



The Kaleidoscope of Geostrategic Powerplay: Assessing India's Role in the Indian Ocean Region

Date: 24th, July 2024

Time: 0730 Hrs to 0900 Hrs (EDT),

1700 Hrs to 1830 Hrs (IST),

1930 Hrs to 2100 Hrs (AWST)

(Virtual)

Background and Context

The Indian Ocean Region (IOR) stands at the crossroads of global trade and geopolitical significance. As one of the most strategically vital areas in the world, it hosts crucial sea lines of communication that connect the Middle East, Africa, and East Asia with Europe and the Americas. Historically, this region has been a melting pot of maritime cultures and trade, shaping the geopolitics of many nations over centuries. Today, the IOR is a focal point for global powers, each vying for influence and stability.

India, with its extensive coastline and central location in the IOR, plays a pivotal role in maintaining regional stability and security. As a prominent naval power, India views the IOR as a critical arena for its strategic interests, including safeguarding maritime routes, ensuring regional peace, and promoting economic growth. In recent years, the role of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)—comprising India, the United States, Japan, and Australia—has become increasingly significant in shaping the geopolitical landscape of the IOR. This webinar will delve into India's strategies and actions within this framework, exploring how it navigates the complex power dynamics of the region.

Objectives

- To provide an in-depth understanding of the geopolitical significance of the Indian Ocean Region, emphasising its strategic value in global trade and security.
- To examine India's maritime strategy and naval capabilities, highlighting its role as a net security provider in the IOR.
- To analyse the diplomatic and economic initiatives undertaken by India and its Quad partners to foster stability and development in the region.
- To discuss the challenges and opportunities faced by India and the Quad in maintaining a rules-based order in the IOR.
- To explore trilateral and multilateral cooperation opportunities among India, the United States, Japan, Australia, and other developing nations in the Indian Ocean.

Expected Outcomes

- Identification of key engagement areas where India and its Quad partners can enhance maritime security and diplomatic relations to strengthen their collective influence in the IOR.
- Strategic recommendations for policymakers to bolster India's geopolitical position and foster cooperation with Quad nations in the Indian Ocean.
- Enhanced understanding of the complexities of regional geopolitics and how India, alongside its Quad allies, navigates these to maintain stability and a rules-based order.
- Insights into potential trilateral and multilateral development projects that can benefit India, its Quad partners, and other IOR nations, promoting regional growth and security.

Agenda

- **Geopolitical Landscape of the IOR: Historical Context and Current Scenario:** An exploration of the historical maritime heritage of the IOR and India's evolving role in the current geopolitical climate.
- **India's Maritime Strategy and Naval Strength: Pillars of Security in the IOR:** Detailed analysis of India's naval capabilities, strategic initiatives, and their impact on regional security and stability.
- **Diplomatic and Economic Initiatives: Fostering Stability and Prosperity in the Region:** Examination of India's diplomatic and economic efforts, in collaboration with Quad partners, to promote regional development and cooperation.
- **Challenges and Opportunities for India and the Quad in the Indian Ocean Region:** Discussion on the strategic challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for India and its Quad allies, including potential areas for enhanced cooperation and collective action.

Programme

1700-1810 - Introduction and Welcome Remarks: A representative from CUTS International will set the stage for the discussion, providing an overview of the webinar's objectives and significance.

1710-1755 - Panel Discussion: Experts from various fields will share their insights and perspectives on the topics discussed.

1755-1825 - Q&A Session: An interactive segment allowing participants to engage directly with the panellists, ask questions, and discuss the topics in more detail.

1825-1830 - Closing Remarks: Summarising the key takeaways from the webinar and outlining the next steps for enhancing India's role in the IOR.

Notes

- The webinar will include a Q&A session, allowing the audience to engage directly with the topics discussed.
 - Background materials and related readings will be provided to registered participants before the webinar.
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