

राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा जागरण मंच

6TH HIMALAYA HIND MAHASAGAR RASHTRA
SAMUH (HHRS)

International Conference

on

The Geopolitical and Strategic Significance of Bharat
in the Indian Ocean Region



6th - 7th February 2026

Venue:

Convention Centre, Jawaharlal Nehru University
(JNU), New Delhi

Organised by



Forum for Awareness of
National Security (FANS)



in collaboration with



Centre of Russian Studies (CRS),
School of Language, Literature and Culture
Studies (SLL&CS),
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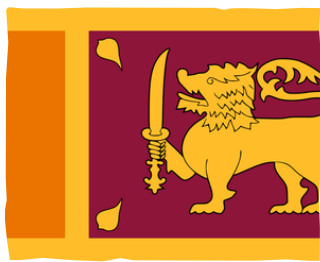
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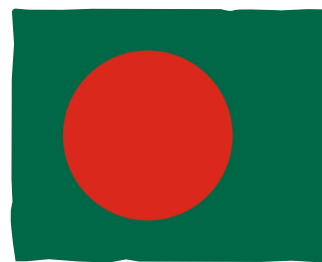
Participant Countries



Sri Lanka



India



Bangladesh



Seychelles



Malaysia



Ethiopia



Australia



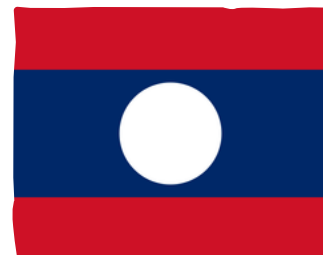
Philippines



Myanmar



South Africa



Laos



Saudi Arabia



Suriname



Afghanistan



Indonesia



Maldives



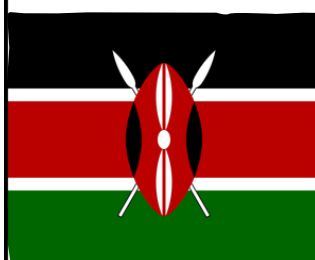
Cambodia



Tanzania



Papua New Guinea



Kenya



Brunei



Mauritius



Singapore

Concept Note

The concept of the Himalaya–Hind Mahasagar Rashttra Samuh (HHRs) represents a comprehensive civilizational and geopolitical framework that situates Bharat at the centre of an organically interconnected regional space extending from the Himalayan ranges to the vast expanse of the Indian Ocean. Historically, Bharat functioned as a cultural, economic, and intellectual hub linking the Himalayan hinterlands with the maritime world of the Hind Mahasagar, enabling sustained exchanges of ideas, people, trade, and traditions across regions encompassing East Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, Sri Lanka, and the Southeast Asian archipelago. Archaeological and historical evidence affirms that these interactions were rooted in cooperation rather than conquest, underscoring Bharat's role as a civilizational facilitator and a source of cultural continuity across land and sea routes. Colonial interventions fragmented this integrated space through artificial geopolitical constructs such as South Asia and Southeast Asia, marginalising the broader Himalaya–Hind Mahasagar continuum; however, the post-Cold War era has witnessed renewed scholarly and strategic engagement with this region amid the growing importance of the Indian Ocean as a critical Sea Line of Communication (SLOC) for global trade, energy flows, and economic stability. Contemporary geopolitical developments, intensified strategic competition, non-traditional security threats, piracy, terrorism, and expanding extra-regional engagements have further elevated the Indian Ocean Region's significance, including the renewed and evolving presence of Russia alongside other global powers seeking strategic access, maritime influence, and security cooperation in the region. Within this context, Bharat's foreign policy anchored in peaceful coexistence, neighbourhood-first engagement, mutual growth, and the civilizational ethos of Vishwa-Bandhutva seeks to promote.

Key sub-themes of the Conference

- Historical strategic connections between India and the Indian Ocean Region.
- Cultural and historical ties between India and the Indian Ocean Region.
- Economic cooperation and Indian leadership in the region.
- Growing significance of the Indian Ocean Region in Indian foreign policy.
- Economic and maritime trade relations and emerging challenges.
- The changing geopolitical equations and potential conflicts of interest.
- the historical and contemporary engagement of Russia in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Maritime security architecture of India and the areas of convergence in the Maritime domain between Indian and the
- Indian Ocean states' policies.⁹ The issue of terrorism and counter-terrorism efforts in the region.
- Military and defence cooperation between India and Indian Ocean Region.
- The social exchanges between India and Indian Ocean Region countries regarding education, tourism,
- culture, language and services (Remittances).
- The role of India in Indian Ocean regional cooperation and stability.

