

Indian Navy



ANTI-PIRACY OPERATIONS BY INDIAN NAVY

Gulf of Aden

Piracy off the coast of Somalia has grown steadily over the years and has now assumed alarming proportions. The total number of attacks reported off Somalia, Seychelles & the Oman coast in 2009 were 217. A large percentage of India's trade, including oil and fertilisers, passes through the Gulf of Aden. The Ministry of Shipping has estimated that, Indian imports through the Gulf of Aden route were valued in the order of USD 50 Billion and exports at USD 60 Billion. The safety and unhindered continuity of maritime trade, through ships that use this route, is a primary national concern as it directly impacts India's economy. About 24 Indian-flagged merchant ships transit the Gulf of Aden every month.



Although this accounts for only 13% of our trade (the remainder is carried in foreign 'bottoms'), the crew of most foreign flagged vessels comprise Indian nationals, as India's large seafaring community (approximately 100,000 in number) accounts for 6% of the world's seafarers.

Consequently, to protect Indian ships and Indian citizens employed in sea-faring duties, Indian Navy commenced anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden commencing from 23 October 08. A total of 21 Indian Navy ships have been deployed in the Gulf of Aden since October 2008. In addition to escorting Indian flagged ships, ships of other countries have also been escorted. Merchant ships are currently being escorted along the entire length



of the (490 nm long and 20 nm wide) Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) that has been promulgated for use by all merchant vessels. A total of 1104 ships (139 Indian flagged and 965 foreign flagged from 50 different countries) have been escorted by Indian Navy ships in the Gulf of Aden since October 2008. More than 8500 Indian Sailors have been safely escorted by the Indian Naval Ships to date. During its deployments for anti-piracy operations, the Indian Naval ships have prevented 15 piracy attempts on merchant vessels.

Deployments off Mauritius and Seychelles

With an increase in number of incidents of piracy near the East African Coast, Mauritius and Seychelles and at the request of the Seychelles Government, seven Indian Naval ships have been deployed in the EEZ of Seychelles/Mauritius for anti-piracy operations between April 2009 – Apr 2010.

