



INDO-PACIFIC CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

Virtual Panel Discussion on India's Indo-Pacific Strategy

Thursday, December 12, 2024

1700-1800 (IST) | 2130-2230 (AEST) | 0630-0730 (EST)

Background and Context

India's Indo-Pacific strategy, although not formally codified, has emerged as a significant element of its foreign policy, impacting regional stability, trade, and security across a vast region stretching from the eastern coast of Africa to the Western Pacific. This strategy is anchored by initiatives such as the Act East Policy, SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region), and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).

India's Indo-Pacific strategy aims to reinforce its role as a regional security provider, build strategic partnerships, and address evolving geopolitical challenges, particularly in response to China's rising influence in South Asia and the Indian Ocean. By enhancing connectivity, upholding a rules-based international order, and supporting economic cooperation with ASEAN, the U.S., Japan, and other Indo-Pacific countries, India seeks to achieve its broader goals of stability and prosperity.

However, challenges remain, due to a lack of a unified Indo-Pacific strategy, such as limited economic integration with ASEAN, operational inefficiencies in key initiatives, and maintaining strategic autonomy. This webinar aims to delve into India's strategic initiatives, collaborations and challenges aimed at ensuring a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific and a look for a comprehensive Indo-Pacific Strategy.

Objectives

- Provide a comprehensive understanding of the key elements and goals of India's Indo-Pacific Strategy, including its historical context, current initiatives, and future plans
- Discuss India's collaborations with countries such as the United States, Japan, Australia, and ASEAN nations, and how these partnerships contribute to a balanced power dynamic in the region
- Address the various challenges India faces in implementing its Indo-Pacific Strategy
- Identify and discuss potential areas for deeper collaboration and cooperation between India and other Indo-Pacific nations

Expected Outcomes

- Increased awareness about India's Indo-Pacific Strategy among attendees
- Identified challenges and opportunities for India in the Indo-Pacific

Discussion Topics

- Discuss India's strategy in the Indo-Pacific region, emphasising initiatives like the Act East Policy, SAGAR, and IPOI
- Despite being a major trade partner, economic integration between India and ASEAN is hindered by factors such as India's non-participation in regional trade agreements. This discussion will focus on bridging these gaps and strengthening economic ties
- Explore India's maritime security efforts and defence partnerships with friendly nations
- Discuss India's participation in multilateral forums to strengthen regional cooperation and uphold a rules-based international order
- Address the complexities of balancing India's relations with the U.S. and China while maintaining strategic autonomy
- Discuss why India needs an Indo-Pacific Strategy, focusing on the critical reasons

Agenda

17:00 – 17:02	Introduction
17:02 – 17:07	Moderators Note
17:07 – 17:45	Panel Discussion
17:45 – 17:56	Q&A Session
17:56 – 18:00	Closing Remarks