International Speakers

Ambassador Mookhesswur Choonee
Mauritius

Ms Wanita Ramnath
International Pharmacy and Health Care &
Caribbean International
Distributors Inc., Suriname

Mr. Muleto Sedeto
Mada Walabu University & Oromia State
University, Ethiopia

Dr Irshad Ahmad
Samara University, Ethiopia

Mr. Don McLain Gill
De La Salle University, Philippines

Prof. Carlyle Thayer (Online)

UNSW Sydney, Australia

Mr. Punsara Amarasinghe

Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka

Dr. Everisto Benyera

University of South Africa (UNISA), South Africa

Prof. Fazil M. M. Fazrasm

South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka

Prof. (Dr.) Mohan Malik

National Defence College, UAE

Dr. Scott Adam Edwards

University of Malaya, Malaysia

Dr. Raj Verma

Shanghai International Studies University (SISU), China

National Speakers

Prof. Rila Mukherjee

University of Hyderabad, India

Dr. Rahul Mishra

Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Captain (Dr.) Gurpreet Singh Khurana

National Maritime Foundation, India

Dr. Kumari Mansi

Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Dr. Dattesh D. Parulekar

Goa University, India

Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra

Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Dr. C. Vinodan

University of Calicut, India

Dr. Shubhamitra Das

Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Dr. Shishir Upadhyaya

O.P. Jindal Global University, India

Dr. Prakash Panneerselvam

National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), India

Prof. Faisal Ahmed

FORE School of Management, India

Prof. M. Venkataraman

Central University of Jammu, India

Prof. R. P. Pradhan

BITS Pilani (K.K. Birla Goa Campus), India

Dr. Monish Tourangbam

Chintan Research Foundation, India

Dr. Seshadari Chari

Ex-Editor, Organizer & Secretary General, FINS

Prof. (Dr.) S. Y. Surendra Kumar

Department of Political Science, Bangalore University

Bibhu Prasad Routray

Director, MISS

Rear Admiral Monty Khanna (Retd.), AVSM, NM

National Maritime Foundation

Prof. (Dr.) Kanak Chandra Sarkar

Jadavpur University

Sanjay Pulipaka

Chairperson, Politeia Research Foundation

Prof. (Dr.) Alok Kumar Gupta

Central University of Jharkhand, Ranchi

Commodore R. Seshadari Vasan

Director General, Chennai Centre for China Studies (C3S)

Prof. Dr. Raj Kumar Kothari (Online)

VC, The Sanskrit College & University, Kolkata

Dr. Debashish Mitra

Diamond Harbour Women's University (DHWU), West Bengal

Day 1: 6th February 2026, Friday

Inaugural Session (10:00 AM Onwards)

Significance of Growing Cooperation between Bharat and Indian Ocean Region

LUNCH (1:00 PM-2:00 PM)

First Academic Session (2:00 PM-3:30 PM)

Theme: Historical & Cultural Connectivity between Bharat and Indian Ocean Region

Second Academic Session (3:45 PM-5:15 PM)

Theme: Common & Comprehensive Security Concerns of Indian Ocean Region

HIGH TEA & CULTURAL EVENING (5:15 PM ONWARDS)

Day 2: 7th February 2026, Saturday

Third Academic Session (10:00 AM-11:30 AM)

Theme: Economic Connectivity between Bharat and Indian Ocean Region

Fourth Academic Session (11:45 PM-1:15 PM)

Theme: Bharat and Indian Ocean Region : Challenges and Remedies/Solutions

LUNCH (1:15 PM-2:15 PM)

Fifth Academic Session (2:15 PM-3:45 PM)

Theme: Bharat and Indian Ocean Region: Emerging Trends & Prospects

Brain Storming Session- Way Ahead (3:45 PM-4:45 PM)

All delegates are invited to participate

Valedictory Session (Diplomats' Session) 5:00 PM Onwards

Followed by High Tea