



THE 2022 EDITION OF THE “INDO-PACIFIC REGIONAL DIALOGUE”



*Operationalising the Indo-Pacific Oceans
Initiative*

Part 1

Overview and Background

1. The “Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue” (IPRD) is a generic name given to a series of annually recurring, apex-level international conferences pitched at the strategic level organised by the Indian Navy. In terms of conceptual positioning, the IPRD is pitched at the strategic level of international engagement. The “Goa Maritime Conclave” (GMC), on the other hand, seeks to project the Indian Navy at the strategic-operational level and principally addresses serving naval personnel at middle and senior levels, up to and including Chiefs-of-Navy. It supplements Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), since the latter remains a rotational sub-regional construct. The “MILAN series” seeks to project the Indian Navy at the operational-tactical level.
2. The National Maritime Foundation (NMF) – India’s foremost resource centre for the development and advocacy of strategies for the promotion and protection of India’s maritime interests – in a remarkably short period of time, has acquired a substantial international reputation for the excellence of its scholarship, the conviction in its advocacy of India’s maritime interests, as also its evident and much-appreciated convening-skills, which has become synonymous with the IPRD-series, and remains the Navy’s knowledge-partner and the chief-organiser of each edition.
3. The idea of an the IPRD was conceptualised in 2018. The inaugural edition was held in 2018 and has been held every year since, barring 2020 wherein the event had to be cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. In 2021, the dialogue was conducted online over a three-day period from 27-29 October 2021 using the Cisco-Webex platform. Each edition of the IPRD aims to review the various maritime trends within the Indo-Pacific region and the regional opportunities and challenges arising therefrom. Consequently, not only is each annual IPRD central to India’s own policy-formulation within the maritime domain but is also of lasting centrality to all other countries and collective entities within this predominantly maritime region.
4. The IPRD also provides an open and inclusive platform for incisive discussions pertaining to the geopolitical developments affecting the maritime domain of the Indo-Pacific and seeks to foster exchange of ideas and promote deliberations on regionally relevant maritime issues. Being a Track 1.5 event that aims to encourage discussions on public policy, the IPRD endeavours to achieve a balanced representation from government and non-government agencies and institutions, as well as the academia, including the student community.
5. The inaugural edition was held in New Delhi over two days on 27-28 February 2018 and had five sessions. IPRD-2018 dwelt upon the following four themes:
 - (a) The growth, opportunities, and vulnerabilities of maritime merchandise trade, including associated infrastructure such as ports and multi-modal connectivity, as seen from the very different perspectives of large and small littoral and island nations.

- (b) Regional connectivity-models.
- (c) Pan-regional challenges such as sustaining persistent surveillance at sea, the increasing digitisation of the maritime space, the dangers of cyber-malevolence that are already afflicting the maritime domain, etc.
- (d) The role of Indian industry within both the private and the public sectors, in enhancing holistic maritime security.

6. IPRD-2019, was held on 05-06 March 2019 in New Delhi and built on IPRD 2018 by addressing the following five themes:

- (a) Practical solutions for achieving cohesion in the region through maritime connectivity.
- (b) Measures to attain and maintain a free-and-open Indo-Pacific.
- (c) A regional approach to the region's transition from a 'Brown' to a 'Blue' economy.
- (d) Opportunities and challenges arising from the maritime impact of 'Industry 4.0.'
- (e) How the twin conceptualisations of 'SAGAR' and 'SAGARMALA' might best be made mutually reinforcing on a regional level.

7. Due to the COVID pandemic, the third dialogue – IPRD-2021 – was conducted online over a three-day period from 27-29 October 2021 using the Cisco-Webex platform. The overarching theme for the third edition of the IPRD was “Evolution in Maritime Strategy during the 21st Century: Imperatives, Challenges, and Way-Ahead.” Broadly, IPRD 2021 endeavoured to offer a platform to explore the evolution of multifarious strategies along eight contemporary themes and how they might be expected to shape the Indo-Pacific over the pandemic-ridden immediate future and beyond:

- (a) Evolving Maritime-Strategies within the Indo-Pacific: Convergences, Divergences, Expectations and Apprehensions.
- (b) Adaptive Strategies to Address the Impact of Climate Change upon Maritime Security.
- (c) Port-led Regional Maritime Connectivity and Development Strategies.
- (d) Cooperative Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) Strategies within the Indo-Pacific.

- (e) Impact of the Increasing Recourse to Lawfare upon a Rules-based Indo-Pacific Maritime Order.
- (f) Strategies to Promote Regional Public-Private Maritime Partnerships.
- (g) Strategies to Address the Manned-Unmanned Conundrum at Sea.
- (h) Energy-Insecurity and Mitigating Strategies.

8. The theme of IPRD-2022, held at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi in physical format from 23-25 November 2022, was “Operationalising the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI),” which was articulated by the Hon’ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi in Bangkok, at the 14th East Asia Summit (EAS) on 04 November 2019. The IPOI is a comprehensive and inclusive construct for regional cooperation that is focused on seven interconnected spokes or pillars: Maritime Security, Maritime Ecology, Maritime Resources, Disaster Risk-reduction and Management, Trade-Connectivity and Maritime Transport, Capacity-building and Resource sharing, and Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation. The Indian Navy, being the lead maritime security agency of the Government, is deeply invested in the actualisation of each of the seven spokes or pillars of the IPOI, with particular but not exclusive focus upon the pillar of ‘Maritime Security.’ The Concept Note for the conference is placed at **Appendix A**, and the detailed programme at **Appendix B**.

