2026 Edition of the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD-2026)
03rd, 04th, and 05th November 2026

DRAFT PROGRAMME (as on 28 October 2026)

DAY ONE (Tuesday, 03 November 2026)	
0830-0900 (30 min)	Tea and Registration

Inaugural Session (20 min)		
0900-0905 (05 min)	Introductory Remarks by the EMCEE	**Ms Priyasha Dixit**, Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation
0905-0915 (10 min)	Welcome Remarks	**Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan**, AVSM & Bar, VSM (Retd) Director-General, NMF
0915-0930 (15 min)	Inaugural Address	**Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi**, PVSM, AVSM, NM (Retd) *Former Chief of the Naval Staff and* Incumbent Chairman, NMF

Special Address 1 (45 min)		
0930-0950 (20 min)	Special Address	**Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta**, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, VSM, (Retd) National Maritime Security Coordinator, Government of India
0950-1005 (15 min)	Audience Interaction	
1005-1010 (05 min)	Photo-Op + Release by **Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta**, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, VSM, *IN* (Retd) of the NMF Publication *"Enhancing India's Shipbuilding Industry through Offshoring"*, by Captain RS Sawan, *IN* and Ms Junyali Gusain	Coordinated by **Ms Priyasha Dixit**, Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation

1010-1040 (30 min)	**Tea Break**

Professional Session 1: Academic Networks, Research, and Human Capital Development (125 min)		
1040-1045 (05 min)	Introductory Remarks by the EMCEE	**Ms Priyasha Dixit**, Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation
1045-1055 (10 min)	Moderator's Introductory Remarks	**Vice Admiral Sanjay Mahindru**, PVSM, AVSM, NM, IN (Retd) *Former Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff*
1055-1115 (20 min)	*From NMF-CSSS Cooperation to a Wider Indian Ocean Academic Network for Maritime and Security Research*	**Prof Athaulla A Rasheed** Head, Centre for Security and Strategic Studies (CSSS) The Maldives National University (MNU), Maldives
1115-1135 (20 min)	*Building a Network of Universities in Indo-Pacific Coastal Cities for Joint Research and Human-Capital Development*	**Prof Rajib Shaw** Professor and Director India Japan Laboratory (IJL), Keio University, Japan
1135-1155 (20 min)	*France and the Southern Indian Ocean: Building an Academic Network for Social-Science Research and Knowledge-Sharing*	**Cdr (Ms) Marianne Peron-Doise**, Research Director, Indo-Pacific Geopolitical Observatory, *and* co-Head, Asia-Pacific Programme, Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (*Institut de Relations Internationales et Stratégiques* [IRIS]), France

1155-1215 (20 min)	*Linking ASEAN Think Tanks, Universities, and Government for Outcome-driven Maritime Research Networks*	**Ms Aisha Rasyidila Kusumasomantri** Co-Director for Partnership and External Engagement and Head of Government Task Force Indo-Pacific Strategic Intelligence (ISI), Indonesia
1215-1235 (20 min)	Audience Interaction	**Vice Admiral Sanjay Mahindru**, PVSM, AVSM, NM, IN (Retd) *Former Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff*
1235-1245 (10 min)	Moderator's Summation	
1245-1250 (05 min)	Photo-Op + Release by **Vice Admiral Sanjay Mahindru**, PVSM, AVSM, NM, *IN* (Retd) of the Monograph entitled, *"Sea Blindness and Maritime Heritage in India*", by Ms Krithi Ganesh	Coordinated by **Ms Priyasha Dixit**, Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation

