



## India-US Agreements



### Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

The 'Indian Ocean Naval Symposium' (IONS) is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime co-operation 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. 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.

That the launch of so important a regional initiative was able to meet with such wide acceptance across the length and breadth of the Indian Ocean was in itself a unique phenomenon. There are 35 members - navies of the IONS which have been geographically grouped into the following four sub-regions:-

- **South Asian Littorals** : Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Seychelles and Sri Lanka
- **West Asian Littorals** : Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Yemen
- **East African Littorals** : Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Eriteria, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan and Tanzania
- **South East Asian and Australian Littorals** : Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Timor Leste

**Note:** *The littoral zone is the part of a sea, lake or river that is close to the shore.*

The inaugural IONS-2008 was held in New Delhi, India on 14 Feb 08. Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), Indian Navy was designated the Chairman IONS for the period 2008-10. A 'Charter of Business' was mutually agreed to by the Chiefs of the member-navies, which has been forwarded to all the member navies for ratification.

IONS Chairmanship is rotated sequentially through each of the four sub-regions. This is to ensure that challenges of each region receive due emphasis.

The IONS Chair was held by India from 2008 to 2010, UAE from 2010 to 2012 and South Africa from 2012 to 2014. Australia chaired for 2014-2016.

The Current chair is Bangladesh. Bangladesh Navy conducted the IONS- 2016 from 10--14 Jan 2016 at Dhaka and took over the Chair of IONS from Australia for the term 2016 -2018.

### NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission

ISRO and NASA are jointly working on the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission to codevelop and launch a dual frequency synthetic aperture radar satellite.

NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission is a dual frequency (L & S Band) Radar Imaging Satellite. In this joint mission, JPL/ NASA will be responsible for design & development of L-band SAR, 12m unfurlable antenna, GPS system and data recorder. ISRO will be responsible for design & development of S-band SAR, Spacecraft Bus, data transmission system, Spacecraft integration & testing, launch using GSLV and on-orbit operations. The aim and objectives of NISAR mission are:

- Design, Develop and launch a Dual frequency (L and S Band) Radar Imaging Satellite.
- Explore newer application areas using L and S band microwave data, especially in natural resources mapping & monitoring; estimating agricultural biomass over full duration of crop cycle; assessing soil moisture; monitoring of floods and oil slicks; coastal erosion, coastline changes and variation of winds in coastal waters; assessment of mangroves; surface deformation studies due to seismic activities etc.

### Global Entry Programme

Global Entry is a US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) program that allows speedy clearance for low-risk travellers upon their arrival in US. The travellers are pre-approved for the programme after a rigorous background check. In-person interviews are also taken to check the 'low-risk' status of the applicants before the enrollment. Apart from this, the travellers may further be questioned when they enter the United States in case the need arises.

**Which countries are members of this programme?**

Apart from India, citizens of Colombia, United Kingdom, Germany, Panama, Singapore are eligible to become members of this programme. South Korea and Mexican nationals are also included under Global Entry Programme. Canadian residents can apply for enrollment under this through their membership in NEXUS programme.

### Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN)

GIAN is a catalytic programme of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. It is intended to enlarge and deepen the interface of India's institutions of higher learning and globally recognised institutions of academic eminence. Over the next year or so, faculty from highly rated institutions abroad will visit India, interact and partner with their counterparts and with students, and deliver specialised courses.

### Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA)

The Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) was launched in February 2014 to advance a world safe and secure from infectious disease threats, to bring together nations from all over the world to make new, concrete commitments, and to elevate global health security as a national leaders-level priority. The G7 endorsed the GHSA in June 2014.

GHSA is an action-oriented initiative where members focus their efforts on achieving specific targets. All GHSA countries have flexibility in how they address their commitments, with countries working nationally, regionally, and/or globally toward the common targets.

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