9. The thematically arranged Professional Sessions of the IPRD-2022 aligned with IPOI pillars included:

- (a) **Professional Session One:** Weaving the Fabric of Holistic Maritime Security in the Indo-Pacific: Multilateral Options.
- (b) **Professional Session Two:** Constructing Holistic-Security Bridges across the Western and Eastern Maritime Expanse of the Indo-Pacific.
- (c) **Professional Session Three:** Building Maritime Connectivity: Ports, Trade, and Transport.
- (d) **Professional Session Four:** Capacity-building and Capability Enhancement Leveraging the Physical and Social Sciences
- (e) **Professional Session Five:** Practical approaches to a Regional Blue Economy.
- (f) **Professional Session Six:** Disaster Risk-reduction and Management; Solutions for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Vulnerable Littoral States.

10. In addition to the Professional Sessions, the Hon’ble Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh and the Hon’ble Raksha Rajya Mantri, Shri Ajay Bhatt, addressed the audience in the Inaugural and Special Session [*Marg-Darshan*/ Guidance] on the final and first day respectively. The Hon’ble

Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav also made a special address in Professional Session Five.

11. Overall, IPRD-2022 witnessed participation from senior officials from the Indian Armed Forces, Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, senior representatives from Indian industry, diplomatic representatives from missions in India, the academia and eminent scholars and experts from abroad. In addition, delegates from 20 countries, and over 2000 uniformed personnel and veterans, eminent citizens, and students from renowned universities in Delhi-NCR attended the three-day event.

Part 2

Highlights and Takeaways

12. Some of the major highlights and key takeaways emerged from the three-day deliberations are enumerated in the succeeding paragraphs.

Day 1: 23 November 22

Inaugural Session

13. The inaugural session of the event kicked off with Admiral Karambir Singh (retd), the incumbent Chairman of the NMF, and former Chief of the Naval Staff, welcoming all present and highlighting the importance of the Indo-Pacific in the prevailing geopolitical scenario, focusing specially upon India's maritime policy encapsulated by the acronym SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region) and the first-order specificity provided to SAGAR by the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), which had been enunciated by the Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, on 14 November 2019 when he addressed the 14th East Asia Summit in Bangkok.

14. In the Inaugural Address that followed, Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, outlined the Indian Navy's outreach in terms of fostering maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. He brought out numerous challenges that are not only unique to India, but also relevant to other nations in the Indo-Pacific region which broadly included – Imperatives at Home, Influences from Outside and some Intrusive Paradigms, and that these challenges would need collective approach by all stakeholders in the region to ensure safe, secure and stable Indo-Pacific. He explained that the Indian Navy saw itself as being deeply invested in the actualisation of each of the seven intricately connected spokes or pillars of the IPOI. Further, he reiterated the need to address three predominant and interlinked sectors – Security, Economy and Environment through the medium of IPOI.

15. Delivering the Keynote Address, Shri Ajay Bhatt, the Hon'ble *Raksha Rajya Mantri*, who is concurrently the Minister of State for Tourism, said that India is well prepared to address threats in the current and emerging maritime domain. He emphasised the need to build other aspects of India's maritime capability, such as the merchant marine, ports, and the capability for sustainable management of the nation's oceanic resources, in addition to bolstering military capabilities. He also laid particular stress upon rebuilding India's maritime traditions and strengthening maritime orientation among the people of the country, reiterating the nation's deep commitment to inclusivity and international cooperation in every field of human endeavour. The Hon'ble minister also released the first of the *Maritime Perspectives 2022* series published by the NMF titled *Hard-Security Perspectives in India's Maritime Neighbourhood*.

Professional Session One: Weaving the Fabric of Holistic Maritime Security in the Indo-Pacific: Multilateral Options.

16. Ambassador Pankaj Saran, Member, National Security Advisory Board, delivered a Special Address which was followed by the release of the second book of the *Maritime Perspectives 2022* series titled *Maritime Geostrategies: Vignettes of the Indo-Pacific States*. The session was moderated by Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh, Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff [DCIDS] (Operations), Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff. In the session, perspectives on the theme were presented by representatives from the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), Indian Ocean Regional Association (IORA), India, IONS, and the US INDO-PACOM and QUAD. Details of speakers are available at **Appendix B**. Some of the major takeaways from the session are enumerated below:

- (a) Non-optimal use of resources, weak maritime enforcement, inadequate capacity building, and lack of strong international legal framework are some of the key constraints for achieving holistic maritime security.
- (b) Building institutional structures and processes that interface between regional and multilateral fora of the Indo-Pacific could lead to a sustainable, as well as affordable, maritime security architecture for the region.
- (c) Maritime security is key to economic wellbeing. Consequently, countries of the region should focus on achieving broad-based development, low carbon economy, and climate change resilience.
- (d) Both bilateral as well as multilateral initiatives should be explored to promote cooperation on blue economy, humanitarian assistance, disaster risk management and sustainable economic development.
- (e) Given the strategic convergence amongst countries that believe in a free and open Indo-Pacific, countries need to focus more on operating and enhancing multilateral capabilities to counter actors that want to disrupt the rules-based international maritime order.
- (f) The two main approaches adopted by India for building constructive engagements in the Indo-Pacific are the IPOI and subregional ‘mini-lateral’ partnerships like the QUAD, existing trilaterals and the Colombo Security Conclave.
- (g) The emergence of AUKUS has provided a template for multilateral collaboration on building advanced capabilities and has prodded nations engaged in the Indo-Pacific to seek such collaborative arrangements to share and develop high-end technologies.

Professional Session Two: Constructing Holistic-Security Bridges across the Western and Eastern Maritime Expanse of the Indo-Pacific.

