

Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)

June 25, 2021

In news- The United Kingdom has officially joined the Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR).

Key updates-

- UK's Lieutenant Commander Stephen Smith will be deputed full time at the centre for two years.
- The development is part of the 2030 roadmap announced by Indian PM Narendra Modi and British PM Boris Johnson after their virtual summit in May, 2021.
- **The UK is the fifth country** to send its officers after the **US, Japan, France and Australia**.
- The move comes as even the UK has announced its "Indo-Pacific tilt".

The UK already has a presence in the Western Indian Ocean Region. It has **seven permanent bases in Kenya, Singapore, Brunei, Nepal, Bahrain, Oman, and British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)**, and seven ships deployed at any one time to provide security in the Western region of the Indo-Pacific.

About Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)-

- IFC-IOR was **inaugurated in 2018**, with a focus on India and like-minded countries sharing real-time developments in the maritime domain.
- It has been also recognised by the UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- It keeps an eye on the Indian Ocean with a key focus on the early mobilisation of resources in case of any

crisis.

- It has been **established at Gurugram, India** and is collocated with the Information Management and Analysis Centre which is jointly administered by the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard.
- IFC-IOR is established with the **vision of** strengthening maritime security in the region and beyond, by building a common coherent maritime situation picture and acting as a maritime information hub for the region.
- The information Exchange initially is undertaken by virtual means, using telephone calls, faxes, emails and video conferencing over the internet.
- Subsequently, to enable better interconnection, quicker analysis of information and provide timely inputs, the IFC-IOR hosts Liaison Officers from partner countries.
- Additionally, towards enhancing capability building, the it would undertake conduct of exercises and training capsules in maritime information collection and sharing.