* Boosting India with maritime domain awareness

- Enemy at sea is often unrecognisable.
  ↳ ∴ law enforcers need to be a lot more vigilant
- Indian Navy scaling up domain awareness
  ↳ expanding India's surveillance footprint
  ↳ setting up radar stations in Maldives, Myanmar & Bangladesh.
  ↳ Mauritius, Seychelles & SL already integrated into wider coastal radar chain network
  ↳ Focus primarily on monitoring Chinese activity in Eastern Indian Ocean (A & N Island)
  ↳ India's P-8I aircraft searched the near seas for PLA Navy submarines.
  ↳ Indian Naval ships patrolled the Andaman Seas & eastern chokepoints
  ↳ Indian Navy wants to deter any maritime adventurism by Beijing
- Along with deterrence, domain awareness is also ↑ cooperative synergies
  • Reports that 7 Indian Ocean countries-

Bangladesh, Myanmar, Indonesia, SL, Maldives, Mauritius & Seychelles will soon post Liaison Officers (LO)

    ↳ for Indian Navy's ==Information Fusion Centre-IOR== in Gurugram (IFC-IOR)

- France already has an officer at IFC
- Australia, Japan, UK & US have also agreed.
- Thus, IFC-IOR is fast emerging as the most prominent hub in Eastern Indian Ocean
- India too to position a LO at the ==Regional Maritime IFC (RMIFC) in Madagascar.==
      ↳ established under ==Indian Ocean Commission== (India joined recently as 'observer')
      ↳ RMIFC is key centre of info in Western Indian Ocean.
- India posted LO at ==European Maritime Awareness== in Strait of Hormuz (EMASOH) in Abu Dhabi ↓
  (monitors maritime activity in Persian Gulf & Strait of Hormuz)

— <u>France's support for India</u>
- instrumental in securing 'observer' status for India at Indian Ocean Commission
- Paris is keen for a stronger partnership
- France is already a key Indian Ocean power.
- Also a critical partner for India
  ↳ logistics agreement signed in 2019.

— But, Indian Navy prioritizes S. Asian region more than the whole Indian Ocean region.

→ <u>Watch on China</u>
- concern that PLA Navy may be developing a generation of quieter submarines
- China already developed shaftless rim driven pump jets
- Recent discovery of a Chinese unmanned underwater vehicle close to Southern Indonesian Island.

— <u>India's underwater detection capabilities</u>
- 2 Sea Guardian drones on lease from US
- 9 operational P-8I aircraft

- 9 more aircraft to be inducted
- Speculation on an India-Japan partnership for installing an array of undersea sensors near Andaman Islands.
- White Shipping Agreement with 21 countries in IOR
- India's military satellite (GSAT-7A)
  ↳ may soon facilitate a real time sharing of maritime info with partners

— With SAGAR (Security & Growth for All in the Region)

- PM's mantra advances idea of India as a 'security provider' and 'preferred partner' in the Indo-Pacific
- but countries do not always share vital information
- India must ensure seamless info flow
  ↳ ↑ synergy & expand collaborations

* Putin to join Modi in UNSC debate

— Open debate on maritime security in UNSC
   ↳ PM Modi to preside over, as India holds the presidency of UNSC for one month.
   ↳ Prez. Putin will also participate.

— India's presidency @ UNSC
   ↳ 8th time
   ↳ 1st in 1950-51

— Problems created during India's first Presidency
   • Kashmir issue
      ↳ UN Representation failed to resolve it
   • UNSC Resolution (1951) on Kashmir
      ↳ Anglo-American resolution
      ↳ Replace UN Commission for India & Pak (UNCIP) with UN-MOGIP
         (UN Military Observer Group in India & Pak)
      ↳ embarrasing for India as India was the President.
      ↳ It institutionalised the Kashmir issue in UN

✱ PM sets out framework for maritime security & Choppy waters

- Debate at UNSC
  - ↳ under India's presidency
  - ↳ PM Modi chaired the debate
  - ↳ 'Enhancing Maritime Security'.

