

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2941
ANSWERED ON- 13.08.2026

CHAIRMANSHIP OF IORA

2941. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) the key initiatives and achievements under India's Chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA);
- (b) the outcomes of the India-Australia search and rescue training conducted at Chennai;
- (c) the measures taken and roadmap envisaged to strengthen maritime security and cooperation among IORA member States; and
- (d) the duration of India's Chairmanship and the roadmap for its successful transition?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA)

(a to d) India assumed the Chairship of IORA for the two year period from 2025-2027 under the theme “*Innovation, Openness, Resilience & Adaptability in the Indian Ocean Region*”.

During its current Chairship, India has hosted IORA’s flagship Track 1.5 Dialogue “Indian Ocean Dialogue” in New Delhi on 07-08 May 2026. In June 2026, India organised an in-person meeting of IORA Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) after a gap on three years and finalized the agenda for the annual Council of Ministers to be hosted by India, later this year. A week-long capacity-building programme for IORA Officials was also held from 08-13 December 2025 in New Delhi.

India and Australia, as co-leads of the IORA Working Group on Maritime Safety and Security, hosted a Search & Rescue and tabletop Exercise at Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, Chennai from 17-19 June 2026. The workshop contributed towards strengthening of maritime safety and security cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region, and assist IORA Member States in enhancing their SAR capabilities. As Coordinating Country of the IORA Working Group on Maritime Safety and Security (WGMSS), India participated in the meeting of WGMSS held in Perth in June 2026 to finalise the current workplan of the working group.
