

Monday, Oct 30, 2023

EPAPER TODAY'S PAPER

The Indian EXPRESS

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

Home Cities India Explained Opinion Entertainment Sports Politics Lifestyle Tech Education Investiga

TRENDING

World Cup

Mini Crosswords

Today's

Israel-Hamas

Top News

Premium Stories

UPSC Special

Health Special

News / India / 'Might is right' has no place in rule-based maritime order: Rajnath

'Might is right' has no place in rule-based maritime order: Rajnath

Says fair rules of engagement crucial to ensure no single country dominates

Written by **Pavneet Singh Chadha**

Panaji | Updated: October 31, 2023 04:43 IST





Union Minister for Defence Rajnath Singh visits the Make in India exhibition at the fourth edition of Goa Maritime Conclave, in Goa, Monday, Oct. 30, 2023. (PTI Photo)

Listen to this article

00:00 1x 1.5x 1.8x

Stressing the need for establishing multi-national collaborative frameworks to effectively tackle common maritime challenges in the Indian Ocean Region, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Monday said 'might is right' has no place in a 'free, open and rule-based' maritime order.

In his keynote address at the fourth edition of the Goa Maritime Conclave, being held from October 29-31, Singh said a free, open and rule-based maritime order is a priority for all of us. " 'Might is right' has no place in such a maritime order. Adherence to international maritime laws, as enunciated in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982, must be our lodestar," he said. The conclave is being attended by senior representatives, chiefs of navy and heads of maritime forces of 12 Indian Ocean nations.

Singh said narrow immediate interests may tempt us to flout or disregard the well-established international law, but doing so would lead to the breakdown of our civilised maritime relations.

“Our common security and prosperity cannot be preserved without all of us committing to cooperatively adhering to the legitimate maritime rules of engagement. Fair rules of engagement are crucial for fostering collaboration and ensuring that no single country dominates others in a hegemonic manner,” he said.

Singh’s remarks come amidst growing concerns about China expanding its footprint in the Indian Ocean Region in recent times.



WE NOW HAVE A MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION GET MONTHLY ACCESS AT JUST ₹149 START NOW

Singh called for a multi-national collaborative effort for compilation and sharing of surveillance data to tackle Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, an issue which was also flagged by Indian Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar.

“It will help in identifying actors with irregular or threatening behaviour, which will have to be countered resolutely. IUU fishing endangers ocean ecosystems and sustainable fisheries. It also threatens our economic security and regional and global food security,” he said.

ADVERTISEMENT

On climate change, he said the collaborative mitigation framework can involve the countries working together to reduce carbon emissions and transition to sustainable practices.

“When you talk of IUU... it is the biggest problem. It does not happen in our exclusive economic zone or only to a very low extent. We can track them and take action, but the area which is in international waters, beyond the exclusive economic zone... IUU fishing problem exists there largely and there is no framework for this in the Indian Ocean region,” Kumar said.

“During the last edition in 2021, we arrived at common maritime priorities, which could be viewed as a much needed starting point. This year, the aim is to formulate collaborative mitigation frameworks to address these priorities... Our problems are common. We call them problems without a passport. Piracy, drug trafficking,

terrorism, arms smuggling...to tackle such problems, we need cooperation and collaboration," he said.

MOST READ

- 1 Cricket World Cup: Jasprit Bumrah & Mohammed Shami add their name to elite list of fast-bowling twins
- 2 Bengaluru: After missing multiple deadlines, Japanese tech-backed adaptive signals to be commissioned by December-end

See More

ADVERTISEMENT

The Navy chief said the government is making every effort to secure the release of eight former Indian Navy personnel, who were sentenced to death in Qatar, last week.

"I am yet to see the transcript of the court hearing... it was supposed to have been transcribed and provided to us on Sunday... when we get back, we will have a look at it."

ALSO READ



Woman, who travelled to Pakistan to marry Facebook friend, seeks NOC to m...



'Don't know how to tell the children': Young parents, newly wed among the...



Kochi Convention Centre Blasts Live Updates: All-party meet resolves to r...



Qatar death row | PM must intervene, not much time left: Sister of former...

He said the Goa Maritime Conclave has evolved from a small congregation of principles of maritime security agencies to a functional construct that deals with transnational challenges in the Indian Ocean region. "The aim of the forum is to find regional solutions to regional problems. While there are larger constructs such as the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), BIMSTEC...sometimes at larger

constructs, it is difficult to reach a consensus. When the numbers are smaller, it is easier to arrive at a workable solution in a smaller time frame,” he said.

© The Indian Express Pvt Ltd

First published on: 30-10-2023 at 21:13 IST

TAGS: Rajnath Singh

Join our WhatsApp Channel Get the latest updates and exclusive news on WhatsApp

[JOIN WHATSAPP GROUP >](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

LIVE BLOG

Apple 'Scary Fast' event live updates:
New M3 MacBooks are almost here
6 hours ago

Delhi News Live Updates: ED summons
Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal on November
2 for questioning in liquor policy case
7 hours ago

Israel-Hamas War News Live Updates:
Hamas releases hostages' video