17. Ambassador Shyam Saran, President, Indian International Centre (IIC), delivered a Special Address which was followed by the release of the third book of the *Maritime Perspectives 2022* series titled *Non-traditional Dimensions of Maritime Security*. The session was moderated by Dr Frédéric Grare, Non-Resident Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), Paris, France. In the session, perspectives on the theme were presented by representatives from Australia, Germany, Japan, Singapore, and the USA. Details of speakers are available at **Appendix B**. Some of the major takeaways from the session are enumerated below:

- (a) Increasing trade and geopolitical developments in the Indo-Pacific has led to an increasing focus on the Indo-Pacific, including from countries who have no presence in the Indo-Pacific.
- (b) Modern day conflict is characterised by asymmetry, which aims at maximising one's own relative advantage vis-à-vis a stronger opponent.
- (c) Downplaying the effects of climate change could have a grave impact on maritime security.
- (d) Building resilience in Indo-Pacific Island States and strengthening cooperation on issues and problems being faced by them is an imperative for international cooperative efforts.
- (e) Promotion of cooperation and strengthening of 'minilaterals' and multilateral organisations/ initiatives is necessary to alleviate increasing multifaceted pressures on the maritime domain in all its dimensions.

Day 2: 24 November 22

Professional Session Three: Building Maritime Connectivity: Ports, Trade, and Transport.

18. Dr Sanjeev Ranjan, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, delivered the Special Address wherein he outlined India's approach in building maritime connectivity. The session was moderated by Dr Gudrun Wacker, Senior Fellow, Asia Division, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik [SWP]), Berlin, Germany. In the session, perspectives on the theme were presented by speakers from ASEAN, Australia, India, and Sri Lanka. Details of speakers are available at **Appendix B**. Some of the major takeaways from the session are enumerated below:

- (a) There is a need for greater involvement of development banks, developed nations, and the private sector in creating new projects for port-led development to facilitate robust maritime connectivity.

- (b) Regional maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific would be the key factor towards creating economically self-reliant nations.
- (c) There is a need for developing a sustainable maritime ecosystem based on national and regional multimodal connectivity projects which could change the landscape of maritime connectivity,
- (d) Nations should develop an end-to-end digitisation of the maritime sector and assess the sustainability of maritime infrastructure through an efficiency matrix factoring the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise.

Professional Session Four: Capacity-building and Capability Enhancement Leveraging the Physical and Social Sciences

19. Dr M Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India delivered the special address wherein he emphasised that science and scientific research is a key element of the architecture of any ocean economy aspiring to be increasingly ‘Blue,’ both at the national and regional level. He also laid stress upon the symbiotic relationship between the social and the physical sciences. The Special Address was followed by the release of a report on *Enhancing QUAD Cooperation for Sustainable and Equitable Utilisation of Marine Mineral Resources* jointly prepared by a group of researchers and experts from Keio University’s India-Japan Laboratory, the NMF, the Resilience Innovation Knowledge Academy (RIKA), and RIKA Institute. The session was moderated by Vice Admiral Sanjay Mahindru, Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff, Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defence (Navy). In the session, perspectives on the theme were presented by speakers from Chinese Taipei, India, Israel, Japan, and Singapore. Details of speakers are available at **Appendix B**. Some of the major takeaways from the session are enumerated below:

- (a) A nuanced understanding of the terms ‘capacity’ and ‘capability,’ where the former means the material wherewithal and the latter means the skill-sets to utilise that material wherewithal is a fundamental issue.
- (b) The non-matching dynamics of capacity and capability in the maritime domains of the Indo-Pacific and the lack of research pool to cater for this gap has made the topic more relevant.
- (c) To leverage the physical and social sciences from civil and military institutions, a directed but guided approach needs to be followed ranging from education exchanges to joint research to dialogue between Track 1, Track 1.5, and Track 2.
- (d) There is a dire need for an interdisciplinary approach to research in countries across the Indo-Pacific. National maritime policy formulation must adopt an interdisciplinary approach.

(e) In India, the conversion of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) is a welcoming step as the contribution of economic and social sciences to pure sciences will help lend societal understanding to disaster mitigating strategies.

(f) The Science, Technology & Academic Cooperation pillar of the IPOI, does not have a Lead. The spoke demands the collaborative, implementable and applicable initiatives that should come from cross-sectoral domains across the Indo-Pacific. Common points that emerged that offer a base for policy conceptualisation include:

(i) Academic spaces are to be diversified to incorporate interdisciplinary research and right collaboration platforms should be established.

(ii) Maritime universities or research institutions can act as the conduits of knowledge.

(g) For academic outputs to be useful for policy making, the overarching need is for interdisciplinarity; conversely, moving away for 'siloesation' of academics.

(h) Government support is indispensable to bridge the gap between policy and its implementation.

Professional Session Five: Practical approaches to a Regional Blue Economy (With Particular Focus on Ecologically-Sensitive Harvesting of Marine Resources)

20. Shri Bhupender Yadav, the Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, who is also concurrently the Minister of Labour and Employment delivered the special address . The Hon'ble minister released the fourth book of the *Maritime Perspectives 2022* Series titled *Transitioning from a 'Brown' to a 'Blue' Economy in the Face of Climate Change*. The session was moderated by Shri Ravi Singh, CEO and Secretary-General, World Wide Fund for Nature (India), New Delhi. In the session, speakers from France, Indonesia, Kenya, Thailand, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) presented their views. Details of speakers are available at **Appendix B**. Some of the major takeaways from the session are enumerated below:

(a) It was highlighted that, in recent decades, the oceans have undergone a remarkable physical and chemical transformation driven by overexploitation, marine pollution, and contemporary human-caused climate change. This has had severe adverse consequences for ocean ecosystems such as coral reefs, mangrove forests, and seagrass, and the marine life supported by these ecosystems. This has caused major disruptions to marine life and destabilisation of entire ecosystems with significant socio-economic consequences for nearly all maritime sectors of the economy.

(b) It was emphasised that ‘Blue Economy’ is not a part of some other type or colour of the national economy; it is very nearly the entire economy which recognises that the ocean is the font of all life on earth.

(c) It was stressed that the world cannot afford any further degradation of the environment, and that harvesting of the natural resources can only be permitted on a strictly sustainable basis.

