



VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE
India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

+918988885050
+918988886060



www.vajiraoinstitute.com
info@vajiraoinstitute.com



TODAY'S ANALYSIS

(27 March 2025)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- **FATF PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATIVE FORUM**
- **INDIAN OCEAN SHIP SAGAR & AIKEYME**
- **BLACK SEA CEASEFIRE TALKS BETWEEN RUSSIA & USA**
- **MCQs**



ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



FATF PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATIVE FORUM

Event Name: FATF Private Sector Collaborative Forum (PSCF) 2025

- **Dates:** March 25-27, 2025
- **Location:** Mumbai, India
- **Hosts:**
 - Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
 - Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance
- **Purpose:** The forum will bring together stakeholders from around the world to discuss critical issues related to **anti-money laundering (AML)** and **counter-terrorism financing (CFT)**, including payment transparency, financial inclusion, and the digital transformation of financial systems.

KEY FOCUS AREAS OF THE FORUM

- **Payment Transparency:** Enhancing transparency in global financial transactions to combat illegal financial activities such as money laundering and terrorism financing.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Ensuring access to financial services for underserved populations while preventing misuse for illegal activities.

ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



- **Digital Transformation:** Exploring how digital tools and technologies can help strengthen financial systems and improve compliance with global AML/CFT standards.
- **Technological Threats:** Addressing emerging risks, such as cryptocurrency-related money laundering, and adapting regulatory measures to tackle these threats.
- **Beneficial Ownership Transparency:** Improving the transparency of ownership structures to prevent illicit financial flows.
- **Terrorist Financing:** Focusing on countering terrorist financing and proliferation financing, which support the development of weapons of mass destruction.

INDIA'S ROLE IN THE FORUM

- **Leadership:** India's hosting of the PSCF reflects its growing leadership in global financial regulation and its commitment to combating financial crimes.
- **Key Figures:**
 - **FATF President Elisa de Anda Madrazo** will inaugurate the event on March 26, 2025.
 - **RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra** will preside over the forum.
 - **Vivek Aggarwal**, Additional Secretary (Revenue), Ministry of Finance, will lead the Indian delegation.

ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



- **Significance:** India's role in hosting the forum is significant in the context of its ongoing efforts to strengthen the global fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE FORUM

- **Global Cooperation:** The PSCF will provide a platform for collaboration among FATF member countries, international organizations, financial institutions, and private sector stakeholders to tackle global financial crime.
- **Private Sector Engagement:** The forum emphasizes the importance of private sector involvement in strengthening AML/CFT measures, with a focus on sharing best practices.
- **Emerging Financial Crimes:** Discussions will include addressing new financial crime risks arising from technological advancements, such as cryptocurrencies and virtual assets.

INDIA'S PROGRESS IN COMBATING FINANCIAL CRIMES

- **FATF Evaluation:** In June 2024, the FATF placed India in the "regular follow-up" category after evaluating the country's efforts in AML and CFT. The FATF praised India for its technical compliance with international AML/CFT standards.

ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



- **Hosting the PSCF:** By hosting the PSCF 2025, India further solidifies its role in the global fight against financial crimes and terrorism financing.

FATF'S ROLE & GLOBAL IMPACT

- **FATF's Global Standards:** The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) sets the global standards for anti-money laundering (AML), combating the financing of terrorism (CFT), and addressing proliferation financing.
- **Global Policy Influence:** FATF issues recommendations to countries to assess whether they are effectively combating money laundering, terrorism financing, and the financing of weapons of mass destruction.
- **Emerging Threats:** The FATF is actively addressing the evolving threats in the financial sector, including cryptocurrency-based financial crimes and new forms of terrorist financing.

ABOUT FATF

- **Establishment:** FATF was established in 1989 by the Group of Seven (G-7) countries at the G-7 Summit in Paris, France.

ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



- **Mandate:** FATF is the apex global body responsible for setting standards and promoting effective implementation of anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorism financing (CFT) regulations. It also addresses the issue of **proliferation financing**, which involves the provision of funds for the development of weapons of mass destruction (chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons).
- **Recommendations:** FATF issues recommendations to countries to improve their legal and regulatory frameworks for AML/CFT and assesses their effectiveness in combating financial crimes.
- **FATF Membership:**
 - **Members:** 40 members, including 38 countries (e.g., the United States, Germany, Russia) and 2 regional organizations (Gulf Cooperation Council, European Union).
 - **Russian Membership:** Russia's membership was suspended in 2023 due to its invasion of Ukraine.
 - **India's Membership:** India became a member of FATF in 2010.
- **Headquarters:** Paris, France
- **President of FATF:** Ms. Elisa de Anda Madrazo

ADDRESS:



PARTICIPATION & STAKEHOLDERS

The PSCF 2025 will involve wide-ranging participation:

- **Countries:** Representatives from FATF member countries and international organizations will participate.
- **Private Sector:** Financial institutions, non-financial businesses, and virtual asset service providers (VASPs) will engage in discussions on strengthening AML/CFT frameworks.
- **International Organizations & Academia:** Experts will offer insights into financial crime trends and best practices.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Digital Innovation:** As the world becomes more digital, discussions at the forum will focus on managing new financial crimes related to emerging technologies.
- **Enhanced Global Cooperation:** The forum will help strengthen cooperation between nations and sectors, focusing on a unified approach to tackling global financial crime.
- **Global Resilience:** The event will underscore the importance of building resilience against financial crimes through better compliance, information sharing, and technological innovation.

ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE
India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

+918988885050
+918988886060



www.vajiraoinstitute.com
info@vajiraoinstitute.com



CONCLUSION

The FATF Private Sector Collaborative Forum 2025 is a crucial platform for addressing global financial crime challenges. By hosting this forum, India is demonstrating its leadership in promoting global financial integrity and advancing efforts to combat money laundering, terrorism financing, and proliferation financing. With participation from key global players, this forum will contribute to shaping the future of financial security and regulatory cooperation on the world stage.

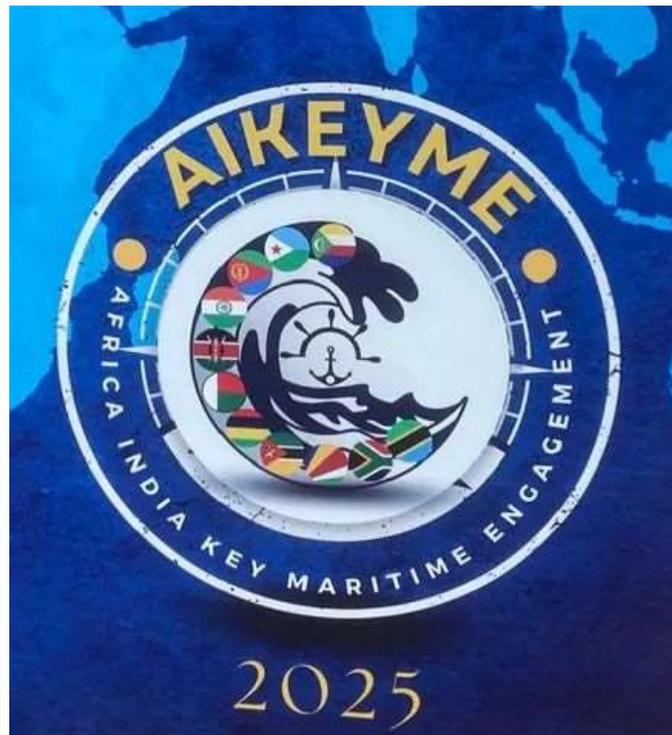


ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



INDIAN OCEAN SHIP SAGAR & AIKEYME EXERCISE



- **Initiatives:** The Indian Navy has announced **two key initiatives** to strengthen cooperation with African nations and enhance its presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). These initiatives include the **Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) Sagar** and the **Africa India Key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME)** exercise.
- **Key Purpose:** These initiatives aim to bolster India's position as the '**Preferred Security Partner**' and '**First Responder**' in the IOR, particularly amidst growing challenges such as **piracy and regional security threats**.

ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



ABOUT IOS SAGAR

- **What is IOS Sagar?** IOS Sagar is a significant maritime cooperation initiative that focuses on enhancing ties between India and nations in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). It will involve the deployment of the Indian Navy's offshore patrol vessel **INS Sunayna** with a combined crew of **Indian sailors** and **44 personnel** from **nine African countries**.
- **Deployment Dates:** INS Sunayna will be deployed from **April 5 to May 8, 2025**, covering key locations in the Southwest IOR.
- **Participating Countries:** The ship will work alongside personnel from **Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka,** and **South Africa**.

OBJECTIVES

- **Joint Surveillance of EEZs:** Surveillance will be conducted over the **Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)** of **Tanzania, Mozambique, Mauritius,** and **Seychelles**.

ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



- **Port Calls:** The ship will make stops at key ports such as **Dar-es-Salaam** (Tanzania), **Nacala** (Mozambique), **Port Louis** (Mauritius), **Port Victoria** (Seychelles), and **Male** (Maldives).
- **Training:** Personnel from the participating African nations will undergo **two weeks of training** in various naval professional schools in **Kochi**, including both **shore-based** and **at-sea** activities.

Significance: The initiative is part of India's broader effort to foster security cooperation in the region and strengthen its maritime presence.

