



**PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY**  
**School of Social Sciences & International Studies**  
**UGC Centre for Southern Asia Studies**

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

*International Relations Conference 2014*  
*on*  
*Maritime Security: Unlocking India's Great Power*  
*Partnerships*

In Collaboration with

**Association of Asian Scholars**

**(Other Partners: Stella Maris College, Chennai; National Institute of Advanced Studies,  
Bangalore)**

**Co-sponsored by XP Division, Ministry of External Affairs  
Government of India**

***December 08-10, 2014***

Venue: Convention cum Cultural Complex, Pondicherry Central University,  
Puducherry- 605014  
(Opposite Pondicherry Engineering College on ECR Road)

## Concept Note

India is a rising maritime power and its natural location and geography bring it enormous challenges and responsibilities especially on issues in and around the surrounding ocean. This provides India a very effective platform for engaging major powers to evolve joint strategies to deal with major maritime challenges. Moreover, India is also connected to smaller countries in the Indian Ocean region through its entrenched ethnic and historical ties.

Aside from such extraordinary location and circumstances, India has enduring and growing maritime relationships with both major powers as also with island nations in the Indian Ocean. India has also had a rather helpful attitude towards its immediate smaller neighbors and has contributed to their training etc. This is often driven by India's national interests and increasingly by presence of overseas Indian communities. For instance, India is installing a network of coastal radars in all 26 Maldivian atolls that feed back critical information to India to enable it to deal with multivariate natural disasters.

The Indian Ocean Region has historically been a unique experiment in regionalism and has successfully brought together countries with enormous variations in their economic development as also most other indices. Such a varied nature, however, has facilitated member nations to understand their deeper geopolitical subtleties for building closer networks within and beyond their rim as also in interacting with hinterland stakeholders in the Indian Ocean. Besides it provides a platform for close networking for exploration of ocean resources, especially oil and natural gas as well as laying under the sea cables for connectivity. This has, for instance, enabled them to understand and engage evolving new regional frameworks like the Indo-Pacific which seeks to join west pacific and eastern Indian oceans to evolve a maritime picture of the continental Asia-Pacific.

What makes the Indian Ocean important is that unlike similar networks in the Atlantic or the Pacific, Indian Ocean rim includes surrounding four continents namely, Africa, Asia, Australia and Antarctica. What makes it a complex geopolitical reality is the fact that the littoral and hinterland states of Indian Ocean rim present a vast and varied kaleidoscope of societies at different sizes, levels of political and economic development as also different religions and ethnic communities. The states in the region are rich in human and material resources like oil, uranium and gold. About a quarter of the world's trade is handled in the ports and sea lanes of the Indian Ocean rim. India has always believed in keeping sea lanes of communication open and has been quick in helping neighbouring countries respond to natural disasters. Ensuring that sea pollution is kept to a minimum is also imperative for economic development and sustainability of coastal communities. Development of ports for faster economic development is another area where India will focus on, as the Indian Ocean is the hub for a substantial quantum of world trade.

Far from India's influence waning, all the above economic and security measures can further reinforce the country's strong institutional relationships with Indian Ocean countries. Amongst major nation states, China has been the fastest growing for over three decades. This has had obvious implications for the region. China is seeking to expand its sphere of influence beyond the China Sea to the Indian Ocean and beyond. But this calls for India taking the lead in constant revisiting of ground situation and in evolving innovative challenges to deal with emerging new maritime and related economic and environmental challenges. Partnerships through continuous engagement and cooperation are paramount for peace and harmony, and this is the path that India wishes to follow.

This international conference seeks to engage experts to provide a platform for Indian policy practitioners and maritime experts for undertaking serious deliberations on the following subthemes:

- Regional and Sub Regional Cooperation
- Maritime Security: The Strategic Setting
- Maritime Terrorism and Anti-piracy Networks
- Exploring Ocean Floor Resources
- Environmental Challenges
- Sea Lanes Security and Freedom of Navigation
- Maritime Boundary Issues
- Economic Partnerships
- Infrastructure, Deep Sea Ports and Trade Networks

**Deadline:** Abstract: November 25, 2014  
Full Paper: December 5, 2014

### **Contact Persons:**

1. Prof. Swarn Singh, Professor for Diplomacy & Disarmament, CIPOD, SIS, JNU, New Delhi & President, Association of Asia Scholars (Asia-wide Network), New Delhi; email [drswaransingh@gmail.com](mailto:drswaransingh@gmail.com)
2. Prof. N. K. Jha, Dean, School of Social Sciences & International Studies & Director, UGC Centre for Southern Asia Studies, Pondicherry University, Puducherry; email: [jhank59@gmail.com](mailto:jhank59@gmail.com)
3. Prof. P. Moorthy, Head, Department of Politics & International Studies, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, email: [moorthy\\_vision2004@yahoo.com](mailto:moorthy_vision2004@yahoo.com)
4. Dr Aarti Santhanam, Stella Maris College, Chennai
5. Dr Arun Vishwanathan, National Institute of Advanced Studies

### **Secretariat Contact Persons:**

1. Sumit Kumar, ICSSR Doctoral Fellow, UGC Centre for Southern Asia Studies, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, email: [ugcsasp.pu@gmail.com](mailto:ugcsasp.pu@gmail.com); [sumitjha83@gmail.com](mailto:sumitjha83@gmail.com)
2. Ms. Archanan R. email: [archana.chennai@gmail.com](mailto:archana.chennai@gmail.com)