



Indian Navy Helps Hijacked Ship in Arabian Sea

For Prelims: [Indian Navy](#), [Arabian Sea](#), [Piracy](#), [Gulf of Aden](#), [Red Sea](#), [UNCLOS](#)

For Mains: Maritime Piracy and its impact on trade, India's initiatives and collaborations to counter maritime piracy

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Why in News?

In a recent maritime incident, the Malta-flagged Vessel MV Ruen fell victim to pirates in the [Arabian Sea](#). Responding swiftly, the [Indian Navy](#), strategically based in the [piracy](#)-prone **Gulf of Aden**, intercepted the hijacked vessel, closely monitoring its trajectory toward the **Somali coast**.

- The **European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) Operation Atalanta**, a maritime security operation in the western Indian Ocean, joined the anti-piracy effort.

What is Maritime Piracy?

- **About:**
 - Article 101 of the **1982 [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea \(UNCLOS\)](#)** outlines acts constituting piracy.
 - These acts include **violence, detention, or depredation** committed for private ends on the high seas or outside the jurisdiction of any state.
 - These acts are carried out with the intent of personal gain and may include the seizure of another ship, its cargo, or the kidnapping of its passengers or crew.
 - It is considered a serious maritime crime and is subject to international laws and conventions.
- **Strongest Zones of Pirate Activity:**
 - Northwest Africa, the [Gulf of Guinea](#), Red Sea, Somalia, [Horn of Africa](#), Gulf of Aden, [Indian Ocean](#), Indian subcontinent and [Southeast Asia](#).



▪ **Global Initiatives Related to Maritime Piracy:**

◦ **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS):**

- It establishes the legal framework for combating piracy, as outlined in. The [UN Security Council](#) and **General Assembly** have consistently emphasized the importance of international cooperation in addressing piracy and armed robbery at sea, stressing the applicability of UNCLOS in combating maritime threats.

◦ **Operation Prosperity Guardian:**

- The United States has initiated **Operation Prosperity Guardian**, a multinational security initiative to ensure security in the Red Sea.

◦ **Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the safety of Maritime Navigation (1988):**

- It is a multilateral treaty. The main purpose of the treaty is to ensure that appropriate action is taken against people who commit unlawful acts against ships.
- It was adopted in 1988 at the **Suppression of Unlawful Acts(SUA) Convention in Rome.**

◦ **Combined Maritime Forces (CMF):**

- The **CMF** is a multinational naval partnership with primary focus areas aimed at defeating terrorism, preventing piracy, fostering regional cooperation, and promoting a secure maritime environment.
- **CMF has 39 member nations including India.**

▪ **India's Initiatives Related to Maritime Piracy:**

- [SAGAR policy.](#)
- [India reiterated its support for the UN Convention on Law of Sea \(UNCLOS\).](#)
- [International Fusion Centre \(IFC\).](#)
- [Indian Ocean Rim Association \(IORA\).](#)
- **Enhanced Technical Surveillance of Coastal and Offshore Areas:**
 - [Coastal Surveillance Network.](#)
 - [National Command Control Communication and Intelligence Network.](#)
 - [National Automatic Identification System.](#)
 - [National Maritime Domain Awareness Project.](#)
 - [National Committee for Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security.](#)

What are the Key Facts About the Gulf of Aden?



- The Gulf of Aden, an arm of the Indian Ocean is situated between **Yemen on the south coast of the Arabian Peninsula and Somalia in Africa.**
 - It is bounded to the south by Somalia and the Socotra Islands, north by Yemen, east by the Arabian Sea, and west by Djibouti.
- The gulf – roughly 900 kilometers long and 500 kilometers wide is an important **waterway for transporting Persian Gulf oil.**
 - The gulf connects the [Red Sea](#) to the Arabian Sea via the **Strait of Bab el Mandeb**. It forms an essential oil transport route between Europe and the Far East.
- Its marine life is rich in quantity and variety. Its coastline lacks large-scale fishing facilities but supports many fishing towns, as well as the major ports **Aden** and **Djibouti**.
- In recent years, the gulf has received a lot of attention due to **piracy, terrorism and refugee smuggling.**