



समुद्री ज्ञान व्याख्यान श्रृंखला

आसियान-भारत समुद्री सुरक्षा सहयोग:
सिंगापुर और वियतनाम का मामला

शाम 7 बजे, मंगलवार 24 फरवरी, 2026
गुलमोहर हॉल, भारत पर्यावास केन्द्र, नई दिल्ली

Maritime Knowledge Lecture Series

ASEAN-India Maritime Security Cooperation:
The Case of Singapore and Vietnam

7 pm, Tuesday 24 February, 2026
Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

DG RIS, Prof Sachin Kumar Sharma welcomed the participants and set the tone for the event highlighting the importance of India's cooperation with ASEAN countries and RIS efforts in this direction. He also emphasized ASEAN India Centre (AIC) and Centre for Maritime Economy & Connectivity (CMEC) role in data-driven research to strengthen this cooperation.

The Lead Speaker, VAdm Pradeep Chauhan (Retd.), DG NMF outlined a comprehensive strategic framework for maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, focusing heavily on the shared interests and collaborative potential between India, Singapore, and Vietnam. The focus areas included discussions on **Holistic Maritime Security**, where the talk emphasizes that maritime security must go beyond just naval military strength to encompass political, economic, societal, and environmental dimensions.

The discussions also elaborated, India's maritime outreach anchored in its 'Act East' and MAHASAGAR policies, its Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), and the "ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) for Peace, Stability, and Prosperity in the Region". These commitments have been operationalised through the sequential Plans of Action between India and ASEAN, which prioritise maritime security, safety, and blue economy cooperation in a holistic manner. The clear congruence between the IPOI and the AOIP lends itself to a functional framework of cooperation on maritime security, connectivity, capacity-building, and sustainability in the maritime domain. In this regard, India's Comprehensive Strategic Partnerships with Singapore and Vietnam have emerged as key pillars of its overall cooperation with ASEAN.

The discussions elaborated that India is utilizing multi-layered regional constructs (such as IORA, BIMSTEC, QUAD, and the East Asia Summit) to build maritime domain awareness (MDA) and cooperation. The talk highlights the importance of port digitalization, resilient supply chains, and automated infrastructure—citing Singapore's Tuas Mega Port and Vietnam's port digitalization efforts as models for port led growth.

The discussions highlighted Singapore's distinctive position as a leading maritime and transshipment hub located at the critical crossroads of the Straits of Malacca, it has long been one of India's most consistent and reliable partners in Southeast Asia. The highly-advanced annual SIMBEX (Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise), initiated in 1994, stands as one of Indian Navy's longest-running combined naval exercise with a foreign partner, and a symbol of operational trust. The co-hosting of the inaugural ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME) by the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), in partnership with the Indian Navy, in 2023 served as a testament of its continued support for India's growing role as a preferred security partner in the Indo-Pacific. The exercises are complemented by regular staff talks, port calls, training and hydrographic cooperation. Further, Singapore's role as the co-lead for the "Science, Technology, & Academic Cooperation" pillar of the IPOI, along with Italy, and the growing institutional linkages between the Information Fusion Centre (IFC) Singapore and India's Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) have made it strategic partner for ensuring holistic maritime security in the Indo-Pacific.

Maritime security cooperation with Vietnam, on the other hand, represents a growing but equally critical dimension of ASEAN-India maritime engagement. As a key player in the evolving maritime security landscape in Southeast Asia, and the SCS in particular, Vietnam is emerging as a steady partner for India in the region. Defence and maritime security cooperation between the two has expanded through high-level bilateral maritime security and defence policy dialogues, capacity-building and capability-enhancement initiatives, port calls, hydrographic cooperation, and deepening operational cooperation exemplified by the MoUs on Coast Guard cooperation, 'Mutual Logistics Support', and 'Mutual Submarine Search, Rescue Support, and Cooperation'.

Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra noted that 2026 has been declared the Year of ASEAN-India Maritime Cooperation, placing maritime ties at the forefront of bilateral engagement. He also noted the Singapore has made the highest FDI investment in India over the recent years and maritime cooperation with ASEAN is critical to

Dr Seshadhari Chari, Member RIS Governing Council, highlighted the ancient maritime connections and importance of increasing the India ASEAN trade and connectivity. The speaker emphasized that considering the criticality of the international shipping lanes (ISLs) which pass through the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS) and the South China Sea (SCS), and underpin a significant volume of global trade and regional prosperity, both India and ASEAN member-States share a clear interest in ensuring the freedom of navigation and overflight, adherence to public international maritime law, and the maintenance of the

consensually-derived rules-based maritime order in the region. Within this broader framework of cooperation, cooperation with Singapore and Vietnam exemplifies how ASEAN-India maritime engagement has acquired strategic clarity, operational depth, and institutional structure.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Shishir Shrotriya highlighted the importance of regional cooperation, and increasing India–ASEAN maritime trade, operationalising near-coastal shipping, leveraging digital ocean forecasting capabilities, strengthening the global south seafarer workforce’s skills, and advancing maritime cooperation through Ports and Technology frontiers

Dr Pankaj Vaishist, thanked all concerned and concluded the event.