(d) It was also stressed that in view of the unparalleled economic potential of the ocean and its resources on one hand, and the daunting contemporary challenges facing ocean health and marine life on the other, the global ocean and aspects related to the Blue Economy deserve far greater attention as a key agenda point in academic and policy-oriented forums, and for international cooperation.

(e) Best practices and different approaches and mechanisms to conserve and restore marine ecosystem such as mangrove forests, coral reefs, sustainable fisheries to support the promotion of the blue economy without compromising our natural environment should be exchanged and shared among member countries.

Day 3: 23 November 22

***Marg-Darshan* [Guidance]**

21. In the first session of the day, aptly termed ‘*Marg-darshan*,’ Admiral R Hari Kumar, the Chief of the Naval Staff, said that the IPRD represented the *Samvad* or ‘Dialogue’ aspect of the 5 Ss – *Samman, Samvad, Sahyog, Shanti, and Samridhi* – enunciated by the Hon’ble Prime Minister. He also reaffirmed the Indian Navy’s committed resolve in preserving the nation’s maritime interests adding that the IPRD was instrumental in evolving a shared approach towards regional maritime security. The Navy Chief said that the IPOI leveraged the uniting nature of the oceans through two key elements of ‘holistic approach’ and ‘inclusivity.’ Giving a succinct summation of the proceedings of the last two days, Admiral R Hari Kumar brought out the key issues that had been articulated by distinguished speakers, which included Shri Bhupender Yadav, the Hon’ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Shri Ajay Bhatt, the Hon’ble Minister of State for Defence. He added that over the last two days, which witnessed deliberations by speakers from 17 countries and international organisations, there was a unanimous agreement that the Indo-Pacific was emerging as the economic and military centre of gravity in global affairs

22. Shri Rajnath Singh, the Hon’ble Raksha Mantri, in his Keynote Address, said that the IPRD was a significant platform for exchange of ideas on enhancing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. He reiterated India’s vision of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, and India’s faith in multilateralism and regionalism; and of her principled commitment to rule of law. Stating that the ASEAN was central to the Indo-Pacific, he referred to two recent initiatives – the ‘India-ASEAN Initiative on Marine Plastic Pollution’ and the ‘India-ASEAN Initiative for Women in UN Peace Keeping Operations.’ Invoking India’s rich maritime tradition and heritage, the Hon’ble minister

emphasised the importance of the oceans for India's growth, prosperity and security, as also for that of the Indo-Pacific. Shri Rajnath Singh said that in today's deeply interconnected world, security was a collective enterprise. Alluding to India's faith in an elevated sense of shared security, he gave the example of the COVID-19 pandemic, which gave an opportunity to India to demonstrate her concept of the world as an extended family, or *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*, through Op SAMUDRA SETU and VACCINE MAITRI initiative.

23. The Hon'ble Minister stated that in today's complex geopolitical environment, national security could not be considered a zero-sum game, and that a 'multi-aligned policy' was the only pragmatic solution to global security concerns. In conclusion, the hon'ble minister expressed his appreciation towards the Indian Navy and the NMF for organising the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2022. The Hon'ble Minister also released a book, published by the National Maritime Foundation, titled *Maritime Perspectives 2022: Coastal Security Dimensions of Maritime Security*.

Professional Session Six: Disaster Risk-reduction and Management; Solutions for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Vulnerable Littoral States.

24. The Session was moderated by Vice Admiral [Dinesh Tripathi](#), Chief of Personnel, Indian Navy and included five speakers representing Bangladesh, France, India, Maldives, as well as the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). Details of speakers are available at **Appendix B**. Some of the major takeaways from the session are enumerated below:

- (a) Consensus about the vulnerabilities/existential risk faced by the Small Island States by climate-induced natural disasters is required to address the underlying vulnerabilities and inequities that small island states face.
- (b) Existing structures and institutions must engage in activities that ensure the development of resilient infrastructure that can withstand the devastating impact of climate-induced disasters and help save lives and livelihoods in the wider region.
- (c) As climate change is amplifying disaster risk, early warning systems, risk mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery should be incorporated into the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to keep up with the complexity of hazards, including updating the SOPs of both inward-oriented and outward-oriented structures.
- (d) The structural constraints with compelling development challenges faced by the SIDs are amplified by their vulnerability to disaster risks, necessitating an urgent need for collective initiatives, supported by a variety of partners, to systematically develop a plan to mitigate the challenges climate-induced disasters by
- (e) The growing frequency and intensity of disasters, along with the systemic nature of risk, are jeopardising the entire food chain leading to over-dependence on marine fish stocks and their overfishing. Therefore, overfishing and Illegal, Unreported, and

Unregulated (IUU) fishing has become a structural problem in the Indo-Pacific region which require urgent attention, including for strengthening the legal framework

Valedictory Session

25. The final session commenced with the Valedictory Address, in which Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar (Retd), the National Maritime Security Coordinator, touched upon issues impacting maritime security in the Indo-Pacific such as inter-agency coordination, the importance of information sharing in enhancing Maritime Domain Awareness and also certain challenges such as problems in enforcement of rules and maritime disputes. The valedictory address was followed by release of a book entitled *Maritime Perspectives 2022: Public International Maritime Law* published by the National Maritime Foundation.

26. The IPRD 2022 culminated with the closing address by Vice Admiral SN Ghormade, the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, in which he recounted the diverse tapestry of the Indo-Pacific comprising the political, social, economic, and military aspects that emerged during the vibrant three-day discussions. Vice Admiral Ghormade laid stress upon the need to leverage the rich diversity within the Indo-Pacific and be more imaginative in arriving at solutions to problems affecting the Indo-Pacific. He also summarised the key takeaways of the event, such as a wider interpretation and understanding of the Blue Economy, and the fact that there were several issues of concern, such as the lack of proper management and regulation of fish stocks, which if unaddressed, could potentially emerge as disasters in the future. Concluding his remarks, Vice Admiral Ghormade acknowledged the effort by the NMF in organising the IPRD and also thanked all participants for their contribution towards an invigorating and intellectually stimulating dialogue.

