Anti-piracy measures

What is the issue?

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- There is an increase in incidence of attacks on shipping passing through the Gulf of Aden and this signifies a possibility of return to large scale Somali piracy and robbery at sea in the Indian Ocean.
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- Government of India has recently taken serious steps to deal with piracy at sea.
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What are the recent measures?

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- An **Inter-Ministerial Group (IMGO)** has been set up by the Government under the Ministry of Shipping to deal with the hostage situation arising out of hijacking at sea.
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- Government had also approved the **Contingency Plan** for dealing with piracy and hijacking of merchant ships.
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- Committee of Secretaries on Anti-Piracy and Hijacking at sea **(COSAPH)** under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary.
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- Various **guidelines** that provide for elaborate anti-piracy measures (Best Management Practices) to be implemented on Indian Ships are issued.
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- Enhanced vigil by the Indian Navy in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is instructed.
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- Active participation of India in the **security meetings** of the International Maritime Organization, Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) and other international fora.
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- Certain specific locations (including the Gulf of Aden and a region between Oman and Maldives) are mentioned for restricted movement of Indian vessels for security concerns.
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Source: PIB

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