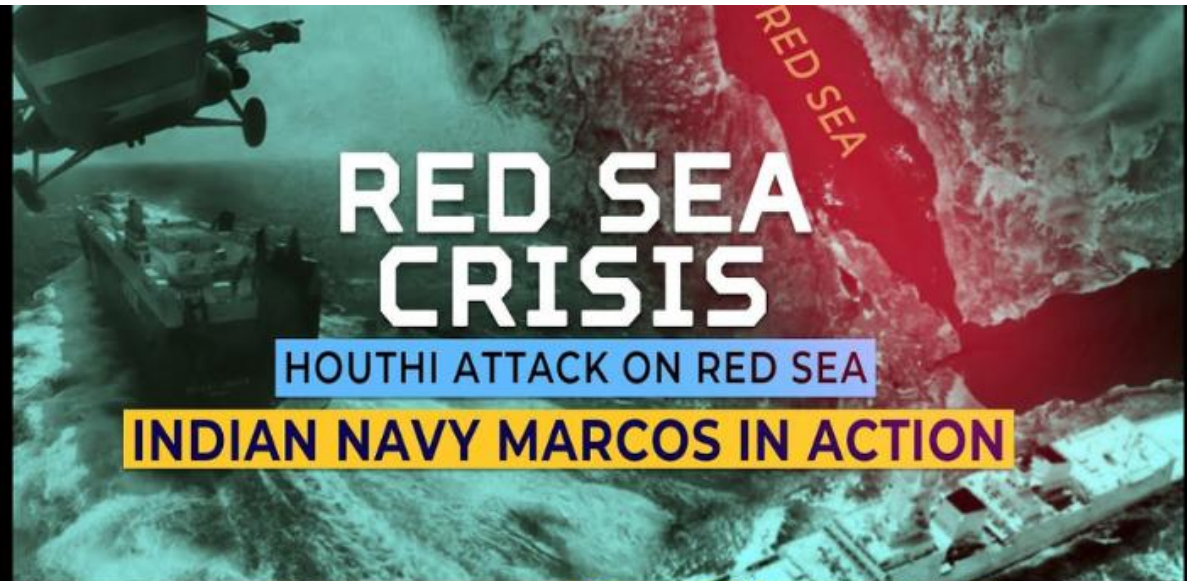


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**RED SEA
CRISIS**

By Kr. Aditya





RED SEA CRISIS

HOUTHJI ATTACK ON RED SEA

INDIAN NAVY MARCOS IN ACTION

19°C



India stations two destroyers off the coast of Aden for maritime security

By Shishir Gupta

Dec 19, 2023 10:33 AM IST



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INS Kochi and INS Kolkata are patrolling the high seas off the coast of Aden as part of maritime security and anti-piracy operations.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?



Red Sea, one of the most significant shipping routes in the world, is seeing tensions **rise as a spillover of the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict.**

US Defence Secretary **Lloyd Austin** said on Tuesday that in the last four weeks, **Houthi militants from Yemen have attacked or seized commercial ships 12 times.**







Prominent shipping fleet operator AP Møller-Maersk and oil and gas giant British Petroleum are some of the companies that have paused their movements **through this route in light of the attacks.**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also posted on X on Tuesday, saying he **spoke with** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu “**on the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, including shared concerns on the safety of maritime traffic.**”

WHY IS THE RED SEA SIGNIFICANT?



The nearly 2,000-km Red Sea connects the **Mediterranean Sea** with the **Indian Ocean** via the narrow **Suez Canal**.

Before the Suez Canal's construction in 1869, ships had to go around the **Cape of Good Hope** in **South Africa** to travel between **Europe** and **Asia**.

The Suez Canal cut the time and resources it took to **cover that distance** considerably, by providing a **direct route**.



Mediterranean

Suez Canal

Indian Ocean

Strait of Malacca



According to the US Energy Information Administration, the Suez Canal accounted for **9.2 million barrels per day of total oil flows in the first half of 2023.**

Marco Forgione, director general at the Institute of Export & International Trade, told *Bloomberg* that **about 12% of global trade depends on the Suez Canal, compared to 5% on the Panama Canal.**

WHY ARE SHIPS BEING ATTACKED?



The Houthis say they have been attacking **vessels in the Red Sea with links to Israel.**

They say this is in protest of Israel's military offensive in Gaza after the **Palestinian militant group Hamas launched an attack against Israel on October 7.**

Earlier in November, Houthi militants also hijacked **an India-bound ship named Galaxy Leader.**



Iran, a Shia-majority country, is believed to back **the Houthis, even as it has denied the charge.**

Its regional rival, the Sunni-majority Saudi Arabia (along with Western allies **like the US**) backs the Yemen government.

Houthis' support for Palestine is, therefore, also a manifestation of **existing regional rivalries.**



U.S. launches multinational push to safeguard Red Sea commerce


December 20, 2023 02:27 am | Updated 02:27 am IST - MANAMA/SANAA

REUTERS, AFP

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U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Tuesday announced the creation of a multinational operation to safeguard commerce in the Red Sea following a series of missile and drone attacks by Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis.

Lloyd announced the establishment of Operation Prosperity Guardian.

He said participating countries include the U.K., Bahrain, Canada, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Seychelles and Spain.

The group will conduct joint patrols in the southern Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.





In their response, Houthi rebels said they would **not halt attacks on Red Sea shipping in solidarity.**

“Even if America succeeds in mobilising the entire world, our military operations will not stop... **no matter the sacrifices it costs us,**”

Senior Houthi official Mohammed al-Bukhaiti said on X, formerly Twitter.

COULD IT IMPACT GLOBAL ECONOMY?



Oil prices rose on Tuesday, as fears rose about the problems that **could confront global shipping and logistics.**

An Atlantic Council report noted that **journeys could increase by two weeks because of the re-routing through Africa.**

An analysis from credit rating firm S&P said that **freight forwarders, or the middlemen involved in the transportation industry, are also increasing rates on shipments.**

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INDIA SENDS WARSHIPS



While the US has unveiled a multinational naval force to protect merchant vessels **in the Red Sea from Iranian-backed Houthi militia,**

India has stationed two guided-missile destroyers off the coast of Aden **as part of maritime security in the north Arabian Sea.**



Even though the government remains tight-lipped about the development, the Indian Navy destroyer **INS Kochi** is involved in **mitigating merchants vessels against Somali pirates on the mouth of Red Sea.**

India has also sent another guided missile stealth destroyer **INS Kolkata** to **muscle up maritime security** off the coast of Aden.

CONCLUSION



“A container bound for the Middle East will now attract a war risk surcharge,” it said.

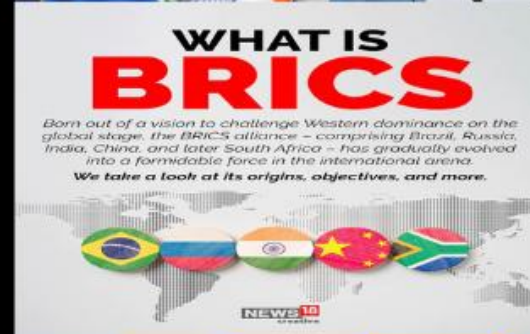
However, *Reuters* referred to Goldman Sachs analysts, who said the disruption is unlikely to have a large effect on crude and liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices because apart from re-routing, production itself is not being affected.

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GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS, SECURITY
CHALLENGES, & INDIA'S STANCE