



Colombo Security Conclave Charter

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Why in News?

Recently, the members of [Colombo Security Conclave \(CSC\)](#) **India, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Mauritius** signed a **Charter** and a **memorandum of understanding**, for the establishment of the **CSC secretariat** in Colombo.

- **Bangladesh** was absent and **Seychelles** participated as an observer state.

What are the Key Facts About the Colombo Security Conclave?

- **Background of CSC:** It was originally known as the [NSA Trilateral on Maritime Security](#) and was established between **India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives** in 2011.
 - It was an initiative of **Sri Lanka** to enhance **maritime security** in the [Indian Ocean Region](#).
- **Members: India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives** were its founding members.
 - **Mauritius** joined the conclave in **2022** while **Bangladesh** joined in **2024**. **Seychelles** is an observer state.
- **Goals of CSC:** Cooperation under the CSC focuses on **five goals**:
 - **Maritime safety** and security.
 - Countering **terrorism and radicalisation**.
 - Combating **trafficking** and transnational [organised crime](#).
 - [Cyber security](#) and protection of critical infrastructure and technology.
 - [Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief](#).
- **Defence Exercises:** In November 2021, India, Sri Lanka, and Maldives conducted [Exercise Dosti XV in Maldives](#).
 - **India, Sri Lanka, and Maldives** subsequently conducted their first joint exercise in the **Arabian Sea** under the aegis of the CSC.
- **Dialogues and Meetings:** The **first dialogue** among the three countries took place in **2011 in the Maldives**, followed by meetings in **Sri Lanka (2013) and India (2014)**.
 - The dialogue stalled **after 2014** due to rising **India-Maldives tensions** and **China's growing influence** in the Indian Ocean.
 - It was revived and re-branded as the **Colombo Security Conclave** in 2020.
- **Significance of CSC:** The CSC strengthens **India's Indian Ocean outreach**, counters **China's influence**, enhances **maritime security**, aligns with the **SAGAR vision**, and fosters **sub-regionalism** among six Indian Ocean nations on a **shared security platform**.

Why is the Indian Ocean Important for India?

- **Central Location:** The Indian Ocean, stretching from **Africa to Australia**, positions India to control **key maritime routes**, including critical choke points like the [Straits of Malacca](#) and [Hormuz](#), vital for global trade and national interests.
- **Trade Routes:** India has historically acted as a **resident power** in the Indian Ocean, occupying **40% of strategic waters**
 - Approximately **95% of India's trade by volume and 68% by value** passes through the

Indian Ocean.

- **Energy Security:** India relies heavily on the Indian Ocean for its energy needs, with nearly **80% of crude oil requirements** imported via this route.
- **Rich in Minerals:** The Indian Ocean accounts for **40% of the world's offshore oil production** and reservoir for minerals such as **nickel, cobalt, and copper**.
- **Fishing Industry:** The Indian Ocean has significant **fishing grounds** and India's fishing industry employs approximately **14 million people**.