1250-1345 (55 min)	**Lunch Break**

***Special Ambassadorial Session — Sahyog Ka Samvaad* (95 min)**		
1345-1350 (05 min)	Introductory Remarks by the EMCEE	**Ms Priyasha Dixit**, Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation
1350-1455 (65 min)	**Host: Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan**, AVSM & Bar, VSM (Retd), Director-General, NMF **Guests:** **1. Mr Vikram Misri**, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India **2. His Excellency Mr Josel F Ignacio**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Philippines **3. Her Excellency Ms Mahishini Colonne**, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka **4. Her Excellency Mrs May-Elin Stener**, Ambassador, Royal Norwegian Embassy **5. Mr Emmanuel Koubarakis**, Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Embassy of Greece **Format:** **Opening Remarks (strictly 3-5 minutes each)** **Interaction with Host: (Total: 40 min)**	
1455-1515 (20 min)	Audience Interaction	Moderated by **Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan**, AVSM & Bar, VSM (Retd), Director-General, NMF
1515-1520 (05 min)	Photo-Op and release of the NMF Journal "*Maritime Affairs Volume 22(2), 2026"*	

1520-1545 (25 min)	**Tea Break**

Professional Session 2: Maritime Situational Awareness and Protection of Critical Maritime Infrastructure (130 min)		
1545-1550 (05 min)	Introductory Remarks by the EMCEE + Sessional Video	**Ms Priyasha Dixit**, Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation
1550-1600 (10 min)	Moderator's Introductory Remarks	**Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti**, UYSM, AVSM, VSM, IN (Retd) *Former Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff*
1600-1620 (20 min)	*IPMDA Opportunities and Challenges: Practical Steps for Meaningful Information-Sharing*	**Professor Jeffrey Payne** Associate Professor, The Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies

		National Defense University Washington, DC
1620-1640 (20 min)	*Specifics of Cooperative and Collaborative Action-Plan for the Protection of Critical Maritime Infrastructure*	**Mr Raj Mohabeer** Officer in Charge, General Secretariat, Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), Mauritius
1640-1700 (20 min)	*Seeing Below the Horizon — A Cooperative Indo-Pacific Architecture for Underwater Domain Awareness and Critical Infrastructure Protection*	**Captain (Dr) Sean Andrews**, CSC, RAN (Retd) Senior Research Fellow, The Changing Character of War: Strategy, Statecraft, & Technology Centre, Pembroke College, Oxford University, UK
1700-1720 (20 min)	*A Practical Cooperation-Roadmap for Securing Indo-Pacific Undersea Infrastructure through Science, Technology, and Academic Cooperation*	**Vice Admiral Dario Giacomin**, ITN (Retd) Senior Vice President (Underwater), Fincantieri, Rome
1720-1740 (20 min)	Audience Interaction	**Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti**, UYSM, AVSM, VSM, IN (Retd) *Former Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff*
1740-1750 (10 min)	Moderator's Summation	
1750-1755 (05 min)	Photo-Op + Release by **Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti**, UYSM, AVSM, VSM, *IN* (Retd) of Book entitled "*The Climate Catalyst",* authored by Commander (Dr) Kapil Narula, Retd	Coordinated by **Ms Priyasha Dixit**, Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation
Day-One Dispersal		

DAY TWO (Wednesday, 04 November 2026)	
0830-0900 (30 min)	Tea and Registration

Professional Session 3: Oceanographic Science and Climate Resilience (130 min) Separate Breakout Session for NWC & RMSCE till 1300h		
0900-0905 (05 min)	Introductory Video + Introductory Remarks by the EMCEE	**Ms Priyasha Dixit**, Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation
0905-0915 (10 min)	Moderator's Introductory Remarks	**Commodore Abhinav Barve** Commodore (Naval Oceanology and Meteorology), Naval Headquarters, New Delhi
0915-0935 (20 min)	*A Maritime-Cooperation Roadmap for the Betterment of Indo-Pacific "Big Ocean States"*	**Ms Karuna Rana** Founding Director, Big Ocean States Initiative (BOSI) Port Louis, Mauritius
0935-0955 (20 min)	*A Collaborative Blueprint for Translating Ocean Science into Policy*	**Ms Cheryl Rita Kaur** Research Fellow & Centre Head, Centre for Strait of Malacca (SoM), Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA), Malaysia
0955-1015 (20 min)	*Building a Cooperative Maritime Network for Climate Resilience*	**Ms Corinne Julie** Project Manager, Nature Seychelles, Mahe, Seychelles
1015-1035 (20 min)	*An Action Plan for the Cooperative and Collaborative Sharing of Ocean Data*	**Mr Jia Bin LIN (Isaac)** Senior Executive Officer, Taiwan Ocean Affairs Council, Taiwan
1035-1055 (20 min)	Audience Interaction	**Commodore Abhinav Barve**, IN Commodore (Naval Oceanology and Meteorology), Naval Headquarters, New Delhi
1055-1105 (10 min)	Moderator's Summation	
1105-1110 (05 min)	Photo-Op	**Ms Priyasha Dixit** Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation

1110-1140 (30 min)	**Tea Break**

Special Address (45 min)		
1140-1145 (05 min)	Introductory Remarks by the EMCEE	**Ms Priyasha Dixit** Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation
1145-1205 (20 min)	Special Address *"Academic Networks, Research, and Human Capital Development"*	**Mr Hideshi Tokuchi** *President, Research Institute for Peace and Security (RIPS), Tokyo, Japan*
1205-1220 (15 min)	Audience Interaction / Q&A	Moderated by **Commodore Jai Bedi**, IN Executive Director, NMF
1220-1225 (05 min)	Release by Mr Hideshi Tokuchi of Book entitled, *"A to Z of China's White Papers: An Interpretative Glossary"*, jointly authored by Captain KK Agnihotri, *IN* (Retd) and Captain TSV Ramana, *IN* (Retd)	Coordinated by **Ms Priyasha Dixit** Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation

Ministerial Session (60 min)		
1225-1230 (05 min)	Settling-down for the Ministerial Session	
1230-1235 (05 min)	Introductory Remarks by Chairman NMF	**Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi**, PVSM, AVSM, NM (Retd) *Former Chief of the Naval Staff and* Incumbent Chairman, NMF
1235-1300 (25 min)	Special Address	**Dr Jitendra Singh**, MBBS, MD, PhD Hon'ble Minster of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science and Technology Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Earth Sciences Hon'ble Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions Hon'ble Minister of State, Department of Atomic Energy Hon'ble Minister of State, Department of Space
1300-1325 (25 min)	Audience Interaction / Q&A	Moderated by **Commodore Jai Bedi**, Executive Director, NMF
1325-1330 (05 min)	Release by Dr Jitendra Singh of the Book entitled, *"Alternative Hull Forms for the Future Indian Navy",* authored by Lieutenant Gaurav Tehlan, *IN*	Coordinated by **Ms Priyasha Dixit**, Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation

1330-1430 (60 min)	**Lunch Break**

***Perspectives from the Flag Bridge* (80 min)**		
1430-1435 (05 min)	Introductory Remarks by the EMCEE	**Ms Priyasha Dixit**, Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation
1435-1525 (50 min)	**Host: Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan**, AVSM & Bar, VSM (Retd), Director-General, NMF **Guests:** **1. Admiral Rabinder Kumar Dhowan**, PVSM, AVSM, YSM (Retd), Chairperson, Society for Aerospace, Maritime, and Defence Studies (SMDES), *Former Chief of the Indian Naval Staff, Former Chairman, NMF* **2. Admiral Jayantha Perera**, RWP, VSV, USP, (Retd), Group Consultant (Marine), McLarens Group and GAC Group, Sri Lanka, *Former Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy* **3. Admiral Sunil Lanba**, PVSM, AVSM (Retd), *Former Chief of the Indian Naval Staff and Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee* **4. Admiral Karambir Singh**, PVSM, AVSM, (Retd), *Former Chief of the Indian Naval Staff, Former Chairman, NMF* **5. Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi**, PVSM, AVSM, NM (Retd), *Former Chief of the Indian Naval Staff* and Incumbent Chairman, NMF	
1525-1545 (20 min)	Audience Interaction	Moderated by **Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan**, AVSM & Bar, VSM (Retd), Director-General, NMF
1545-1550 (05 min)	Photo-Op + Release by the Panellists of the NMF Journals ("*Maritime Perspectives*" Volumes 1 to 6)	