- Presidential Statement:
  - ↳ reaffirmed that UNCLOS establishes the legal framework for maritime activities

- 5-principled framework outlined by PM

(1) Removing barriers to maritime trade
  - ↳ like SAGAR (a 2015 Indian framework)
    (Security & Growth for All in the Region)

(2) Maritime dispute resolution peacefully & with Intl. law.
  - ↳ like India did with Bangladesh.
  - ↳ Targets China's actions in S. China Sea.

(3) Jointly tackle maritime threats from non-state actors & natural disasters

(4) Conservation of marine environment & resources.

↳ preventing plastic pollution & oil spills.

(5) Responsible maritime connectivity

— US vs Russia at the debate

- Russia
  ↳ India supported Russia as an imp. player in global maritime security, safety & prosperity

- US
  ↳ accused Russia of aggressive actions in Black Sea, Kerch Strait & Sea of Azov.
  ↳ harassment of vessels, disrupting commerce & energy access
  ↳ China is violating maritime laws
  ↳ US has not ratified UNCLOS but recognises it as International law.
  ↳ held Iran responsible for attack on a merchant ship.

- China
  ↳ UNSC is not the platform for debate on S. China Sea.

Conclusion :

- Presidential declaration of UNCLOS as the comprehensive framework for maritime activities.

- India, as President, must also advocate ratification of UNCLOS by all major maritime powers, incl. the US

✳ An Indian sail to navigate the maritime enviro

— <u>Highlights of the UNSC debate on Maritime Security</u>

- India as UNSC President, showed keen interest to be a key stakeholder in the maritime commons.
- PM Modi described Ocean as a common heritage
- PM Modi linked free and open trade to India's civilisational ethos.
- SAGAR: The relevance of SAGAR (Security And Growth For All In The Region) was also reiterated.
- The global community needs to develop a common framework to deal with contemporary challenges, including maritime disputes and natural disasters.

— <u>Importance of high seas</u>

- 90% of global trade is conducted on the high seas, as it is most cost-effective mode of transport.
- Freedom of navigation and unimpeded commerce are key to the spread of prosperity.
- Critical supply chains depend on the concept of mare liberum (open seas).

— Way Forward as suggested by India:

1) Maritime dispute settlement based on international law

- The importance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as the legal framework governing all maritime activities.
- India's acceptance of the award by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2014 closed India Bangladesh maritime dispute.
- In 2016, China summarily rejected the PCA ruling in favour of the Philippines.

2) Natural disasters and maritime threats

- The global community needs to rally together to deal effectively with the ravages of cyclones, tsunami and maritime pollution.
- First responder: India's role as 'first responder' in the Indian Ocean, whether in thwarting piracy or providing relief after the Boxing Day tsunami in 2004, is well-known.
- The Indian Coast Guard's operational reach and capability has vastly improved in dealing with environmental hazards and piracy.

- **White shipping agreements:** India now has white shipping agreements with several countries.
- Cooperation: The Indian Navy's state-of-the-art **Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)** based in Gurugram hosts officers from the US, UK, Japan, France, Australia.
- Training: The Indian Navy regularly offers a large number of training slots to friendly countries.

3) Environmental concerns

- The oceans remain our lifeline.
- Yet overwhelmed by plastic waste which chokes all forms of marine life.

4) Connectivity and infrastructure

- There are heightened concerns today over China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- Openness and transparency: India stands for openness and transparency in the execution of projects, based on local priorities, with in-built fiscal viability and enviro sustainability.

- **Blue Dot Network:** The U.S, Japan and Australia are also promoting better standards for global infrastructure through the Blue Dot Network.

Conclusion

- India's natural interests stretch across both the Indian and Pacific Oceans as reflected in its inclusive Indo-Pacific vision.

