



# Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres

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## Why in News?

Recently, a joint rescue operation by the [Indian Coast Guard \(ICG\)](#) and the **Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (MSA)** successfully saved 12 crew members from the sunken Indian vessel **MSV Al Piranpir** in the [North Arabian Sea](#).

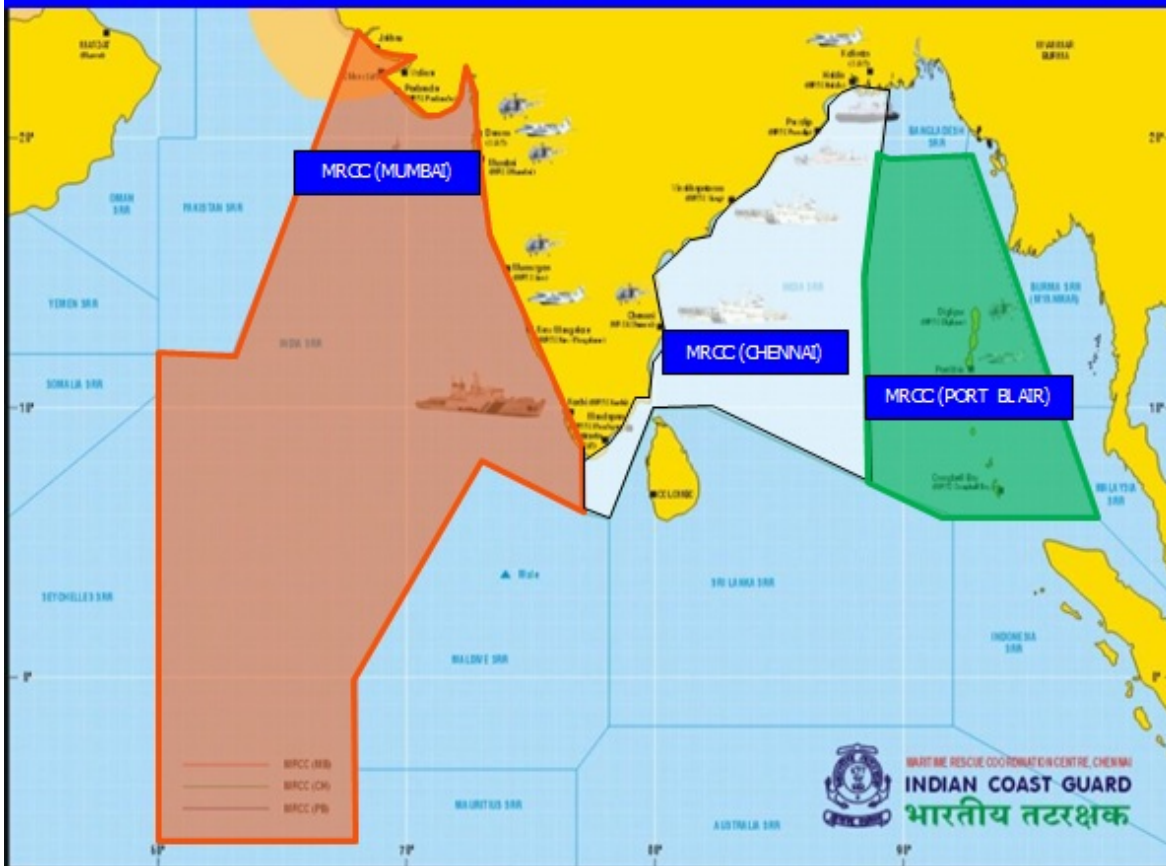
- This joint effort highlighted the critical role of the **Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (MRCCs)** of both nations, which maintained seamless communication throughout the humanitarian search and rescue operation.

## What are the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres?

- **About MRCC:** MRCC is a unit responsible for promoting efficient organisation of **Search and Rescue (SAR)** services at sea and coordinating the conduct of M-SAR operations within a Search and Rescue Region (SRR).
  - The MRCCs in India are specialized units within the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**.
- **Search and Rescue Region (SRR):** SRR is an area of **defined dimensions associated with an MRCC** within which SAR services are provided. The **Indian Coast Guard** coordinates SAR missions in the **Indian Maritime Search and Rescue Region (ISRR)**.
  - The Indian SRR is divided into three areas, each with an **MRCC in Mumbai, Chennai, and Port Blair**.
- **SAR Cooperation:**
  - **Related Conventions (ratified by India):**
    - International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) 1979
    - [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea \(UNCLOS\) 1982](#)
    - International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974
  - **Other Initiatives:**
    - **India's SAGAR Vision**
    - [Djibouti Code of Conduct \(DCoC\)](#): It is a framework aimed at enhancing capacity to combat piracy in the Western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden.
      - **India, Japan, Norway, the UK and the USA hold the observer status.**

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# INDIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE REGION



## Indian Coast Guard

- ICG was established by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 as an independent Armed force of India.
  - It is an Armed Force, Search and Rescue and Maritime Law Enforcement agency under the Ministry of Defence. It is headquartered in New Delhi.
  - The blueprint for a multidimensional Coast Guard was conceived by the visionary Rustamji Committee 1974.
- **ICG Duties for SAR:** Related to SAR, the Coast Guard charter of duties includes:
  - Providing protection to fishermen including assistance to them at sea when in distress.
  - Safety of life and property at sea
  - Search and Rescue at sea
  - Enforcement of Maritime laws at Sea
- The **Director General of the Indian Coast Guard** serves as the **National Maritime SAR Coordinating Authority (NMSARCA)**.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

### Prelims

**Q1. Elephant Pass, sometimes seen in the news, is mentioned in the context of the affairs of which one of the following? (2009)**

- (a) Bangladesh
- (b) India

(c) Nepal

(d) Sri Lanka

Ans: (d)

**Q. Consider the following pairs: (2019)**

<b>Sea Bordering</b>	<b>Country</b>
1. Adriatic Sea :	Albania
2. Black Sea :	Croatia
3. Caspian Sea :	Kazakhstan
4. Mediterranean Sea :	Morocco
5. Red Sea :	Syria

**Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?**

(a) 1, 2 and 4 only

(b) 1, 3 and 4 only

(c) 2 and 5 only

(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans: (b)

**Q. The Mediterranean Sea is a border of which of the following countries? (2017)**

1. Jordan
2. Iraq
3. Lebanon
4. Syria

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 3 and 4 only

(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

**Ans: (c)**