The objective of the patrol was to **deter and prevent piracy and armed robbery at sea**, protect the Indian and international merchant vessels, and enhance maritime security and stability in the region.

### What are the Key Facts About the Gulf of Guinea (GoG)?

- The GoG is an inlet of the **Atlantic Ocean** on the **western African coast**, extending westward from **Cape Lopez in Gabon** to **Cape Palmas in Liberia**.
  - A gulf is defined as a portion of the ocean that penetrates the land. They are formed as a result of plate tectonics and are often connected to the ocean by narrow water passages known as straits.
- It is found at the junction of the **Prime Meridian and the Equator at 0°0'N and 0°0'E**.
- Major rivers that drain into the Gulf of Guinea include the **Volta and Niger rivers**.
- The GoG is one of the world's most dangerous gulfs because of the **widespread piracy** that has severely affected many countries in West Africa along with other international countries.
  - The number of vessels attacked by pirates in the gulf is about 100 every year.
- The GoG region accounts for **more than 35% of the world's total petroleum reserves**.
  - Several minerals including diamonds, uranium, copper, etc., are found here.
- The principal economic activities of the Gulf of Guinea region are petroleum exploration, mining

and gas flaring, port operations, and fishing.

- The **16 coastal countries** that are situated along the Gulf of Guinea are Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Gabon, Nigeria, Ghana, São Tomé and Príncipe, Togo and Sierra Leone.



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## What Strategic Significance Does the Gulf of Guinea Hold for India?

- The Gulf of Guinea holds immense strategic importance for India's national interests, being a significant source of the **country's energy requirements**.
  - In recent years, Nigeria has been one of the main sources of crude for India lies in GoG, the country emerged as the **fourth-largest supplier of crude oil and Liquefied natural gas (LNG) to India in 2020**.
- The GoG is also a region of security concern for India, as it faces the challenges of piracy, armed robbery, terrorism, and transnational crime.
  - **India has been a victim of piracy incidents in the GoG**, as several Indian nationals have been held hostage by pirates in the past.

## INS Sumedha

- INS Sumedha is the **third of the indigenously developed Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel (NOPV) of the Saryu class** deployed for multiple roles independently and in support of Fleet Operations.
  - The ship is equipped with several weapon systems, sensors, state-of-the-art navigation and communication systems and an Electronic Warfare system.
- INS Sumedha is aimed at meeting the **increasing ocean surveillance** and patrolling

requirements of the Indian Navy.

- The primary role of the ship is to undertake **exclusive economic zone (EEZ)** surveillance, anti-piracy patrols, fleet support operations, provide maritime security to offshore assets and carry out escort operations for high-value assets.
- Participated in the maiden **India-EU Joint Exercise** in the Gulf of Guinea, showcasing international collaboration in maritime security.
- Played a crucial role in **Operation Kaveri**, contributing to the evacuation of the Indian diaspora from war-hit Sudan in April 2023.

## What are India's Initiatives Related to Maritime Security?

- **SAGAR policy.**
- **India reiterated its support for the UN Convention on Law of Sea (UNCLOS).**
- **International Fusion Centre (IFC).**

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

### Prelims

**Q1. With reference to 'Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)', consider the following statements: (2015)**

1. It was established very recently in response to incidents of piracy and accidents of oil spills.
2. It is an alliance meant for maritime security only.

**Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: (d)**