ABOUT AIKEYME EXERCISE

- **What is AIKEYME?** AIKEYME stands for **Africa India Key Maritime Engagement**, a **multilateral maritime exercise** involving **India** and **10 African countries**. The exercise is aimed at enhancing cooperation, improving maritime security, and addressing common threats like piracy and terrorism.
- **Exercise Duration:** The exercise will take place over **six days**.
- **Locations:** The exercise will be hosted in **Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania**, and will feature both a **Harbour Phase** and a **Sea Phase**.

ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



- **Participants:** The exercise will include **Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa**, and the **Indian Navy**, with the **Tanzania Peoples' Defence Force (TPDF)** co-hosting the event.

KEY PHASES

- **Harbour Phase:** Focuses on **table-top exercises** and **command post exercises** related to piracy, **information sharing, seamanship training, and visit board search and seizure (VBSS)** operations.
- **Sea Phase:** Includes **seamanship evolutions, Search and Rescue (SAR)** exercises, **VBSS operations, small arms firing, and helicopter operations** to enhance operational readiness and interoperability among the participating nations.

BROADER STRATEGIC CONTEXT

- **China's Inroads in Africa:** The initiatives come in the backdrop of China's growing influence in Africa, with its expanding maritime and infrastructure presence, and the renewed threat of piracy in the region.
- **Piracy and Maritime Security Threats:** The ongoing threat of piracy in the Gulf of Aden and the **Houthi rebel activities** in the Red Sea pose significant risks to global

ADDRESS:



shipping. These threats underscore the need for greater international cooperation to ensure maritime security.

- **India's Position as Security Partner:** With the announcement of the **Advancement for Security Across the Regions (MAHASAGAR)** by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, these initiatives are aligned with India's vision of being the '**Preferred Security Partner**' and '**First Responder**' in the Indian Ocean region.

INDIA'S NAVAL DIPLOMACY & REGIONAL COOPERATION

- **Long-standing Cooperation:** The Indian Navy has been involved in extensive collaboration with littoral states in the Indian Ocean region for over a decade. This includes **joint naval exercises, coordinated patrols, information sharing,** and humanitarian assistance during natural disasters.
- **Capacity Building:** The Indian Navy has been engaged in **capacity-building efforts,** helping IOR nations strengthen their maritime security capabilities and build professional naval expertise.

ABOUT SAGAR

- **Launched:** In **2015**. It is focusing on a peaceful, open, & prosperous Indo Pacific region.

ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



- **Main Goals:**

- **Counter Chinese Influence:** it is Strengthening ties with countries in the Indian Ocean region.
- **Maritime Security:** it is Combating piracy, terrorism, & illegal activities at sea.
- **Capacity Building:** it is Helping other countries with disaster response & infrastructure.
- **Economic Growth:** it is Promoting regional trade & investment.

- **Related Program: MAHASAGAR** focuses on improving maritime security & regional cooperation.

KEY INDIAN INITIATIVES SUPPORTING SAGAR

- **South Asia Satellite (SAS):** it Improves communication & disaster management among neighboring countries.
- **Mission SAGAR:** it Provided **COVID-19 medical aid** to countries in the Indian Ocean region.
- **Vaccine Maitri:** it Supplied **COVID-19 vaccines** to nations like Bhutan & Maldives.

ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



- **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Project:** it Enhances connectivity between India, Myanmar, & Southeast Asia.

CONCLUSION

The **Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) Sagar** initiative and the **AIKEYME** exercise represent significant steps in strengthening India's strategic maritime ties with African nations and enhancing its leadership in regional security efforts. These initiatives will help counter emerging threats like piracy, improve maritime security cooperation, and reinforce India's position as the '**Preferred Security Partner**' in the Indian Ocean Region, further cementing its role in ensuring peace and stability in the region.

ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



BLACK SEA CEASEFIRE TALKS BETWEEN RUSSIA & USA



Date: March 24, 2025

Location: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

OVERVIEW OF THE TALKS

- **Participants:** U.S. and Russian officials met in Riyadh to discuss a **proposed ceasefire** focused on the **Black Sea** between Ukraine and Russia.
- **Objective:** The primary goal was to discuss a narrow proposal for a **maritime ceasefire**, aimed at easing tensions in the Black Sea and ensuring the **safe flow of shipping**.

ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



- **Context:** This is part of a broader diplomatic push by the U.S., under President **Donald Trump**, to pave the way for peace negotiations after three years of conflict between Ukraine and Russia.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- **Russian Missile Strike:** While the talks were ongoing, **Russian missile strikes** targeted Ukraine, damaging a school and a hospital in the city of **Sumy**, resulting in **88 casualties**.
 - The missile strikes highlight the ongoing violence despite diplomatic efforts.
 - Ukrainian officials condemned Russia's actions, emphasizing the disconnect between **peace rhetoric** and **military actions**.
- **White House Statement:** A **White House source** indicated progress in the talks and hinted at a "**positive announcement**" soon.
- **Russian Delegation's Mood:** Russian officials described their mood as "**good**" after the talks, though they emphasized that no formal agreements would be signed. A draft joint statement was reportedly sent to both Moscow and Washington for approval.

ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



TALKS FOCUS

- **Maritime Ceasefire:** The main point of discussion was establishing a **Black Sea maritime truce** that would allow for unhindered **shipping** in the region, which has been a point of tension due to ongoing naval skirmishes. **Ukrainian Attacks on Russian Naval Forces:** Since 2023, Ukrainian attacks have forced Russian naval forces to retreat further from contested waters, which allowed Ukraine to reopen ports and resume its exports.
- **Wider Peace Talks:** U.S. officials, including **Andrew Peek** (White House National Security Council) and **Michael Anton** (State Department), participated in discussions to move toward broader peace negotiations.
- **Issues Discussed:** Among other topics, discussions included:
 - **Territory:** Negotiations surrounding territorial boundaries and lines of demarcation.
 - **Power and Energy:** Discussions on the ownership of power plants and other critical energy infrastructure.

ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



CHALLENGES & DIVERGENT VIEWS

- **Russia's Maximalist Demands:** Russian President **Vladimir Putin** has remained firm in his demands:
 - Ukraine must **drop its NATO ambitions**.
 - Ukraine must **withdraw from the four regions** Russia has unilaterally annexed.
- **U.S. Stance:** The U.S., under Trump, has scaled back its support for Ukraine compared to the previous administration. Trump aims for a quicker resolution to the conflict and has softened his rhetoric on Russia.
 - **European Powers' Concerns:** Major European nations remain skeptical of whether Putin is genuinely interested in peace or will demand too much in negotiations.

CONTEXT OF THE CONFLICT

- **Ongoing Violence:** Despite diplomatic talks, the war continues to rage on, with both sides facing significant casualties. Russia's missile strikes and ongoing attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure highlight the stark contrast between diplomatic efforts and battlefield realities.

ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



- **Ukrainian Response:** Ukrainian Foreign Minister **Andrii Sybiha** criticized Russia's actions, stating that while Russia speaks of peace, it continues to **bomb Ukrainian cities**, primarily targeting civilian areas.

THE CEASEFIRE DEAL

The new agreement is fraught with **complications**, including Russia's list of conditions.

- The Kremlin said **it won't commit until sanctions are lifted and membership to the Swift payment network is reinstated**, demands Trump says he is considering.
- Ukraine's President **Volodymyr Zelensky has accused Russia of lying about the terms of the agreement.**
- There are other worries about **how durable the deal could be.**
 - Russia has broken agreements in the past, and the White House has given little indication it's negotiating in Ukraine's interest alone.
- Ukraine says the movement of Russian warships westward will be treated as a violation of terms.

ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



FACILITIES WHICH SHOULD NOT BE ATTACKED

Moscow has published a list of Russian and Ukrainian energy facilities, external it says US and Russian delegations agreed should not be attacked as part of today's (26 March) agreement. It includes:

- Oil refineries
- Oil and gas pipelines and storage facilities, including pumping stations
- Electricity generation and transmission infrastructure, including power plants, substations, transformers and distributors
- Nuclear power plants
- Hydroelectric dams

Russia claims the pause in hostilities on energy targets came into effect on 18 March for 30 days, and says this may be extended by mutual agreement.

ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



MCQs

1. Consider the following statements wrt FATF and mark the correct one:

1. FATF was established in 1989 by G7.
2. FATF dealt with Money Laundering only during its initial years.

- (A) Only 1
(B) Only 2
(C) Both 1 & 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2



Ans. (C)

2. Where is FATF headquartered?

- (A) New York, USA
(B) Lyon, France
(C) Berlin, Germany
(D) None of the above

Ans. (D)

ADDRESS:



3. Which of these countries is a non participant in IOS Sagar?

- (A) Eritrea
- (B) Mauritius
- (C) Mozambique
- (D) Maldives

Ans. (A)

4. Which of these are the main goals of SAGAR Policy?

- 1. Economic Growth
- 2. Tackling Climate Change
- 3. Capacity Building
- 4. Countering Chinese influence

- (A) Only 1,2 & 4
- (B) Only 1, 3 & 4
- (C) Only 3 & 4
- (D) All of the above

Ans. (B)

ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

+918988885050



+918988886060

www.vajiraoinstitute.com



info@vajiraoinstitute.com

5. Where are the peace talks for Russia Ukraine going on?

- (A) UAE
- (B) Saudi Arabia
- (C) Switzerland
- (D) None of the above

Ans. (B)



ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)