- India's initiative will further the prospects for a stable and enduring maritime environment
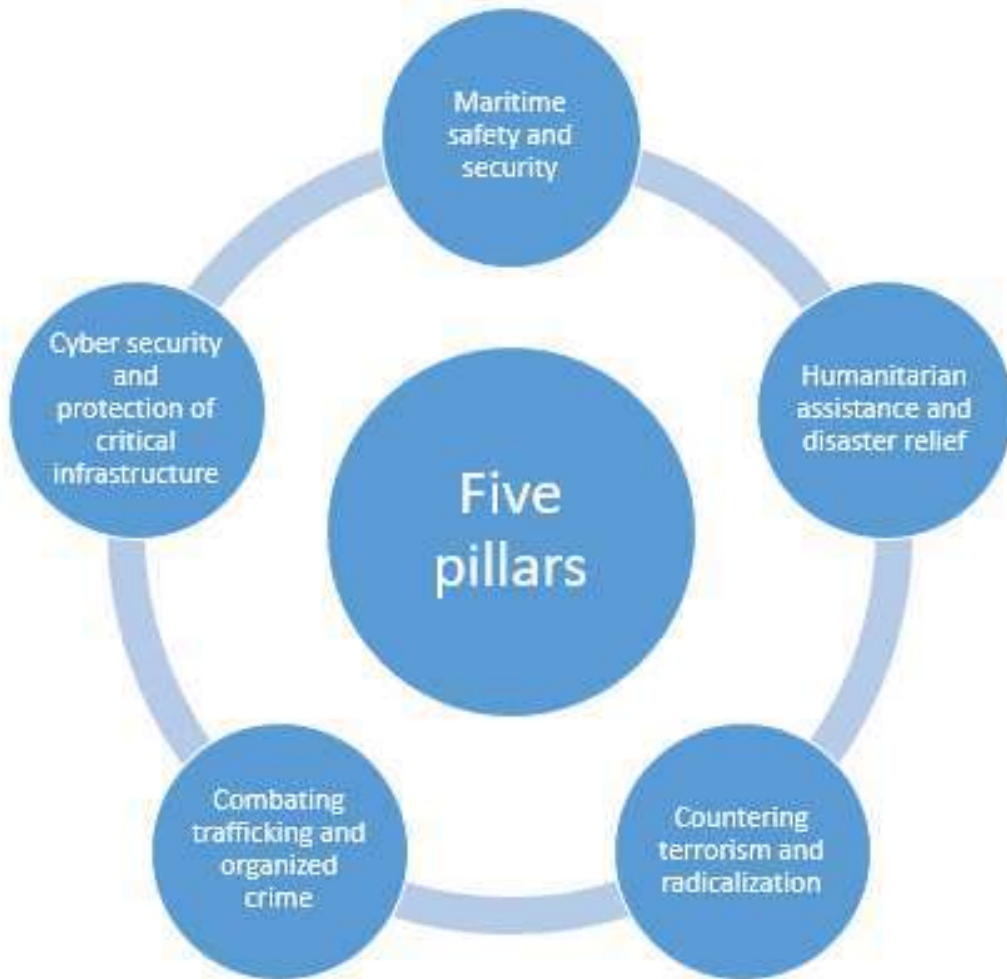
Doval calls for maritime cooperation

5th NSA-level talks of the Colombo Security Conclave held in the Maldives.

Colombo Security Conclave:

- It is a regional security grouping.
- Formed in 2011 as a trilateral Indian Ocean maritime security grouping of India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.
- It was revived again in 2021.
- It envisages sharing intelligence and collaborating on the security aspects of marine security, human trafficking, counter-terrorism, and cyber security.
- 5th edition saw the induction of Mauritius as a new member.
- Seychelles & Bangladesh are Observers.
- Scope of the conclave has been expanded to include humanitarian assistance and disaster relief

Roadmap to cooperation.

- Based on five pillars.

Five pillars:
- Maritime safety and security
- Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief
- Countering terrorism and radicalization
- Combating trafficking and organized crime
- Cyber security and protection of critical infrastructure

Indian NSA's address:

- Highlighted India's contribution as the ==first responder== in the region in crisis situations.
- Noting the fact that India's national security is deeply intertwined with the collective security aspirations of the region.

- Called for the institutionalisation of the Colombo Security Conclave through
  - Follow up meetings of the heads of the Coast Guards of the 4 member countries
  - Formation of joint working groups to tackle drug trafficking and transnational organised crimes.

India's interests:

- Maritime security remains a major security aspect for India.

- Closer cooperation among regional partners will aid India's efforts to ensure security and stability in the region.

- Being a mainly India driven "minilateral", it is being seen as India's outreach to the Indian Ocean to underline regional cooperation and shared security objectives.

- India through CSC hopes to restrict China's influence.