

1. The maritime security domain requires collective multilateral and regional cooperation to combat nontraditional threats. Discuss in the context of threats in the Western Indian ocean and the recent amendments in the Djibouti Code of Conduct.

**Answer :**

Maritime security comprises a collection of issues pertaining to seas, having a bearing on national security. It includes seaborne trade and infrastructure for its pursuit, management of sea resources, environmental issues and deployment of naval forces. In recent times, nontraditional as well as non-state security concerns have shaped maritime thinking.

The western Indian Ocean region in this context has multiple non-traditional security concerns such as:

- piracy,
- illegal migration,
- illegal fishing,
- smuggling of arms, narcotics,
- terrorism and ethnic conflict in surrounding countries like Syria, Yemen and Somalia.

Addressing these concerns requires cooperation between regional countries, and those with a stake in regional security. Recent initiatives such as visits by Indian PM to India Ocean littoral states have focused on bilateral as well as multilateral cooperation through international groupings such as **IORA, BIMSTEC. Programmes like IONS** point at India's effort towards ensuring its maritime security through multilateral cooperation. In this context the Djibouti Code of Conduct is a key development.

**Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) :**

Djibouti Code of Conduct was adopted in 2009. Under the Code signatories intend to co-operate on repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden. DCoC has been instrumental in repressing piracy and armed robbery in the region and its scope has broadened to cover other illicit maritime activities like human trafficking and illegal fishing.

**Jeddah Amendment**

A revised Code was adopted at Jeddah in 2017, called as “**Jeddah Amendment**”. It has following features :



- Expanding upon the scope of DCoC, it aims to build national and regional capacity to address wider maritime security issues, as a basis for sustainable development of maritime sector. It recognizes important role of “blue economy” including shipping, seafaring, fisheries and tourism in supporting sustainable economic growth, food security, employment, prosperity and stability.
- **It brings together countries in the region and** cover important transnational maritime crimes including
  - trafficking of arms and narcotics,
  - illegal wildlife trade,
  - illegal oil bunkering and theft,
  - human trafficking and smuggling and illegal dumping of toxic wastes.
- Participants’ commitment to establish multi-agency, multidisciplinary national maritime security and facilitation committees, with similar arrangements at port level, to develop action plans and to implement effective security procedures.

Thus, the DCoC and Jeddah amendment recognizes the role of institutionalized and procedural cooperation between nations towards ensuring maritime security and addressing not only nontraditional threats but issues of environment and sustainable development.

## **PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

### **Answer the following Questions**

1. India’s space programme was initiated with the vision of utilising outer space for peaceful purposes, however with changing times it has the potential to play a significant role in strengthening security capabilities of India. Discuss with adequate examples.  
(150 words)
2. It has been argued that over the years there has been a steady decline in the efficacy of Parliament as an institution of accountability. Analyse and also suggest appropriate measures to address the relevant concerns.  
(150 words)