



EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

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Challenge of Maritime Security in the Global South

Syllabus: GS2/ Agreements Involving India &/or Affecting India's Interests

In Context

- There is a need to have a strong maritime system to meet the evolving challenges of maritime security in the Global South.

Global South & Maritime Security

- **India's emphasis on Global South:**
 - Throughout its G20 presidency, India has sought to emphasise the concerns of the Global South in discussions to find solutions to the most pressing **issues in the maritime domain**.
 - **The Global South:**
 - Global South includes countries in **Asia, Africa and South America**.
 - The Global South also refers to various countries around the world that are sometimes described as '**developing**', '**less developed**' or '**underdeveloped**'.
- **India as a maritime nation:**
 - India has interests that are beyond the country's maritime zones.
 - Almost 95 percent of India's trade by volume is through the sea route involving 12 major and around 200 non-major ports.
 - India's 90 percent hydrocarbon requirements are met through seaborne imports and offshore production.
 - Maritime security is a prominent feature of India's relations with Indian Ocean littoral states.

Challenges of Maritime Security in the Global South

- **Newer, evolving challenges:**
 - In recent years, evolving security challenges in the maritime domain have acquired a **new, menacing dimension**. Example being,
 - Ukraine's growing use of asymmetrical tactics against Russia in the Black Sea or
 - China's deployment of maritime militias in the South China Sea., etc.
 - The radical new tactics at sea involve the **use of grey-zone warfare**, land attack missiles, and **combat drones**.
- **Unconventional threats:**
 - The bulk of the demand for maritime security in recent years has come from states facing unconventional security threats, such as **illegal fishing, natural disasters, marine pollution, human and drug trafficking**, and the impact of **climate change**. These are difficult to fight using only military means.
 - These challenges have had a disproportionate impact on less developed states, placing them in a **position of vulnerability**.
- **Concerns of littoral states:**
 - Sustainable development goals in the littorals remain unrealised, as voices from littoral states in Asia, Africa, and the Southern Pacific are **ignored by the developed countries**.
 - Littoral states in Asia and Africa have **unequal law-enforcement capabilities** and lack the **security coordination** required to jointly combat maritime threats.
 - Many have varying security priorities and are not always willing to leverage partner capabilities to combat **threats such as piracy, armed robbery, and maritime terrorism**.
 - Some even resist maritime cooperation with partner nations in a bid to reduce reliance on foreign agencies.
- **Challenge of marine governance:**
 - The contemporary security agenda is an interconnected set of objectives involving **national, environmental, economic, and human security goals**.
 - The **cross-jurisdictional linkages** between these diverse areas make them challenging to manage.
 - This phenomenon is particularly pronounced in the Global South, which finds itself especially challenged in meeting the objectives of marine governance.
- **Fight against illegal fishing in Asia and Africa:**
 - The sharp uptick in illegal unreported and unregulated fishing has been aided by **faulty policies** that encourage **destructive fishing methods** such as **bottom trawling and seine fishing**.

- Environmentalists highlight **three specific anomalies**:
 - lenient regulations that allow for the misuse of resources;
 - lax implementation of the law by security agencies; and
 - the harmful impact of subsidies that states offer to incentivise smaller fishermen to shift to motorised trawling.

Suggestions & way ahead

- **Utilisation of resources and personnels:**
 - Maritime security is more than a matter of hard military action and law enforcement.
 - Sea power is increasingly about generating prosperity and meeting the aspirations of the people.
 - States must be prepared to commit capital, resources, and specialist personnel over prolonged periods to meet security needs.
- **Integrated form of maritime security:**
 - States must also adapt to an integrated form of maritime security operations and overhaul regulatory frameworks to align domestic regulation with international law – an unappealing proposition for many that continue to prioritise sovereignty and strategic independence over collective action.
- **India's Maritime Vision 2030:**
 - India's Maritime Vision 2030 sets out a creative model.
 - This 10-year blueprint for the maritime sector envisages the development of ports, shipping, and inland waterways as a way of generating growth and livelihoods.
- **SAGAR Programme (Security and Growth for All in the Region):**
 - It is a maritime initiative which gives priority to the Indian Ocean region (IOR) for ensuring **peace, stability and prosperity** of India in the Indian Ocean region.
 - SAGAR involves increasing maritime domain **awareness**.
 - This is implemented through the **Integrated Coastal Surveillance System**.
 - As part of SAGAR the Indian government, the **Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard** have assisted countries in the Indian Ocean region with **exclusive economic zone surveillance, search and rescue**, and other such activities, including **first responder initiatives**.
 - **Coastal radar systems** have been sponsored in a number of Indian Ocean region countries.

- **India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative:**

- It rests on seven pillars including maritime ecology, marine resources, capacity building, disaster risk reduction, and maritime connectivity.
- It acknowledges that countries need collective solutions to their common problems, especially since they remain economically interdependent.
- It is to India's credit that the initiative has the support of major Indo-Pacific states, many from the West.

Daily Mains Question

[Q] What are the challenges of maritime security in the Global South? Analyse India's role in the security of the Global South, especially in the maritime domain.