1550-1620 (30 min)	High-Tea

Commemorative Session (60 min)		
1620-1630 (10 min)	Settling-down for the Commemorative Session	
1630	Hon'ble *Raksha Mantri* (RM) arrives and is escorted to the Stage by the CNS + Chairman NMF	
1630-1635 (05 min)	Introductory Remarks by the EMCEE	**Ms Priyasha Dixit** Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation
1635-1645 (10 min)	Address by the Chairman NMF	**Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi**, PVSM, AVSM, NM (Retd) *Former Chief of the Naval Staff and* Incumbent Chairman, NMF
1645-1655 (10 min)	Address by the Chief of the Naval Staff	**Admiral Krishna Swaminathan**, PVSM, AVSM, VSM *Chief of the Indian Naval Staff*
1655-1700 (05 min)	Release by Hon'ble RM of the Book entitled, *"From Arms to Oceans: Recasting India-Russia Relations in the Maritime Age"*, authored by Ms Aditi Thakur	**Shri Rajnath Singh** Hon'ble Defence Minister, Government of India
1700-1725 (25 min)	Commemorative Address	**Shri Rajnath Singh** Hon'ble Defence Minister, Government of India
1725-1730 (05 min)	Group Photograph	Coordinated by Executive Director, NMF Hon'ble RM with CDS and all Service Chiefs, Chairman NMF, and DG NMF
1730	Hon'ble RM departs	Escorted by the CDS, CNS, and Chairman NMF
1730-1740 (10 min)	Conference Photograph	CNS, Chairman NMF, All Ambassadors and Heads of Mission, Speakers, Moderators, Flag Officers, and NMF Senior Fellows

Day-Two Dispersal
Conference Dinner (By Invitation Only)

DAY THREE (Thursday, 05 November 2026)	
0830-0900 (30 min)	Tea and Registration

Special Address 3 (45 min)		
0900-0905 (05 min)	Introductory Remarks by the EMCEE	**Ms Priyasha Dixit** Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation
0905-0925 (20 min)	Special Address	**General N S Raja Subramani**, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM Chief of Defence Staff *and* Secretary, Department of Military Affairs, Government of India
0925-0940 (15 min)	Audience Interaction	
0940-0945 (05 min)	Photo-Op + Release by **General N S Raja Subramani,** PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM NMF-NHQ Publication *"Designing Destiny: Self Reliance in Indian Warship Building"*, authored by Ms Priyasha Dixit	Coordinated by **Ms Priyasha Dixit** Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation

0945-1015 (30 min)	**Tea Break**

Professional Session 4: Collaborative Approaches to Ocean Governance and Maritime Resilience (130 min)		
1015-1020 (05 min)	Introductory Remarks by the EMCEE + Sessional Video	**Ms Priyasha Dixit** Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation
1020-1030 (10 mins)	Moderator's Introductory Remarks	**Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh**, SYSM, PVSM, AVSM, NM, IN (Retd) Director-General, United Services Institution of India (USI of India)
1030-1050 (20 min)	*Cooperative Plan to Proliferate Filipino Experience and Expertise in Ocean Governance*	**Professor (Dr) Deo Florence Onda** Research Professor, The Marine Science Institute University of the Philippines, Philippines
1050-1110 (20 min)	*From Rules to Research Partnerships: Building Equitable Deep-Sea Science and Resource Governance in the Indo-Pacific*	**Dr Marie Bourrel-McKinnon** Former Chief of Staff & Head of Strategic Planning Unit, International Seabed Authority
1110-1130 (20 min)	*Implementing the IRIS Programme for Enhanced Resilience of Small Island Developing States*	**Mr Ramraj Narasimhan** Senior Director – Programme Management & Technical Support, CDRI
1130-1150 (20 min)	*Strengthening the Interface between Marine Science and Shipping Operations*	**Ms Sofia Furstenberg-Stott** Partner, Future Maritime, Sweden
1150-1210 (20 mins)	Audience Interaction	**Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh**, SYSM, PVSM, AVSM, NM (Retd) Director-General, United Services Institution of India (USI of India)
1210-1220 (10 mins)	Moderator's Summation	
1220-1225 (05 min)	Photo-Op + Release by **Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh**, SYSM, PVSM, AVSM, NM, IN (Retd) the CDRI Report on *"Creating a Systematic Risk Assessment Framework for Seaport Ecosystem"*, by Dr Chime Youdon, Dr Arunabh Mitra and Mr Kiran Gowda	**Ms Priyasha Dixit** Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation

1230-1330 (60 min)	**Lunch Break**

Professional Session 5: Transformative Maritime Technologies and Dual-Use Implications (130 min)		
1330-1335 (05 min)	Introductory Remarks by the EMCEE + Sessional Video	**Ms Priyasha Dixit** Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation
1335-1345 (10 min)	MOU-signing Ceremony	The National Maritime Foundation (NMF) and the Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa (SIGLA), Stellenbosch University, South Africa
1345-1355 (10 min)	Moderator's Introductory Remarks	**Rear Admiral Guninder Singh Jawanda**, IN (Retd) *Former Director-General Weapons and Electronics Systems Engineering Establishment (WESEE), MoD* Founder and CEO, Mystic Works LLP, New Delhi
1355-1415 (20 min)	*AI and Quantum Technologies in the Maritime Domain: A Practical Framework for Indo-Pacific Cooperation*	**Ms Dongyoun Cho** Senior Fellow for Advanced Technologies, National Security, and Defence The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) – Europe, Berlin, Germany
1415-1435 (20 min)	*Building EU-Indo-Pacific Cooperation Mechanisms for Responsible Governance of Dual-Use Maritime Technologies*	**Dr (Ms) Eva Pejsova** Japan Chair, Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy, Brussels School of Governance, Belgium
1435-1455 (20 min)	*A Cooperation Roadmap for Small and Medium Navies to Adapt Dual-Use Maritime Technologies*	**Captain Mark Blaine**, SAN (Retd) Lecturer and Researcher, Nautical Science, Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa (SIGLA), Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
1455-1515 (20 min)	*Operationalising Navy-to-Navy Cooperation for the Responsible Adoption of Dual-Use Maritime Technologies in the Indo-Pacific*	**Commodore (Dr) Arun P Golaya**, VSM, IN (Retd) Mentor Innovation, Chakra Dialogues Foundation Visiting Faculty at SSIFS & SME/ Advisor to UPSC
1515-1535 (20 min)	Audience Interaction	**Rear Admiral Guninder Singh Jawanda**, IN (Retd) *Former Director-General Weapons and Electronics Systems Engineering Establishment (WESEE), MoD* Founder and CEO, Mystic Works LLP, New Delhi
1535-1545 (10 min)	Moderator's Summation	
1545-1550 (05 min)	Photo-Op	Coordinated by **Ms Priyasha Dixit** Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation

Valedictory Session (40 min)		
1550-1555 (05 min)	Introductory Remarks by the EMCEE	**Ms Priyasha Dixit**, Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation
1555-1615 (20 min)	Valedictory Address	**Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh**, IAS Defence Secretary, Government of India
1615-1625 (10 min)	Vote of Thanks and Session Closure	**Commodore Jai Bedi** Executive Director, National Maritime Foundation
1625	**End of the Day Tea**	
Day-Three Dispersal **End of IPRD-2026**		