

Indian Ocean Naval Symposium

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Indian Ocean Naval Symposium Latest News

Boosting maritime engagement with Indonesia, a key member of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), and advancing the vision of MAHASAGAR, the Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS) departed Belawan recently, after a successful three-day port call.

About Indian Ocean Naval Symposium

- It is a **voluntary initiative** that seeks to increase **maritime cooperation among navies** of the **littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region** by providing an **open and inclusive forum** for discussion of regionally relevant maritime issues.
- It promotes maritime cooperation, mutual understanding, and collaboration on issues such as **maritime security and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR)**.
- In the process, it endeavours to generate a **flow of information between naval professionals** that would lead to common understanding and possibly cooperative solutions on the way ahead.
- It was **conceived by the Indian Navy in 2008**.

- The **inaugural edition** of IONS was held in **Feb 2008 at New Delhi**, with the **Indian Navy as the Chair for two years** (2008–2010).
- IONS is structured around a **rotating chairmanship, biennial conclaves of chiefs, and working groups**.
- There are 36 littoral in the **Indian Ocean**, which have been geographically **grouped into the following four sub-regions**:
 - **South Asian Littorals: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and United Kingdom** (British Indian Ocean Territory)
 - **West Asian Littorals: Iran, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates**
 - **East African Littorals: France (Reunion), Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, and Tanzania.**
 - **South East Asian and Australian Littorals: Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Timor-Leste.**
 - **Observers: China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, the Netherlands, Russia, and Spain.**

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