



Indian Ocean Rim Association

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Why in News?

[Sri Lanka](#) is set to take over the chairmanship of the [Indian Ocean Rim Association \(IORA\)](#) during the **23rd Council of Ministers' Meeting** scheduled for **11th October, 2023**, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. It will hold the chairmanship of the association from 2023 to 2025.

- Bangladesh held the chairmanship from **November 2021 - November 2023**.

What is the Indian Ocean Rim Association?

▪ About:

- The vision for IORA originated during a visit by the then **President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela** of South Africa to India in **1995**, where he said: **“the natural urge of the facts of history and geography should broaden itself to include the concept of an Indian Ocean rim for socio-economic co-operation.”**
- It underpinned the **Indian Ocean Rim Initiative in March 1995**, and the creation of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (**then known as the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation**) in March 1997.

▪ Members:

- Currently, IORA has **23 Member States** and 11 Dialogue Partners.
 - **Members:** Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, France, **India**, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.
 - **Dialogue Partners:** China, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the **United States of America**.

▪ Secretariat: Mauritius.

▪ Six Priority and Two Focus Areas:



Maritime Safety & Security



Trade & Investment Facilitation



Fisheries Management



Disaster Risk Management



Tourism & Cultural Exchanges



Academic, Science & Technology Cooperation



Blue Economy



Women's Economic Empowerment

▪ **Indian Ocean:**

- As the third largest ocean woven together by trade routes, commands control of major sea-lanes carrying half of the world's container ships, one third of the world's bulk cargo traffic and two thirds of the world's oil shipments, the Indian Ocean remains an important lifeline to international trade and transport.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q. With reference to 'Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)', consider the following statements: (2015)

1. It was established very recently in response to incidents of piracy and accidents of oil spills.
2. It is an alliance meant for maritime security only.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (d)

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