

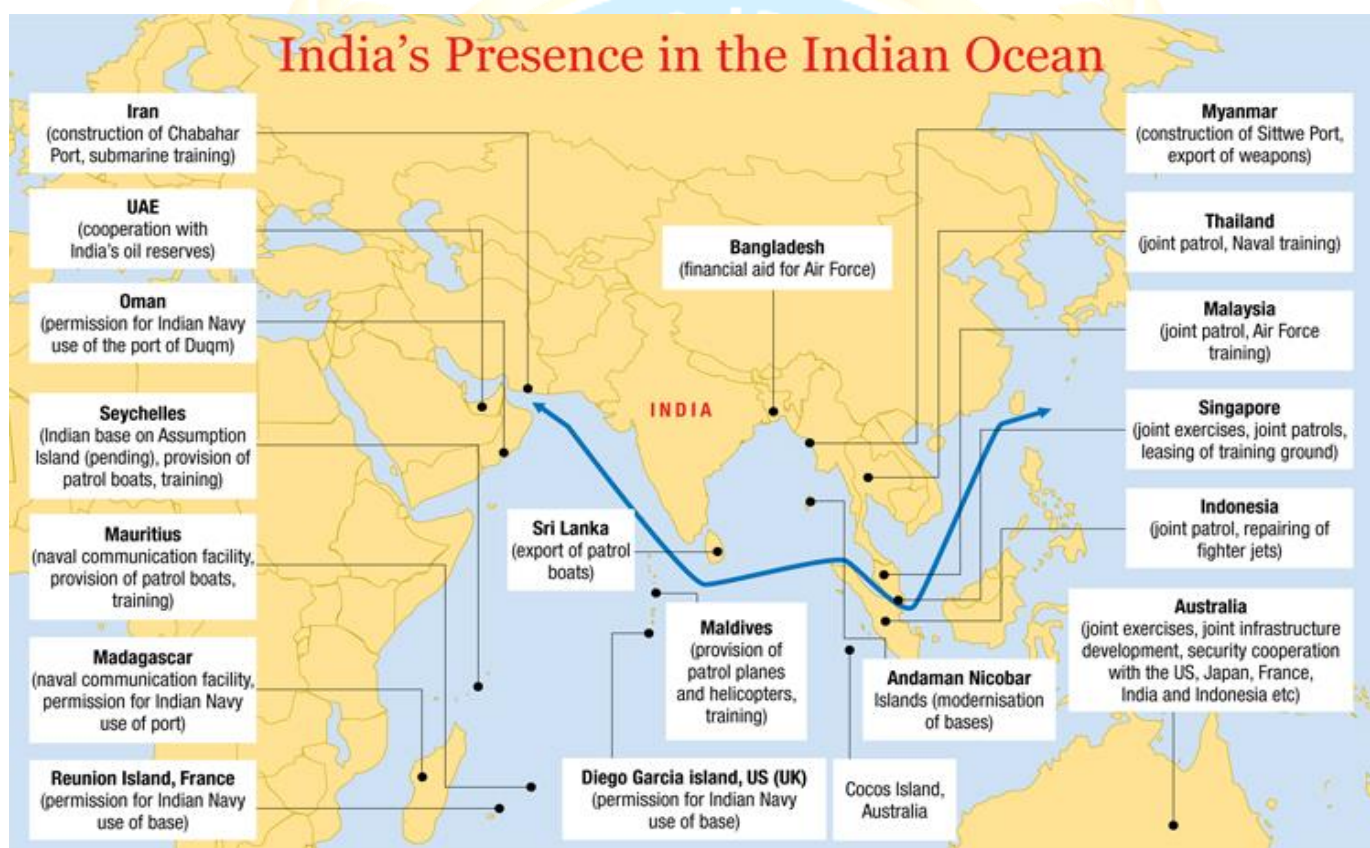


## INDIA PACIFIC OCEAN INITIATIVE – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Recently, the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) completes five years since its launch in 2019.

### About Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)

- It was launched by India in November 2019 at the East Asia Summit (EAS) in Bangkok, and aims to foster cooperation for a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific.
- IPOI emphasizes maritime security, stability, and development, building on India's Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) vision.
- It operates as a non-treaty-based, voluntary arrangement, relying on existing frameworks like the EAS mechanism.



### Key Pillars and Leadership of IPOI

- IPOI has seven pillars, with countries taking the lead in specific areas:
- Maritime Security: UK and India
- Maritime Ecology: Australia and Thailand
- Maritime Resources: France and Indonesia



- Capacity Building and Resource Sharing: Germany
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Management: India and Bangladesh
- Science, Technology, and Academic Cooperation: Italy and Singapore
- Trade, Connectivity, and Maritime Transport: Japan and the US

## Significance of IPOI

- IPOI aims to ensure a rules-based regional order in the Indo-Pacific, promoting the free movement of goods, services, and people while safeguarding the sovereignty of countries.
- The IPOI strengthens regional maritime security by encouraging cooperation among nations to address shared threats, such as piracy, illegal fishing, smuggling, and other maritime crimes.
- IPOI seeks to strengthen regional capacity for disaster risk reduction and management, promoting cooperation in disaster preparedness and response, thereby mitigating the impact of natural calamities.
- As a non-treaty-based and voluntary initiative, IPOI remains flexible, allowing countries to participate based on shared interests without creating new institutional burdens.

## Way Ahead

- The IPOI has seen incremental progress, with notable bilateral and multilateral partnerships, such as the Australia-India Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative Partnership (AIPOIP) focusing on maritime ecology. Various international maritime frameworks, including ASEAN's Outlook for the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and the Quad, resonate with the IPOI's goals, which strengthens its role in promoting maritime cooperation.

**Source:** <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/as-it-completes-five-years-it-s-time-to-take-the-ipo-i-to-the-next-level>

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