Colombo Security Conclave – 2026–27 Roadmap for Indian Ocean Security

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Why in News?

At the 8th National Security Adviser (NSA)-level meeting in Malé, Maldives, members of ***the Colombo Security Conclave*** *(CSC) signed Agreed Minutes and adopted a Roadmap of Cooperation for 2026–27 (November 2026).*

About the Conclave

- **Origin** – Began in 2011 as the ***NSA Trilateral on Maritime Security (India, Sri Lanka, Maldives)***, a Sri Lankan initiative; stalled after 2014; revived and renamed in 2020.
- **Members** – India, Sri Lanka and Maldives (founders); Mauritius (2022); Bangladesh (2024); Seychelles (2025, earlier an observer).
- **Headquarters** – A Secretariat at Colombo, Sri Lanka, to be led by a Secretary-General.
- **Mandate** – Promote regional security by tackling transnational threats of common concern to Indian Ocean states.
- **Five pillars** – Maritime safety and security; countering terrorism and radicalization; combating trafficking and transnational organised crime; cyber security and protection of critical infrastructure; humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.



Agreements and Missions

- **Charter and MoU** – Signed in Colombo on August 30, 2024 to establish the Secretariat.

- **Exercises** – ***Dosti XV trilateral exercise in Maldives*** (November 2021), followed by the first joint exercise under the CSC in the Arabian Sea.
- **Formalization** – In April 2026, India said the CSC will become a formal regional security organisation.

The Latest Roadmap

- **Roadmap** – Lists deliverables and activities under the five pillars for 2026–27.
- **India's view** – NSA Ajit Doval called the CSC a convergence of "Neighborhood First" and the MAHASAGAR vision.
- **Meetings** – The 7th NSA-level meeting was held in New Delhi in November 2025; India hosted the ninth Deputy NSA meeting virtually on September 30, 2026.

Significance

It offers a security-focused grouping where ***SAARC*** is stalled, ***IORA*** lacks a hard security mandate and ***IONS*** has no permanent structure; it also balances China's growing presence.

Reference

AIR | Colombo Security Conclave adopts 2026–27 roadmap to strengthen regional cooperation at 8th NSA level meeting in Maldives

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