

6. India Starts Sharing Maritime Data

Prelims: Internal Security

Mains: GS-III- Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and Social Networking sites in Internal Security Challenges, Basics of Cyber Security; Money-Laundering and Its Prevention.

Why in News?

- ▶▶ The Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) has started functioning as an information-sharing hub of maritime data.

Highlights:

- ▶▶ At the just-concluded Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC), National Security Adviser had offered countries in the IOR use of the facility to track movement of vessels on the high seas. The centre is actively interacting with the maritime community and has already built linkages with 18 countries and 15 multinational/maritime security centres.

IFC-IOR:

- ▶▶ The IFC-IOR was inaugurated in December 2018.
- ▶▶ The IFC is established at the Navy's Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) in Gurugram. It is the single point centre linking all the coastal radar chains to generate a seamless real-time picture of the nearly 7,500-km coastline.
- ▶▶ Through this Centre, information on "white shipping", or commercial shipping, will be exchanged with countries in the region to improve maritime domain awareness in the Indian Ocean. It will function as an information-sharing hub of maritime data.
- ▶▶ It will be involved in cuing incident responses to maritime security situations through a collaborative approach. The IFC-IOR would also undertake the conduct of exercises and training capsules in maritime information collation and sharing.

Significance:

- ▶▶ It will help in countering the rise in maritime piracy in the Indian Ocean Region – a privileged location at the crossroads of global trade, connecting the major engines of the international economy in the Northern Atlantic and Asia-Pacific. IFC-IOR would work towards capability building in the region, coordination of incident response and disaster relief, and in time, also share submarine safety information. IFR-IRO would also ensure that the entire region is benefited by mutual collaboration and exchange of information and understanding the concerns and threats which are prevalent in the region.