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# Topic wise content



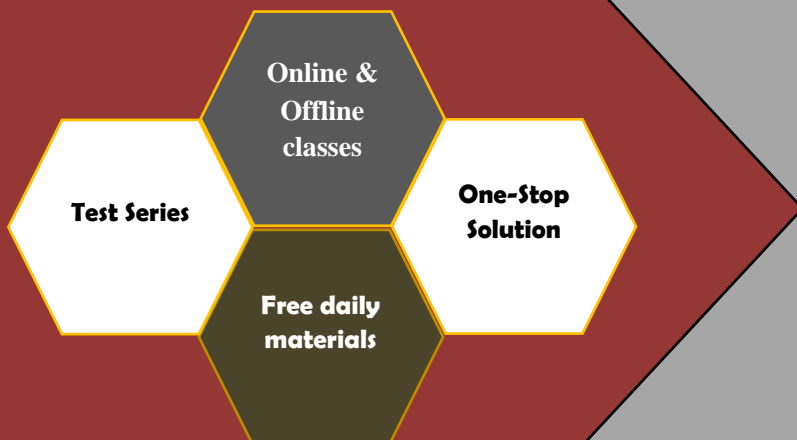
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## Kenya-Somalia Dispute

Notes for civil services preparation



UPSC

General Studies

## Kenya-Somalia Dispute

Kenya has declined to take part in proceedings of the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** over its maritime border dispute with **neighbouring Somalia**.

### Key Point

#### Direction of Maritime Boundary:

- The main point of disagreement between the two neighbours is the **direction** in which their **maritime boundary** in the Indian Ocean should extend.

#### Somalia's Stand:

- The sea border should be an **extension of the same direction** in which their land border runs as it approaches the Indian Ocean, i.e. **towards the south east**.

#### Kenya's Stand:

- The maritime border should **run parallel to the equator**.

#### Importance of Disputed Area:

- The triangular area thus created by the dispute is around 1.6 lakh sq. large, and **boasts of rich marine reserves**.
- It is also believed to have oil and gas deposit.

## International Court of Justice

- ICJ was established in **1945** by the **United Nations charter** and started working in April 1964.
- It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, **situated at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands)**.
- It **settles legal disputes** between States and gives advisory opinions in accordance with international law, on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.
- Its **rulings are binding**, though the court has no **enforcement powers** and countries have been known to ignore its verdicts

