India to host the 25th IORA Council of Ministers meeting

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News

India will host the 25th Council of Ministers (CoM) meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in New Delhi on 27 Nov 2026, during India's Chairship (2025–2027). It was preceded by the 29th Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) on 25–26 Nov. Ministers and senior officials from the 23 member states and the 12 dialogue partners (which include the USA, China and Russia) are taking part.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Meeting	25th IORA Council of Ministers, New Delhi
Date	27 Nov 2026
India's role	Chair, 2025–2027
Members / partners	23 member states / 12 dialogue partners

Background

- IORA was founded in 1997 (as the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation); its Secretariat is at Ebene, Mauritius. The idea grew from Nelson Mandela's 1995 visit to India. The Council of Ministers (foreign ministers) is its highest decision-making body.

- Its priority areas include maritime safety and security, trade and investment, fisheries, disaster risk management, the blue economy and women's economic empowerment. India's ocean outlook is SAGAR (2015), expanded into MAHASAGAR (2025).

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu has one of India's longest coastlines on the Bay of Bengal and the Gulf of Mannar; the Chola kings built a maritime presence across the Indian Ocean as far as South-East Asia (Rajendra Chola I's expedition to Srivijaya).

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Meeting: 25th IORA Council of Ministers, New Delhi; Date: 27 Nov 2026; India's role: Chair, 2025–2027; Members / partners: 23 member states / 12 dialogue partners.

What is the background to this news?

IORA was founded in 1997 (as the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation); its Secretariat is at Ebene, Mauritius.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Where is the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)?

A) Ebene, Mauritius

B) Kathmandu, Nepal

C) Dhaka, Bangladesh

D) Jakarta, Indonesia

Answer: A – Explanation: The IORA Secretariat is at Ebene, Mauritius. Jakarta hosts ASEAN, Kathmandu SAARC and Dhaka BIMSTEC secretariats.

2. Which is the highest decision-making body of IORA?

A) Committee of Senior Officials

B) Academic Group

C) Council of Ministers (foreign ministers)

D) The Secretariat

Answer: C – Explanation: The 25th Council of Ministers meets in New Delhi on 27.11.2026, after the 29th Committee of Senior Officials.

3. 'SAGAR' stands for

A) Security and Growth for All in the Region

B) South Asian Green Area Restoration

C) Sea Automated Guidance and Routing

D) Strategic Agreement for Gulf Resources

Answer: A – Explanation: Announced in 2015, SAGAR was widened into 'MAHASAGAR' in 2025.

4. The idea behind IORA was put forward during the 1995 India visit of

A) Desmond Tutu

B) Kofi Annan

C) Julius Nyerere

D) Nelson Mandela

Answer: D – Explanation: Mandela called for Indian Ocean cooperation; the association was formed in 1997.

5. Rajendra Chola I's naval expedition in South-East Asia was against which empire?

A) Khmer Empire

B) Majapahit

C) Champa

D) Srivijaya

Answer: D – Explanation: Around 1025 CE the Chola navy struck Srivijaya's ports including Kadaram (Kedah), earning Rajendra the title 'Kadaram Kondan'.