



In news

Operation Atalanta is a **European Union (EU) maritime security mission** launched in **2008** under the **Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)** to address piracy threats and ensure maritime safety off the coast of **Somalia** and the **Western Indian Ocean**.

Nations Involved:

- **Core EU Members:** Spain, Italy, France, Germany, etc.
 - **Supporting Partners:** Norway, Serbia, and others (non-EU partners).
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Objectives:

1. **Protect** World Food Programme (WFP) vessels delivering humanitarian aid to Somalia.
2. **Deter, prevent, and repress** piracy and armed robbery at sea.
3. **Monitor** fishing activities and support other EU missions in the region.



Significance:

- **Secures vital shipping lanes:** Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, Gulf of Aden—critical for global trade.
 - **Boosts EU's maritime presence** in the Indian Ocean region.
 - **Facilitates cooperation** with key naval powers like the **Indian Navy**, enhancing coordination in:
 - Anti-piracy operations
 - Protection of humanitarian aid
 - Regional maritime stability
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