Part 3

Conclusion

27. The series of annual strategic-level international conferences that constitute the IPRD are reflective of the desire of the Indian Navy, at its apex level, to further the process of ‘constructive engagement.’ Such engagements are an important part of the Indian Navy’s strategy and highlight its willingness to engage with partners across the Indo-Pacific. The Indian Navy, being the principal maritime security agency in India and in accordance with its diplomatic role, is deeply invested in the actualisation of each of the seven spokes or pillars of the IPOI, with particular but not exclusive focus upon the pillar of ‘Maritime Security.’ Likewise, the NMF, in addition to military maritime security issues, also focuses on a wide range of important economic, socio-economic, socio-cultural, scientific, legal, and historical issues, all of which are critical to ‘maritime India.’ These include, amongst others, fleshing-out the vision of SAGAR, providing specificity to the IPOI, pushing India’s efforts to improve maritime connectivity, supporting a national and regional transition to a Blue Economy, etc.

28. The IPOI provides a unique opportunity to countries of the Indo-Pacific region to address the seven areas of maritime opportunity and challenges that have been identified in the seven spokes or pillars of the deeply interconnected web of the IPOI. It has been three years since the IPOI was proposed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the 14th East Asia Summit meeting in November of 2019. And yet, the IPOI is a collective and inclusive initiative, which seeks regional champions to craft inclusive and collective solutions that can be applied across the rich and varied fabric of the Indo-Pacific. However, it does not ask its champions to walk their chosen paths alone. It invites partnerships in every positive sense of the word so that the solutions that are identified are owned not by one or another of these champions but by all who would wish to sustain a free, open, inclusive, and orderly maritime common.

29. The multiplicity of perspectives that were witnessed during the deliberation at IPRD-2022 makes it abundantly clear that a simplistic ‘one-size-fits-all’ omnibus solution to any of the challenges that are embedded within the seven pillars of the IPOI is unlikely to succeed. However, it became abundantly clear during the deliberations that challenges and solutions within the maritime domain need to be referenced to common interests – as reflected in the seven pillars of the IPOI – rather than to individual threats. It was further reaffirmed, through several telling examples, that not a single one of the seven pillars of the IPOI can ever be isolated from the others. In sum, the IPRD made a clarion call to unite individual strengths, capacities, and capabilities, in common cause for a better future.

30. The key takeaways from the event will hopefully shape thinking not only in India, but also across the Indo-Pacific and beyond, and the recommendations emerging from the IPOI, which reflect an urgent call for action through operationalisation of the IPOI, will transform into policy imperatives, and finally into action.

Concept Note

India's commitment to a regional transition from the existing 'brown economy' to an enduring 'blue economy' is an abiding feature of its maritime policy, which is encapsulated by the acronyms SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and IPOI (Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative). These twin concepts also underscore India's willingness and ability to augment global efforts to provide 'public goods' within the predominantly, though not exclusively, maritime expanse of the Indo-Pacific. New Delhi is deeply conscious and appreciative of the fact that the several forms and shapes of regionally beneficial maritime strategies are not limited to conceptualisations and decisions of a single country but are part of an inclusive process whose inclusivity incorporates voices from the entire Indo-Pacific.

For its part, the Indian Navy recognises that it is an indispensable part of the harmony that constitutes the 'Indian voice' in this common regional endeavour to collectively manage and govern an Indo-Pacific that is peaceful, stable, and founded upon a rules-based order in which the rules emanate from international consensus. As such, it sees itself as being deeply invested in the actualisation of each of the seven intricately connected spokes or pillars of the IPOI, as articulated by India's Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi in Bangkok, on 04 November 2019, at the 14th East Asia Summit (EAS). It is, therefore, appropriate that the 2022 edition of the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD-2022) is centred upon the IPOI and its operationalisation, with particular but not exclusive focus upon the pillar of 'Maritime Security' (or more accurately, 'holistic' maritime security).

India's approach to management and governance of the maritime expanse of the Indo-Pacific is guided by and deeply respectful of the efforts of the United Nations Secretariat and specifically upon the Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS). The Indian Navy is mindful of the prime ministerial definition of holistic maritime security being freedom from threats arising in or from or through the seas, irrespective of whether these threats are manmade or natural ones or, indeed, a combination of both.

The IPOI precisely reflects this definition even as it draws specific attention of all maritime users of the Indo-Pacific to the interconnectedness of all seven spokes or pillars: Maritime Security, Maritime Ecology, Maritime Resources, Disaster Risk-reduction and Management, Trade-Connectivity and Maritime Transport, Capacity-building and Resource-Sharing, and Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation. These broad thrust lines and the web of interconnectedness that defines them has been schematically summarised in Figure 1.

