

## Chinese maritime expansionism

### Why in news?

\n\n

Beijing has sent two Chinese Navy warships with Chinese military personnel to Djibouti, its first military base overseas.

\n\n

### What could China's motives be?

\n\n

\n

- Djibouti has marked the formal return of Chinese maritime expansionism after centuries.

\n

- It opens the door for more military bases in the region.

\n

- Economic and strategic importance of the new facility at the mouth of the Red Sea gives wider access in the region.

\n

- However China claims that the aim is to support Chinese warships on anti-piracy and humanitarian missions and not for military expansion.

\n

\n\n



\n\n

## **What concerns has this raised among nations?**

\n\n

- \n
- China is now being portrayed as exhibiting influence both in land and sea.
- \n
- It gives the benefit of watch over other US bases in the region e.g Camp Lemonnier is the only permanent US base in Africa since 2002.
- \n
- It suggests a fundamental shift in Beijing's stated policy of no "forward deployment".
- \n
- It also raises the possibility of "forward deployment" at India's doorstep. Pakistan's Gwadar port is only a few miles away from Djibouti.
- \n
- Other port development projects in the region by China, like those in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan, also raise the fear of being converted into military bases.
- \n

\n\n

## **What is expected of India?**

\n\n

- \n
- China has stepped up activity in the Indian Ocean, which is a cause of concern for India.
- \n
- The appropriate Indian response would be to build stronger naval capabilities and alliances.
- \n
- Encouraging investments to develop India's maritime infrastructure.
- \n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source : The Indian Express**

\n



**SHANKAR**  
**IAS PARLIAMENT**  
*Information is Empowering*