

Concept Note for “Jalasya Rakṣā, Janasya Surakṣā”

‘Ocean Sentinel: Maritime Safety & Security in the 21st Century’

Session 1: Indian Maritime Safety Priorities

Theme: *Resilient Oceans: Strengthening India’s Maritime Safety through Risk Awareness, Compliance, and Lessons from Casualties*

Objective of the Session

This session aims to bring together key stakeholders, regulators, operators, industry experts, and domain specialists, to examine the current safety landscape in Indian waters. The discussion will focus on identifying actionable strategies to enhance safety outcomes and foster a culture of preparedness, compliance, and adaptive learning within the maritime sector.

Key Focus Areas

1. Operational Risk Management

- Strategies for identifying, evaluating, and mitigating operational risks across diverse maritime environments.
- Enhancing onboard and shore-based risk culture and decision-making frameworks.
- Integrating technology and predictive tools for proactive risk management.

2. Regulatory Compliance

- Strengthening implementation of national and international safety standards.
- Bridging gaps between policy and practice, especially in high-risk sectors.
- Addressing compliance challenges in Indian coastal and port operations.

3. Lessons from Recent Maritime Casualties

- Analytical insights from recent accidents and incidents in Indian waters.

- Case-based examination of systemic failures and institutional responses.
- Translating learnings into updated protocols, training, and governance frameworks.

Session 2: Maritime Safety Risk, Liability, and Industry Alignment

Theme: *Collaborative Accountability and the Pursuit of Excellence*

Objective of the Session

This session seeks to explore how maritime risk and liability are interpreted and managed across the ecosystem, with particular attention to the roles of Protection & Indemnity (P&I) Clubs, Hull & Machinery (H&M) insurers, and maritime legal frameworks. The aim is to facilitate dialogue on accountability models, claims management, and preventive risk strategies that ultimately strengthen maritime safety outcomes.

Key Focus Areas

1. The Role of P&I Clubs and H&M Insurers

- How underwriting, claims analysis, and incident reviews contribute to safety benchmarking.
- Encouraging preventive risk measures through insurance incentives and requirements.
- The insurer's evolving role in shaping safety standards beyond financial liability.

2. Legal Frameworks and Risk Allocation

- Interpretations of liability and responsibility in casualty incidents under Indian and international maritime law.
- Contractual practices, litigation trends, and implications for operational behaviour.
- Opportunities for harmonizing legal practices with risk mitigation policies.

3. Industry Alignment and Collaborative Safety Culture

- Building synergies between operators, insurers, legal advisors, and regulators.
- Aligning commercial and operational interests to foster a unified safety objective.
- Case studies where multi-stakeholder collaboration prevented escalation or led to systemic improvement.

Session 3: Maritime Security Challenges and Regional Cooperation

Theme: *Interoperability, Intelligence, and Innovation*

Objective of the Session

This session seeks to unpack the evolving nature of maritime security risks in the region and explore how India and its maritime partners can enhance coordination, intelligence exchange, and technological innovation to safeguard the maritime commons. The discussions will highlight successful models of regional cooperation and identify actionable pathways to bolster collective maritime domain awareness and response capabilities.

Key Focus Areas

1. The Role of IFC-IOR in Maritime Security Architecture

- Overview of IFC-IOR's mission, capabilities, and regional partnerships.
- Real-time information fusion and dissemination to prevent and respond to threats.
- Strengthening trust and transparency through sustained multilateral engagement.

2. Coastal State Coordination and National Preparedness

- Enhancing inter-agency coordination among coastal states and maritime enforcement bodies.
- Leveraging the National Maritime Domain Awareness (NMDA) framework for security synergy.

- Capacity building, joint training, and standard operating procedures for unified response.

3. Innovation and Intelligence in Security Management

- Application of emerging technologies (AI, satellite monitoring, unmanned systems) for threat detection and interdiction.
- Intelligence-led operations and predictive risk modelling.
- Fostering indigenous security technology solutions through public-private collaboration.

Session 4: Integrated Maritime Security Architecture

Theme: *Threat Scenarios and India's Response Architecture*

Objective of the Session

This session will examine India's current maritime security structure in the context of known and emerging threat scenarios. The aim is to assess how well current systems are integrated across agencies and domains, and what improvements are required to address risks in high-traffic and strategically sensitive areas.

Key Focus Areas

1. Piracy and Organised Maritime Crime

- Trends in piracy incidents in the Arabian Sea and western Indian Ocean.
- Response timelines, coordination between agencies, and engagement rules at sea.
- Use of private maritime security and coordination with international patrol frameworks.

2. Grey-Zone Threats

- Identification and tracking of non-military activities that may carry strategic intent.
- Challenges in attribution, legal response, and escalation control.

- Role of shipping companies, port authorities, and coastal enforcement in early detection.

3. Regional Security Cooperation and Legal Frameworks

- Review of regional cooperation mechanisms, including bilateral and multilateral exercises.
- Issues of jurisdiction, flag-state coordination, and rapid information relay.
- Preparedness of Indian agencies for scenarios involving cross-border or proxy actors.