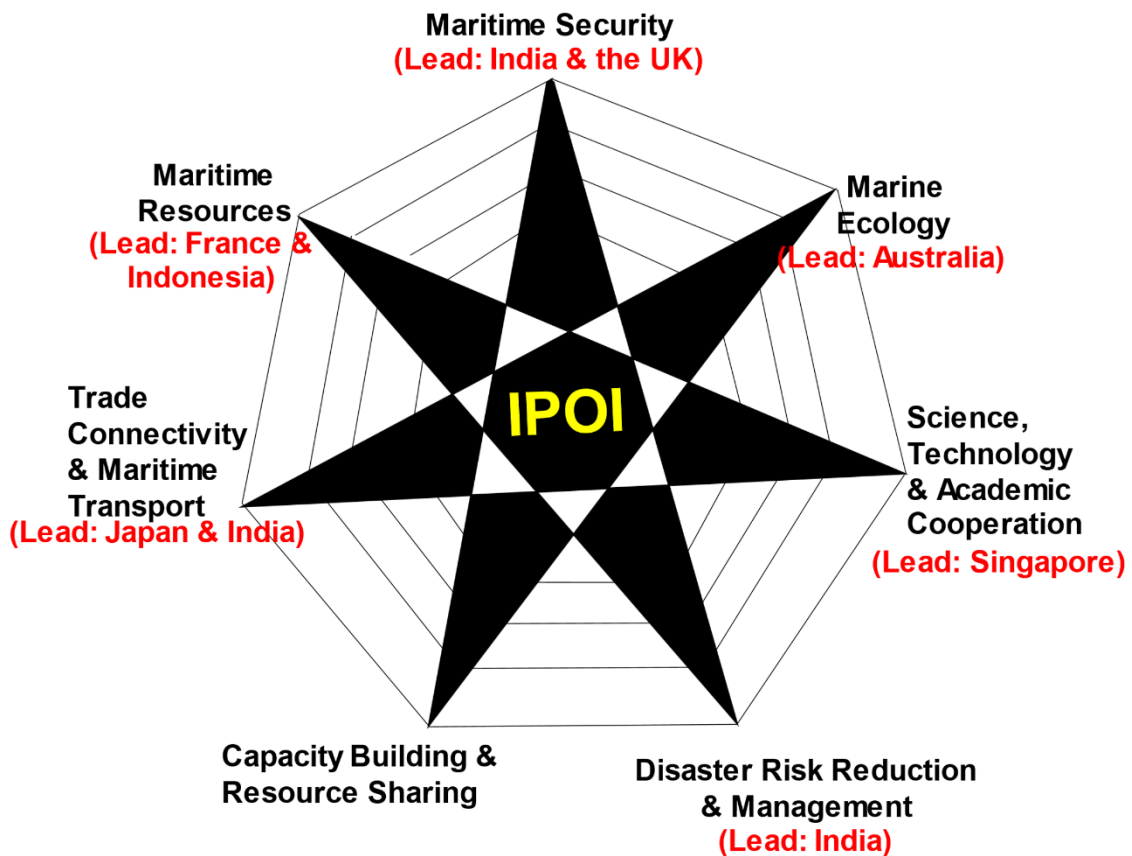


Figure 1: Schematic Summary of the IPOI

(Source: National Maritime Foundation)

Given the ability of the Indian Navy to be a significant enabler of India's commitment to provide public goods within and through the maritime domain, it is unsurprising to find the Navy in the very vanguard of strategies being formulated to ensure inclusive maritime security and maritime-enabled economic and societal growth in all littoral and island States of the huge oceanic swath extending from the eastern shore of Africa to the western shore of the Americas. The IPRD provides an appropriate platform upon which the process of actualisation of the seven thrust areas embodied by the IPOI initiative may be provided requisite specificity. IPRD-2022 will be conducted in physical format in New Delhi, through six professional sessions spread over the three-day period covering the 23rd, 24th, and 25th of November 2022 and will, through the agency of a series of globally renowned speakers and eminent panellists, explore how the areas of maritime cooperation envisaged in the IPOI could be optimally and inclusively operationalised.

Detailed Programme

DAY ONE: 23 NOVEMBER 2022

INAUGURAL SESSION (Duration: 1 h 00 m)		
0900-0905 (05 min)	Introductory Remarks	Ms Divya Rai Programme Executive, NMF
0905-0915 (10 min)	Welcome Address	Admiral Karambir Singh , PVSM, AVSM Chairman NMF <i>Former Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy</i>
0915-0930 (15 min)	Inaugural Address	Admiral R Hari Kumar , PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy
0930-0945 (15 min)	Keynote Address	Shri Ajay Bhatt Hon'ble Minister of State for Defence <i>(Raksha Rajya Mantri)</i> Hon'ble Minister of State for Tourism Government of India
0945-1000 (15 min)	1. Book Release	<i>Hard- Security Perspectives in India's Maritime Neighbourhood</i>
	2. Photo-Op	
	3. Admin Inputs	Ms Divya Rai Programme Executive, NMF
1000-1030 (30 min)	Tea Break	
PROFESSIONAL SESSION ONE (Duration: 2 h 25 m) "Weaving the Fabric of Holistic Maritime Security in the Indo-Pacific: Multilateral Options"		
1030-1040 (10 min)	Sessional Overview	Commodore Debesh Lahiri , IN Executive Director, NMF
1040-1055 (15 min)	Special Address ¹	Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Government of India
1055-1100 (05 min)	Book Release and Photo-Op	<i>Maritime Geostrategies: Vignettes of the Indo-Pacific States</i>

¹ The EAM regrettably could not grace the occasion.

1100-1105 (05 min)	Opening Remarks by Moderator	Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh , AVSM, NM Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff [DCIDS] (Operations), Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff New Delhi, India
1105-1120 (15 min)	Perspective from the IOC	Mr Raj Mohabeer Officer in Charge, General Secretariat, Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)
1120-1135 (15 min)	Perspective from IORA	Dr (Ms) Nomvuyo Nokwe <i>Former Secretary-General, Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and former Ambassador of South Africa to Mauritius</i> The Duma Nokwe Foundation, Johannesburg, S Africa
1135-1150 (15 min)	Perspective from India	Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan , AVSM & Bar, VSM Director-General, NMF New Delhi, India
1150-1205 (15 min)	Perspectives from IONS	Rear Admiral Jean-Mathieu Rey Head, International Relations (ALRI) French Navy (Chair of IONS)
1205-1220 (15 min)	Perspectives from the INDO-PACOM and QUAD	RAdm Michael Baker , USN Flag Defence Attaché US Embassy, New Delhi
1220-1250 (30 min)	Moderator's Remarks and Audience Interaction	Moderated by Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh , AVSM, NM Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff [DCIDS] (Operations) Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff New Delhi, India
1250-1255 (05 min)	Vote of Thanks and Session-Closure	Ms Divya Rai Programme Executive, NMF
1255-1400 (1 h 05 m)	Lunch Break	
PROFESSIONAL SESSION TWO (Duration: 2 h 20 m) “Constructing Holistic-Security Bridges across the Western and Eastern Maritime Expanse of the Indo-Pacific”		
1400-1410 (10 min)	Sessional Overview	VAdm Pradeep Chauhan , DG NMF
1410-1425 (15 min)	Special Address	Mr Shyam Saran <i>Former Foreign Secretary, Government of India</i> Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Nuclear Affairs and Climate Change <i>and</i> President, India International Centre (IIC)

