

Concept Note and Programme

“Advancing India–Indonesia Cooperation under the IPOI Marine Resources Pillar: Perspectives on the Andaman–Aceh Corridor”

A webinar by the National Maritime Foundation (NMF), India, and Indo-Pacific Strategic Intelligence (ISI), Indonesia

Background

The Indo-Pacific is a shared maritime region that underpins global trade, regional connectivity, and the prosperity of littoral states. As strategic competition and non-traditional maritime challenges continue to evolve, ensuring that this region remains peaceful, stable, and resilient requires practical and inclusive cooperation among regional partners. The Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) reflects these shared principles by promoting practical collaboration across seven thematic pillars to advance peace, stability, and prosperity throughout the region.¹ As Co-lead of the IPOI Marine Resources Pillar, Indonesia is uniquely positioned to shape regional cooperation on sustainable marine governance, marine scientific research, environmental stewardship, blue economy development, and capacity building. As the IPOI increasingly shifts from broad policy aspirations towards practical implementation, there is growing interest in identifying concrete avenues through which these objectives can be translated into meaningful regional initiatives.

India and Indonesia have long shared a close maritime relationship rooted in their common interests in maintaining a safe, stable, and prosperous Indian Ocean region. Existing cooperation has expanded across maritime security, naval engagement, capacity building, and economic connectivity. Building on these foundations, there is increasing scope to explore how bilateral cooperation can also support the objectives of the IPOI Marine Resources Pillar.

The Andaman–Aceh Corridor provides a valuable geographical lens through which these opportunities can be examined. Located at the crossroads of the eastern Indian Ocean and the northern approaches to the Malacca Strait, the corridor connects two strategically important maritime regions that share interests in sustainable marine governance, maritime connectivity, marine scientific research, disaster resilience, and blue economy development. Importantly, cooperation between Aceh Province and India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands is hardly a new concept. Building on the 2018 Shared Vision of Maritime Cooperation, India and Indonesia established a Joint Task Force on Aceh–Andaman connectivity, which adopted a Plan of Action

¹ Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Government of India, “*ASEAN–India Joint Statement on Maritime Cooperation*,” adopted in Jakarta, Indonesia, 07 September 2023. <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/ASEAN-India-Joint-Statement-on-Maritime-Cooperation-FIN-1.pdf>

during its inaugural meeting in Banda Aceh in 2019.² The Plan of Action identified six priority areas of cooperation, including trade and investment, connectivity development, marine and fisheries, tourism, and exchanges in culture, science, and technology. Political commitment from both countries is demonstrated through subsequent bilateral leadership meetings that occurred recently to review progress and identify opportunities in various areas of cooperation.³

This momentum is further reflected in a growing interest in the Andaman–Aceh Corridor, particularly following initiatives by the Government of Aceh and its Indian counterparts to strengthen connectivity between Aceh and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The corridor presents a strategically significant maritime space linking the Indian Ocean and the approaches to the Malacca Strait and therefore offers a relevant context for examining the intersection of India–Indonesia strategic cooperation, maritime security, connectivity, and regional resilience.

In light of these developments, this joint webinar seeks to facilitate an exchange of perspectives between the National Maritime Foundation (NMF) and Indo-Pacific Strategic Intelligence (ISI), bringing together practitioners, academicians, and researchers from India and Indonesia to identify practical pathways for advancing bilateral cooperation under the IPOI. Specifically, the discussion will seek to generate policy-relevant insights and recommendations by addressing three key questions:

1. How can India–Indonesia cooperation contribute to strengthening strategic autonomy and resilience amid an evolving Indo-Pacific strategic environment?
2. What should be the priority areas and tangible deliverables for Indonesia’s effective co-leadership of the IPOI Marine Resources Pillar through 2030?
3. How can the Andaman-Aceh Corridor serve as a platform for identifying practical opportunities for India–Indonesia cooperation under the IPOI?

Objectives

The webinar seeks to:

- Provide a platform for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers from India and Indonesia to address challenges and identify shared challenges in strengthening bilateral maritime cooperation under the IPOI Marine Resources Pillar;
- Generate policy-relevant insights and actionable recommendations on priority areas, institutional arrangements, and capacity-building measures to advance India–Indonesia cooperation under the IPOI and the Andaman-Aceh Corridor; and

² “Indonesia-India Agree on Aceh-Andaman Connectivity Development,” *ANTARA News*, 08 December 2019. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/137827/indonesia-india-agree-on-aceh-andaman-connectivity-development>

³ “Prabowo, Modi Advance Strategic Sabang-Andaman Port Partnership,” *ANTARA News*, 07 July 2026. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/421781/prabowo-modi-advance-strategic-sabang-andaman-port-partnership>

Format

The webinar will be conducted virtually via **Zoom Cloud Meetings**, comprising opening remarks, two moderated panel discussions, and an interactive question-and-answer segment with participants. Approximate duration: **150 minutes**.

