

India summons Russian envoy over seafarer killings near Ukraine

India protested to Russia after four Indian seafarers were killed in an attack on a merchant vessel off Ukraine's coast.

The Ministry of External Affairs summoned the Russian envoy to convey India's strong condemnation of the attack.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- India summoned the **Russian charge d'affaires (CDA)** on **July 21, 2026**, to lodge a strong protest.
- The protest was over the killing of **four Indian seafarers** aboard a **merchant vessel**.
- The vessel was a **Guinea Bissau-flagged** merchant ship named **Golden Leo**.
- The incident occurred off the coast of **Ukraine**, near **Odessa**.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** conveyed India's "**grave concerns and unequivocal condemnation**".
- The attack on the civilian cargo ship **Golden Leo** was an alleged **Russian missile strike** on **July 19, 2026**.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** is the central government agency responsible for India's **foreign relations**.

A **Charge d'affaires (CDA)** is a **diplomat** who heads an embassy or legation in the absence of the ambassador.

Odessa is a major port city in **Ukraine**, located on the northwestern shore of the **Black Sea**.

The **Black Sea** is an inland sea situated between **Eastern Europe** and **Western Asia**.

International maritime law governs the rights and duties of states in maritime environments, including the protection of **merchant vessels**.

India is one of the **largest suppliers of seafarers** to the global maritime industry.

REVISION FLASHCARD

India protested to Russia over the killing of four Indian seafarers near Odessa, Ukraine.

Syllabus Relevance: High

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