



Indian Ocean Naval Chiefs Conference 2023

Why in news?



- **The 8th edition of the Indian Ocean Naval Chiefs was hosted by the Royal Thai Navy in Bangkok from 19 to 22 December 2023.**

About the Conference

- The event was attended by Chiefs and senior representatives of the navies of 27 member and observer countries.
- In this edition Thailand assumed the Presidency of IONS, with a two-year action plan finalised during the conference.

Background

- IONS was conceptualised by the Indian Navy in 2008 with the objective of enhancing maritime cooperation among navies of the Indian Ocean Region.
- The IONS inaugural edition was held in 2008 in New Delhi, in which India held the chair role for two years (2008–2010).
- India is set to take over the Chairmanship of IONS during the ninth edition of the COC in late 2025.

Expansion in IONS Group

- The flag designed by India was selected as the official IONS flag.
- During this period, India assumed the co-chair role for the IONS Working Groups on Maritime Security and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief for the next cycle.
- The conference welcomed the Republic of Korea Navy as the newest observer, increasing the total strength of IONS to 34 (25 members and 9 observers).