		New Delhi, India
1425-1430 (05 min)	Book Release and Photo Op	<i>Non-Traditional Dimensions of Maritime Security</i>
1430-1435 (05 min)	Opening Remarks by Moderator	Dr Frédéric Grare Non-Resident Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) Paris, France
1435-1450 (15 min)	Perspectives from Australia	Dr David Brewster Senior Research Fellow, Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Australian National University (ANU) Canberra, Australia
1450-1505 (15 min)	Perspectives from Japan	Professor Hideshi Tokuchi President, Research Institute for Peace and Security (RIPS) Tokyo, Japan
1505-1520 (15 min)	Perspectives from the USA	Mr Jeffrey S Payne Manager of Academic Affairs, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESA), National Defense University Washington DC, USA
1520-1535 (15 min)	Perspectives from Singapore	Ms Jane Git Yin Chan Senior Fellow and Coordinator, Maritime Security Programme, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) The S Rajaratnam Institute of Strategic Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
1535-1550 (15 min)	Perspectives from Germany	Prof Heribert Dieter Senior Fellow German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) Berlin, Germany
1550-1620 (30 min)	Moderator's Remarks and Audience Interaction	Moderated by: Dr Frédéric Grare Senior Policy Fellow, Asia Programme European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) Paris, France
1620-1630 (10 min)	Signing of MOU between NIICE and the NMF	VAdm Pradeep Chauhan , DG NMF Dr Pramod Jaiswal , Director, NIICE
1630-1635 (05 min)	Vote of Thanks and Session-Closure	Ms Divya Rai Programme Executive, NMF
1635-1745	End-of-Day Tea + Visit to Cottage Industry & NWWA Handicraft Stalls	
1745-1915	Indian Cultural Vignettes (at the Manekshaw Centre)	

(90 min)	
1945-2115	Dinner (by Invitation) at VARUNA Mess hosted by the NMF & KAS

DAY TWO: 24 NOVEMBER 2022

PROFESSIONAL SESSION THREE (Duration: 2 h 20 m) “Building Maritime Connectivity: Ports, Trade, and Transport”		
0830-0840 (10 min)	Sessional Overview of Pre-lunch Sessions	VAdm Pradeep Chauhan, DG NMF
0840-0845 (05 min)	Opening Remarks by Moderator	Dr Gudrun Wacker Senior Fellow, Asia Division German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik [SWP]) Berlin, Germany
0845-0900 (15 min)	Perspectives from Australia	Captain Alastair Cooper , RAN Director, Sea Power Centre-Australia Royal Australian Navy Canberra, Australia
0900-0915 (15 min)	Perspectives from ASEAN	Dr Prabir De Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) and Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi India
0915-0930 (15 min)	Perspectives from Sri Lanka	Admiral Jayantha Perera , RWP, VSV, USP <i>Former Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy</i> Colombo, Sri Lanka
0930-0945 (15 min)	Perspectives from Nepal ²	Dr Pramod Jaiswal Director, Nepal Institute for International Cooperation & Engagement (NIICE) Kathmandu, Nepal
0945-1000 (15 min)	Perspectives from India	Mr Subrat Tripathy CEO Adani Ports & SEZ Ltd Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
1000-1030 (30 min)	Moderator’s Remarks and Audience Interaction	Dr Gudrun Wacker Senior Fellow, Asia Division German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik [SWP]) Berlin, Germany

² Dr Pramod Jaiswal due to unavoidable circumstances could not participate.

1030-1045 (15 min)	Special Address	Dr Sanjeev Ranjan, IAS Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
1045-1050 (05 min)	Vote of Thanks and Session-Closure	Ms Divya Rai Programme Executive, NMF
1050-1115 (25 min)	TEA BREAK	
PROFESSIONAL SESSION FOUR (Duration: 2 h 15 m) “Capacity-building and Capability Enhancement: Leveraging the Physical and Social Sciences”		
1115-1130 (15 min)	Special Address	Dr M Ravichandran Secretary Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India
1130-1135 (05 min)	Book Release & Photo Op	<i>Enhancing QUAD Cooperation for Sustainable and Equitable Utilisation of Marine Mineral Resources</i>
1135-1140 (05 min)	Opening Remarks by Moderator	Vice Admiral Sanjay Mahindru, AVSM, NM Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy
1140-1155 (15 min)	Perspectives from ASEAN	Ms Joanne Lin Weiling Lead Researcher, ASEAN Studies Centre Yusof Ishak Institute (ISEAS), Singapore
1155-1210 (15 min)	Perspectives from Israel	Rear Admiral (Prof) Shaul Chorev, Isr Navy (Retd) Head, Maritime Policy and Strategy Research Centre, Haifa (HMS) University of Haifa, Israel
1210-1225 (15 min)	Perspectives from India	Dr Rajat Kathuria Dean, School of Humanities & Social Sciences, <i>and</i> Professor of Economics Shiv Nadar University, Delhi NCR
1225-1240 (15 min)	Perspectives from Japan	Dr Rajib Shaw Professor and Director India Japan Laboratory (IJL) Keio University, Fujisawa, Japan
1240-1255 (15 min)	Perspectives from Taiwan	Dr Mumin Chen Research Scholar New Delhi
1255-1325 (30 min)	Moderator’s Remarks and Audience Interaction	Vice Admiral Sanjay Mahindru, AVSM, NM Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy
1325-1330 (05 min)	Vote of Thanks and Session-Closure	Ms Divya Rai Programme Executive, NMF
1330-1420 (50 min)	Lunch	