Date, Time, and Platform

- Date: **Wednesday, 09 September 2026**
- Time: **1030-1300 IST (1200-1430 WIB)**
- Platform: **Zoom Cloud Meetings**

Speakers

- Opening Remarks: **VAdm Pradeep Chauhan, AVSM & Bar, VSM, IN (Retd), Director-General (NMF)**
- Closing Remarks: **Dr Muhammad Hadiano, Chairman (ISI)**
- Speaker 1: **Cmde Manish Sinha, IN (Retd), Senior Fellow (NMF)**
- Speaker 2: **Drs Makmur Keliat, PhD, Associate Professor (University of Indonesia)**
- Speaker 3: **Dr Ristian Atriandi Supriyanto, Lecturer (University of Indonesia) & Fellow (ISI)**
- Speaker 4: **Capt Ranendra S Sawan, Senior Fellow (NMF)**

For detailed profiles of the speakers, please refer to the **Appendix**.

Speakers' Abstracts

- **Cmde Manish Sinha, Senior Fellow, NMF – “Middle Power Cooperation in Navigating Great Power Competition: An Indian Perspective”**
The presentation will examine the broader strategic rationale for India-Indonesia cooperation amid intensifying great-power competition in the Indo-Pacific. It would further discuss India’s assessment of the evolving regional strategic environment, the role of middle powers in preserving regional stability and strategic autonomy, areas of converging interests between India and Indonesia, and how multilateral and minilateral platforms such as ASEAN-led mechanisms and the IPOI can facilitate inclusive and non-exclusive middle-power cooperation.
- **Dr Makmur Keliat, PhD – “Institutionalisation of Trust between India and Indonesia through the Implementation of IPOI: An Indonesian Perspective”**
The presentation will examine the evolution of strategic trust between India and Indonesia and the role of the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) in providing an institutional framework for deepening and sustaining bilateral cooperation. Drs Keliat would discuss the foundations of India–Indonesia strategic relations, the significance of Indonesia’s role as Co-Lead of the IPOI Marine Resources Pillar, and how the IPOI

can strengthen institutional linkages and confidence-building between the two countries and other regional partners. The discussion will establish the broader strategic context for India–Indonesia maritime cooperation, setting the stage for a more focused examination of the Aceh–Andaman Corridor and its relevance to Indonesia’s strategic priorities.

- **Dr Ristian Atriandi Supriyanto – “*An Indonesian Perspective on the Aceh–Andaman Corridor: Aligning Indonesia’s National Strategic Priorities*”**

The presentation will examine the Aceh–Andaman Corridor from an Indonesian strategic perspective, focusing on how its development can align with Indonesia’s broader maritime and strategic priorities. Dr Supriyanto would examine the corridor’s significance within the wider Indian Ocean–Malacca Strait maritime environment, its relevance to India–Indonesia relations and defence cooperation, and its potential contribution to Indonesia’s maritime security and regional strategic interests. The discussion may also consider the role of ASEAN and other regional mechanisms in supporting a stable and connected maritime environment, providing a strategic context for the practical cooperation opportunities to be explored in the subsequent session.

- **Capt Ranendra S Sawan, Senior Fellow, NMF – “*India’s Perspective on Practical Opportunities under the IPOI: Strengthening Maritime Cooperation in the Andaman–Aceh Corridor*”**

The presentation will explore practical opportunities for India–Indonesia maritime cooperation using the Andaman–Aceh Corridor as a geographical lens and the IPOI as an enabling framework. Additionally, Capt Sawan would address opportunities to strengthen maritime security and connectivity in the Andaman–Aceh Corridor, particularly in supporting the safe and reliable movement of energy and goods, ensuring regional supply chains resilience. The discussion may also consider how the IPOI can provide a framework for developing practical cooperation between India and Indonesia in support of these objectives.

Audience

The webinar will bring together academics and think tank researchers, government officials, maritime security practitioners, private sector representatives, students, and members of the media from India and Indonesia.

Language

This webinar will be conducted in English.

