



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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First joint naval exercise with EU

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Why is in news? Gulf of Guinea: EU and India conducted their first joint naval exercise

India and EU ships conducted joint activities in the Gulf of Guinea, in an **effort to reinforce naval maritime security cooperation in support of the region.**

On 24 Oct 2023, the European Union (EU) and India **conducted their first joint naval exercise** in the Gulf of Guinea.

The exercise followed the third meeting of the EU-India Maritime Security Dialogue on 5 Oct 23 in Brussels.

During the exercise, Indian Navy's INS Sumedha, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, was joined by three EU Member States' ships in the Gulf of Guinea: Italian Navy Ship ITS Foscari, French Navy Ship FS Ventôse, and Spanish Navy Ship Tornado.

The four ships practiced a series of tactical manoeuvres in international waters off the coast of Ghana, including a boarding exercise, a flying exercise using the helicopters embarked on French Ship Ventôse and Indian Naval Ship Sumedha, and transfer of personnel between ships.

This exercise was **followed by a knowledge sharing session** in Accra, Ghana which built on the joint experience at sea to improve operational know-how.

The session also helped deepen ties between Ghanaian officials and representatives of the Indian, EU and EU Member States missions to Ghana.

These activities underlined the **shared commitment of India and the EU to supporting coastal States** and the Yaoundé Architecture in ensuring maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea.

They **reflected the breadth and dynamism of EU-India cooperation on maritime security**, and signalled the common determination to uphold the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Kamaraj IAS Academy

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833**