India Flexes Muscle in Red Sea, Sends Ten Warships to Deter Houthis

India declined to join President Joe Biden's "Operation Prosperity Guardian" security initiative for the Red Sea, but senior Indian Navy officials said they had dispatched ten warships on Monday to deter the Iran-backed Houthi terrorists of Yemen and other pirates.

"Indian warships are deployed all over the region to enhance surveillance and deterrence against the twin threats from pirates and drone strikes. The aim is to help stabilize the situation in the Arabian Sea and promote net maritime security," an Indian naval officer told the *Times of India* (TOI) on Monday.

TOI reported India has dispatched three more guided-missile destroyers plus two frigates to join the INS *Chennai,* the guided-missile destroyer that foiled a hijacking attempt by pirates off the coast of Somalia on Thursday. The Indian Navy said the incident, combined with a hijacking and drone attack in December, made it clear that threats were moving closer to India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

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