



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
समुद्रीय प्रशासन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF MARITIME ADMINISTRATION, MUMBAI

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Date: 27.07.2026

DGMA CIRCULAR NO. 40 OF 2026 – SECURITY ADVISORY

Subject: Maritime Security Advisory on Piracy/ armed robbery for Indian Ships and Foreign Flagged Vessels carrying Indian Seafarers Transiting the Gulf of Aden, Southern Red Sea and Waters off the Horn of Africa - reg.

For the attention of Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Shipping Agents, RPSL Agents, Ship Masters, Seafarers, Charterers, Recognised Maritime & Security Organisation(s) and industry stakeholders.

1. In view of the recent resurgence of piracy incidents in the Gulf of Aden and waters off the Horn of Africa, all Indian-flagged vessels and foreign-flagged vessels carrying Indian seafarers are advised to exercise enhanced vigilance while transiting these areas.
2. The following piracy incidents have occurred since April 2026 in the region:
 - 2.1 **MT HONOUR 25 (IMO No. 1099735)**: On 24.04.2026, while operating in waters off Somalia, the vessel was hijacked by armed pirates. There were a total of 17 crew members, including 1 Indian seafarer at the time of the incident.
 - 2.2 **MV SWARD (IMO No. 9174244)**: On 26.04.2026, while transiting off the coast of Somalia, the vessel was hijacked by armed pirates. There were no Indian nationals on board at the time of the incident and the vessel was placed under monitoring by international naval forces.
 - 2.3 **MT Eureka (IMO No. 1022823)**: On 02.05.2026, while transiting off the Somali coast, the oil tanker was hijacked by armed pirates. The vessel had 12 crew members, including 4 Indian seafarers.
 - 2.4 **MV GOLDEN ARSENAL (IMO No. 9493212)**: On 01.07.2026, while transiting the Gulf of Aden, approximately 100 nautical miles off the Somali coast, the vessel was boarded by armed pirates. The crew immediately implemented the ship security procedures and secured themselves in the citadel. The crew thereafter established communication with the Indian Navy through VHF and other available means, following which Indian Naval forces boarded and sanitised the vessel, confirmed the safety of all crew members and enabled the vessel to safely resume its onward voyage.
 - 2.5 **MT ASANA (IMO No. 9035838)**: On 17.07.2026, while transiting the Gulf of Aden approximately 65 nautical miles south of Al Mukalla, Yemen, the vessel was hijacked by armed pirates. The vessel had 22 crew members, including 11 Indian seafarers, and is reported to be proceeding towards Somalia with the crew reportedly held hostage.



1. [Positions are indicative only]

3. The above incidents indicate that the threat of piracy in the Gulf of Aden and adjoining waters remains significant and warrants the need for strict compliance with internationally accepted ship security measures while transiting piracy-prone areas.
4. It is pertinent to note that, in the case of MV GOLDEN ARSENAL, the vessel could not be hijacked owing to the vigilance and preparedness of the crew. The crew maintained an effective lookout, promptly implemented the Ship Security Plan, secured themselves in the citadel, established timely communication with the Indian Navy and other maritime security authorities, and strictly followed the prescribed emergency response procedures. This incident highlights that vigilant watchkeeping, early detection of suspicious activity and adherence to established ship security procedures are critical in preventing such vessel hijacking and ensuring the safety of the crew.
5. Accordingly, when transiting the area, all shipowners, operators, masters, Company Security Officers (CSOs) and Recruitment and Placement Service Licence (RPSL) agencies are advised to:
 - 5.1 Strictly implement the latest edition of Best Management Practices (BMP 5) for protection against piracy and maritime security threats.
 - 5.2 Vessel to maintain proper lookout, be vigilant, and in case of any piracy attack, all crew to secure themselves in the Citadel, and establish communication requesting shore assistance.
 - 5.3 Carry out comprehensive ship security risk assessments prior to entering the High-Risk Area (HRA) and ensure that Ship Security Plans are updated and implemented effectively.
 - 5.4 Register vessel transits with the appropriate maritime security reporting centres and maintain regular reporting in accordance with BMP 5 requirements.
 - 5.5 Ensure that citadel arrangements, emergency communications, access control, lookout arrangements and anti-boarding measures are fully operational prior to entering the High-Risk Area.
 - 5.6 Conduct piracy drills and security briefings for all crew members before entering the affected area and ensure that the crew is familiar with emergency response procedures.
 - 5.7 Maintain continuous communication with the Company Security Officer and report any suspicious approaches or piracy-related incidents immediately to the nearest Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), UKMTO, MSCHOA, IFC-IOR, the Indian Navy and the Directorate General of Maritime Administration through the prescribed reporting channels.

- 5.8 Continuously monitor maritime security advisories issued by the Directorate General of Maritime Administration, Indian Navy, IMO, UKMTO and MSCHOA and plan voyages accordingly.
- 5.9 Shipowners, operators and Masters are advised to exercise the highest degree of vigilance while navigating through the Gulf of Aden, Southern Red Sea, Bab-el-Mandeb Strait and waters off the Horn of Africa and to ensure strict compliance with the latest BMP 5 recommendations and all applicable international maritime security guidance.
6. Kind attention is invited to DGS Circular No. 25 of 2025 dated 22.05.2025 on the Maritime Security Notification for Vessels traversing through Gulf of Guinea. Although issued in the context of the Gulf of Guinea, the security measures, reporting procedures and shipboard preparedness prescribed therein remain relevant and should be followed, mutatis mutandis, while transiting piracy-prone areas, including the Gulf of Aden, Bab-el-Mandeb Strait and waters off the Horn of Africa.
7. Kind attention is invited to DGS Circular No. 08 of 2024 dated 10.04.2024 on the Maritime Security Notification for Online Ship Reporting for the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab al Mandeb Strait, Red Sea, Somali Basin, and Arabian Sea Region. The security measures, reporting procedures and shipboard preparedness prescribed therein remain relevant and should be followed, mutatis mutandis, while transiting or navigating in/around Yemen waters, Bab-el-Mandeb Strait and the Southern Red Sea.
8. Shipowners, operators, Masters, Company Security Officers (CSOs) and Recruitment and Placement Service Licence (RPSL) agencies are advised to continuously monitor maritime security advisories issued by the Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA), the Indian Navy, UKMTO, MSCHOA, IMO and other competent authorities, and undertake dynamic voyage risk assessments based on the latest threat information before and during transit through the affected areas.
9. For any emergency assistance, seafarers and vessels shall immediately contact:
- i) MMDAC (DG Communication Centre): [E-mail: dgcommcentre-dgs@nic.in] +91 86575 49760 (WA/Call) | Alt.: +91 22 22613606, +91 86575 49752; and;
 - ii) IFC-IOR: [E-mail: ifc-ior.gurugram@navy.gov.in] | +91 124 2208385

This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.


27.07.26
Capt. Ravi Singh Sikarwar
Nautical Surveyor-cum-DDG(Tech.)