Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2026: New Delhi, 3-5 November

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Why in the News

The Indian Navy will host the 2026 edition of the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) in New Delhi from 3 to 5 November 2026 (PIB, 23 October 2026). The Navy's annual apex-level international strategic dialogue is held in collaboration with the National Maritime Foundation (NMF); this year's theme is "Science, Technology and Academic Collaboration in the Indo-Pacific".

Outline of the Programme

- **Five professional sessions over three days:** academic networks, research and human-capital development; maritime domain awareness and the security of critical maritime infrastructure; ocean science and climate resilience; ocean governance and cooperative measures for maritime resilience; transformative maritime technologies and dual-use implications.
- Experts from 18 countries will take part; the first day also features a commemorative address by the Defence Minister, a special session of former navy chiefs of India and Sri Lanka titled 'Perspectives from the Flag Bridge', and an ambassador-level 'Dialogue of Collaboration'.

Perspective: IPOI and MAHASAGAR

The IPRD is linked to the seven interconnected maritime thrust lines of the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) - which the Prime Minister announced in November 2019 at the 14th East Asia Summit in Bangkok. This dialogue is considered a platform for turning the framework of India's maritime vision 'MAHASAGAR' (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) into concrete proposals.

Context and Detailed Explanation

The significance of the IPRD goes beyond treating it as just a conference. For India in the Indo-Pacific, maritime security, the unhindered flow of trade routes and regional partnership are three interlinked issues. Against this background, the seven thrust lines of the IPOI announced in 2019 - which include maritime security, maritime ecology, marine resources, capacity building, disaster risk reduction, science and technology cooperation and connectivity - provide the framework for regional cooperation. Platforms like the IPRD

build ground-level proposals in these very directions by connecting academic and research institutions. The 'MAHASAGAR' vision is its latest extension - the resolve of 'mutual and holistic advancement for security and growth across regions', which carries the 2015 'SAGAR' outlook to the entire oceanic expanse. The collaboration of a think-tank institution like the NMF keeps the dialogue expert-based rather than merely a government meeting. The choice of this year's theme - science, technology and academic collaboration - is also significant because the security of maritime infrastructure and climate resilience are no longer possible without technology-based cooperation.

From the Exam's Perspective

Identification and dates of IPRD/NMF/IPOI/MAHASAGAR (Prelims); examples in questions on maritime security, regional cooperation and the blue economy in GS-II/III (Mains).

Sources and Limitations

- PIB (Ministry of Defence), 23 October 2026 (read; programme details and theme): https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2327189
- **Limitations:** The event is a future announcement; the programme details are based on the release.