Programme

Time (IST)	Topic	Speaker / Presenter
OPENING SESSION		
1030-1035 (05 min)	Introduction to the Webinar	Emcee — Ms Sushmita Sihwag Research Associate, NMF
1035-1045 (10 min)	Opening Remarks	Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan Director-General, National Maritime Foundation
SESSION I: INSTITUTIONALISING “MARINE RESOURCES” COOPERATION THROUGH STRATEGIC AUTONOMY UNDER THE IPOI		
1045-1050 (05 min)	Sessional Introduction	Emcee — Ms Sushmita Sihwag Research Associate, NMF
1050-1110 (20 min)	<i>Middle Power Cooperation in Navigating Great Power Competition: An Indian Perspective</i>	Cmde Manish Sinha Senior Fellow, NMF
1110-1130 (20 min)	<i>Institutionalisation of Trust between India and Indonesia through the Implementation of IPOI: An Indonesian Perspective</i>	Drs Makmur Keliat, PhD Associate Professor, University of Indonesia
1130-1145 (15 min)	Audience Interaction	
SESSION II: THE ANDAMAN-ACEH CORRIDOR: PRACTICAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCING INDIA–INDONESIA MARITIME COOPERATION UNDER THE IPOI		
1145-1150 (05 min)	Sessional Introduction	Emcee — Ms Sushmita Sihwag Research Associate, NMF
1150-1210 (20 min)	<i>An Indonesian Perspective on the Aceh–Andaman Corridor: Aligning Indonesia’s National Strategic Priorities</i>	Dr Ristian Atriandi Supriyanto Lecturer, University of Indonesia and Fellow, ISI
1210-1230 (20 min)	<i>India’s Perspective on Practical Opportunities under the IPOI: Strengthening Maritime Cooperation in the Andaman–Aceh Corridor</i>	Capt Ranendra S Sawan Senior Fellow, NMF
1230-1245 (15 min)	Audience Interaction	
CLOSING SESSION		
1245-1255 (10 min)	Closing Remarks	Dr Muhammad Hadianito Chairman, ISI Indonesia
1255-1300 (05 min)	Vote of Thanks (Ms Benedicta Nathania), Photo-op & Closure of Webinar	

Expected Outcomes

- A synthesis of key discussion points and policy recommendations, to be compiled into a short webinar report or policy brief for circulation to relevant stakeholders in India and Indonesia;
- Insights to inform Indonesia's co-leadership priorities under the IPOI Marine Resources Pillar; and
- Substantive input to feed into subsequent NMF-ISI engagements, including the proposed joint research project and the inaugural RSIS-NMF-ISI Indonesia Trilateral Dialogue, as outlined in the Annual Plan timeline.

Contact Persons

- National Maritime Foundation (NMF), India – Sushmita Sihwag (e-mail: indopac6.nmf@gmail.com)
- Indo-Pacific Strategic Intelligence (ISI), Indonesia – Benedicta Nathania (e-mail: rab@isi-indonesia.com)

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, AVSM & Bar, VSM, IN (Retd)

*Director-General,
National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi*

Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, AVSM & Bar, VSM, IN (Retd) is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, the Defence Services Staff College, the Naval War College, and the National Defence College, with BSc, MSc and MPhil degrees under his belt, and is currently the Director-General of the National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi, which is India's foremost resource centre for the development and advocacy of strategies for the promotion and protection of India's maritime interests.

The admiral retired on 30 November 2013 after an illustrious, rich, and varied four-decade-long career in the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy, in the course of which he has been publicly commended three times by the Hon'ble President of India. Not one to rest on past laurels, he has remained active even after retirement and is a much sought-after thought-leader and leadership mentor. Apart from being on the visiting faculty of the higher command establishments of all three of India's defence services, as also tri-Service establishments such as the College of Defence Management, Hyderabad and the National Defence College, New Delhi, he has also been advising the government through his interaction with the Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence (Navy), the Ministry of External Affairs, and the National Security Council Secretariat. He is, in addition, a prolific writer with over 95 published professional articles and papers, and a respected Adviser and Fellow of several important think-tanks.



Dr Muhammad Hadiano

*Chairman,
Indo-Pacific Strategic Intelligence (ISI), Jakarta*

Dr Muhammad Hadiano is the Co-Founder and Lead Advisor of ISI. A diplomat by training, Dr Hadiano spends his governmental career in the fields of international affairs, multilateral economic diplomacy, and defence and security. He was heavily involved in managing the substance of Indonesia's G20 Presidency and coordinating the policy process of Indonesia's accession to the OECD.

Dr. Hadiano is also an avid observer of geopolitical and strategic issues, which led him to become a lecturer at the Defence Strategy Faculty of Indonesia's Defence University (Universitas Pertahanan).

