International Relations · GS - II

Examine the implications of piracy off the Somali coast for international maritime security and global trade. Suggest measures to address this challenge.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 02/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

UNCLOS; Gulf of Aden; shipping routes; commercial security; international cooperation; naval patrols; coastal governance; maritime domain awareness

Model Answer

Introduction

Piracy off the Somali coast has periodically threatened commercial shipping in the western Indian Ocean. Its resurgence can create risks for seafarers, international trade and regional security.

Implications

1. Threat to Seafarers

Hijacking exposes crew members to violence, detention and ransom demands, creating serious humanitarian and security concerns.

2. Disruption of Global Trade

Piracy increases insurance premiums and security expenditure and may force vessels to alter routes. These disruptions can raise transport costs and delay supply chains.

3. Wider Maritime Security Risks

Captured vessels may potentially support further pirate operations as mother ships, extending the range of attacks and complicating monitoring.

Measures to Address Piracy

International naval patrols, information-sharing, maritime surveillance and coordination among coastal states can improve early detection and response. Commercial operators should follow recognised ship-protection practices and report suspicious activity promptly.

Long-term prevention also requires stronger coastal governance, lawful economic opportunities and action against the networks financing piracy. Prosecution must follow applicable international and domestic law.

Conclusion

Combating Somali piracy requires coordinated maritime enforcement alongside measures addressing its underlying causes. Protecting seafarers and maintaining secure shipping routes are essential for global trade.

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