PROFESSIONAL SESSION FIVE (Duration: 2 h 40 m) “Practical approaches to a Regional Blue Economy” [with particular focus on the ecologically-sensitive harvesting of marine resources]		
1420-1430 (10 min)	Sessional Overview	VAdm Pradeep Chauhan , DG NMF
1430-1500 (30 min)	Special Address	Shri Bhupender Yadav Hon’ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Hon’ble Minister of Labour and Employment Government of India
1500-1505 (05 min)	Book Release & Photo Op	<i>Transitioning from a ‘Brown’ to a ‘Blue’ Economy in the Face of Climate Change</i>
1505-1510 (05 min)	Opening Remarks by Moderator	Mr Ravi Singh CEO & Secretary-General, World Wide Fund for Nature (India), New Delhi, India
1510-1525 (15 min)	Perspectives from Thailand	Dr Suchana Chavanich UNESCO Sustainable Ocean Ambassador Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
1525-1540 (15 min)	Perspectives from Kenya	Ms Harriet Njoki Mboce , HSC Doctoral Scholar University of Nairobi School of Law Nairobi, Kenya
1540-1555 (15 min)	Perspectives from France	Mr Benoit Gauthier Head of Regional Economic Service Embassy of France, New Delhi
1555-1610 (15 min)	Perspectives from Indonesia	Dr Ir Nadiarti Nurdin Kadir Associate Professor Center of Excellence for Marine Resilience and Sustainable Development Hasanuddin University, Makassar, Indonesia
1610-1625 (15 min)	Perspectives from UNDP	Mr N Vasudevan Lead, UNDP Green Climate Fund New Delhi, India
1625-1655 (30 min)	Moderator’s Remarks and Audience Interaction	Moderated by: Mr Ravi Singh CEO & Secretary-General, World Wide Fund for Nature (India), New Delhi, India
1655-1700 (05 min)	Vote of Thanks and Session-Closure	Ms Divya Rai Programme Executive, NMF
1700-1715	End-of-Day Tea Break	
1945-2115	Dinner (by Invitation) at Kota House hosted by the Indian Navy	

DAY THREE: 25 NOVEMBER 2022

0940-0950 (10 min)	Sessional Overview	VAdm Pradeep Chauhan, DG NMF
0950-1005 (15 min)	Special Address ³	Dr Krishna S Vatsa Member National Disaster Management Authority New Delhi, India
“MARG-DARSHAN” [Guidance] (Duration: 30 m)		
1015-1025 (10 min)	Welcome Address	Admiral R Hari Kumar , PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy
1025-1040 (15 min)	Keynote Address	Shri Rajnath Singh Hon’ble Defence Minister (<i>Raksha Mantri</i>) Government of India
1040-1045 (05 min)	Book Release & Photo Op	<i>Coastal Security Dimensions of Maritime Security</i>
1045	Tea Break	
PROFESSIONAL SESSION SIX (Duration: 2 h 00 m) “Disaster Risk-Reduction and Management: Solutions for SIDS and Vulnerable Littoral States”		
1115-1120 (05 min)	Opening Remarks by Moderator	Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi , AVSM, NM Chief of Personnel Indian Navy
1120-1135 (15 min)	Perspectives from Bangladesh	Dr Md Mustafa Saroar Professor, Department of Urban & Regional Planning Khulna University of Engineering & Technology, Bangladesh
1135-1150 (15 min)	Perspectives from CDRI	Mr Amit Prothi Director-General Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) New Delhi, India
1150-1205 (15 min)	Perspectives from Maldives	Colonel Ibrahim Hilmy Commandant MNDF Coast Guard Male, Maldives
1205-1220 (15 min)	Perspectives from India	Cmde Alok Anand , YSM Commodore (Naval Operations), Indian Navy
1220-1235 (15 min)	Perspectives from France	Ms Alexandra Nicolas Institut de Recherche Stratégique de l’Ecole Militaire (IRSEM), Paris, France

³ Regrettably, Dr Krishna S Vatsa could not grace the occasion.

1235-1305 (30 min)	Moderator's Remarks and Audience Interaction	Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi , AVSM, NM Chief of Personnel Indian Navy
1305-1315 (10 min)	Signing of MOU between IFC-IOR and the RCOC, Seychelles ⁴	Captain Rohit Bajpai , Director, Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region, (IFC-IOR), Gurugram, India Captain SAM Gontier Director, Regional Coordination of Operations Centre (RCOC), Seychelles Mr Raj Mohabeer Officer in Charge, General Secretariat, IOC, Mauritius
1315-1320 (05 min)	Vote of Thanks and Session-Closure	Ms Divya Rai Programme Executive, NMF
1320-1415 (55 min)	Lunch	
VALEDICTORY SESSION (Duration: 1h 10 min)		
1415 (05 min)	Introduction to the Session and to the Speaker	Ms Divya Rai Programme Executive, NMF
1415-1435 (20 min)	Valedictory Address	Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar , PVSM, AVSM, VSM, IN (Retd) National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC) National Security Council Secretariat, Government of India
1435-1440 (05 min)	Book Release & Photo-Op	<i>Public International Maritime Law</i>
1440-1500 (20 min)	Closing Address	Vice Admiral Satish Ghormade , PVSM, AVSM, NM, ADC, IN Vice Chief of the Naval Staff Indian Navy
1500-1510 (10 min)	Vote of Thanks	Cmde Debesh Lahiri Executive Director, NMF
1510-1525 (15 min)	Photo-Session	
1525-1550 (25 min)	Tea Break	
1630-1730	Visit (by Invitation) to National War Memorial	
	End-of-Conference	

⁴ Due to unavoidable circumstances the event could not materialise.