Parallel to his existing responsibilities, Dr Hadianto also serves in numerous advisory positions, such as to the Vice Minister of Trade as well as to the Secretary General of the Council on Palm Oil Producing Countries (CPOPC). He graduated with a Bachelor of Law from Universitas Trisakti Jakarta and received his MA in International Studies from the University of Birmingham, England. He obtained a PhD in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) with a thesis on Indonesia's Foreign Policy Analysis.



Commodore Manish Sinha

Senior Fellow,

National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi

Commissioned into the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy on 01 January 1992, **Commodore Manish Sinha, IN (Retd)**, is a Surface Warfare Officer specialised in Gunnery and Missiles.

Prior superannuating from the Indian Navy on 31 July 2025, he served as the NMF's Executive Director, and rejoined on 01 March 2026. An alumnus of Naval Academy, INS *Dronacharya*, Defence Services Staff College (Wellington) and Naval War College (Goa), he has also attended short courses at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey and Daniel K Inoyue-Asia Pacific Center for Strategic Studies, Hawaii. His educational qualifications include Masters (Thesis: *India-US Nuclear Deal*), and MPhil (Thesis: *Professional Military Education of Executive Branch Officers*) degrees in Defence and Strategic Studies from the University of Madras.

He is currently appointed as Director (Training and Education) of the Regional Maritime Security Centre of Excellence (RMSCE), an India-UK construct formed under the Maritime Security pillar of the Indo Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI). Given the multi-disciplinary nature of the maritime medium, his policy interests cut across all research areas of the NMF, with particular interests in History, Environmental Social & Governance issues, Public International Maritime Law, and Op Warfare/ Art. He has most recently co-authored a book *Quantum Era Warfare*, and an article on the Naval Dimensions of Op EPIC FURY. He is an avid reader and wildlife photographer.



Drs Makmur Keliat, PhD

Associate Professor,

University of Indonesia, Jakarta

Drs Makmur Keliat, PhD, is an Associate Professor of International Relations at the University of Indonesia. He holds a PhD in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, and a BSc in International Relations from

Universitas Gadjah Mada. His areas of expertise include geo-economics, international political economy, ASEAN, strategic industries, capital flows and monetary regulation, sovereign debt, and international institutions. He teaches courses on ASEAN, geo-economics,

international political economy, international financial institutions, and international relations. His publications have addressed issues including the political economy of financial regulation, the internationalisation of the Renminbi, and Indonesia's financial and monetary institutions.



Dr Ristian Atriandi Supriyanto
Lecturer, University of Indonesia, Jakarta, &
Fellow, Indo-Pacific Strategic Intelligence (ISI), Jakarta

Dr Ristian Atriandi Supriyanto is a Lecturer at the University of Indonesia and a Fellow at Indo-Pacific Strategic Intelligence (ISI). He holds a PhD from the Australian National University (ANU), a Master of Science in Strategic Studies from Nanyang Technological University's S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, and a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from the University of Indonesia. His expertise covers maritime security and strategy, defence cooperation, foreign and defence policy, and international relations, with research interests spanning Indonesia, India, ASEAN, and the broader Indo-Pacific region. At ISI, he has conducted research on India–Indonesia defence cooperation, contributing to research on bilateral maritime and strategic relations. At ISI, he has conducted research on India–Indonesia defence cooperation, contributing to research on bilateral maritime and strategic relations. His research and commentary have also been published in international and regional outlets, including *India Review*, *Australian Naval Review*, *Asia Policy*, *Asian Politics and Policy*, *Foreign Policy*, *The Diplomat*, and *The Straits Times*.



Captain Ranendra Singh Sawan
Senior Fellow,
National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi

Captain Ranendra Singh Sawan, IN, was commissioned in the Indian Navy on 01 July 1996. He is a graduate of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, and has specialised in Navigation and Direction (ND). He has served on four Indian Navy ships as Navigating Officer and has also been the Executive Officer of a Missile Vessel. His sea command assignments include an Interceptor Craft of the Indian Coast Guard, and an Anti- submarine Patrol Vessel. He has also served in operational appointments ashore which includes a staff tenure at the Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence (Navy). He has been a Directing Staff at the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington.

Captain Sawan has contributed papers and articles in various professional journals and was also selected as a Visiting Navy Fellow at the Sea Power Centre, Australia in 2020. He is a PhD (Defence and Strategic Studies) candidate at the Naval War College, Goa, and is working on a thesis titled 'India's Minimum Deterrence Posture in the South Asian Context: A Study

on Credibility and Quantification'. He also holds an MPhil (Defence and Strategic Studies) degree from the University of Madras.

He is currently appointed at the National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi as a Senior Fellow. His areas of research interest include maritime security cooperation in the Indo- Pacific, military strategic and operational concepts applicable to the maritime domain, and nuclear deterrence.
