

28TH COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING

India Hosted the 28th Committee of Senior Officials Meeting

The Ministry of External Affairs, Republic of India hosted the 28th Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) on 15–16 June 2026 at the Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi, India. The Meeting was held under the theme “Innovation, Openness, Resilience & Adaptability” and was chaired by Mr Vishwesh Negi Joint Secretary at the Ministry of External Affairs of India.



Highlights from the 28th CSO Meeting of IORA, hosted by Republic of India, New Delhi

The meeting brought together Senior Government Officials from IORA Member States to review progress made under the Association's various initiatives, discuss regional priorities, and advance cooperation across the Indian Ocean region. A Special Session featuring an interactive exchange between IORA Member States and Dialogue Partners was also held, providing a valuable platform to explore opportunities for enhanced cooperation across the Indian Ocean region.

During the Opening Session, the IORA Chair represented by Mr Vishwesh Negi recalled Nelson Mandela's 1995 visit in New Delhi that inspired IORA's creation and affirmed IORA's role in promoting regional peace, stability and prosperity. The Chair highlighted that this Chairship represents a responsibility to further strengthen IORA. The representative of the Past Chair, Ms Aruni Ranaraja, Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism of Sri Lanka, addressed the CSO Meeting and reflected on the achievements of Sri Lanka's Chairmanship from 2023 to 2025. The Secretary-General of IORA, Mr Sanjiv Ranjan, presented his report to the CSO Meeting, highlighting the forthcoming 30th anniversary of the Association as an important milestone to reflect on IORA's achievements and chart a future course for strengthened regional cooperation.

As the second-highest decision-making body of IORA, the Committee of Senior Officials serves as the organisation's principal coordinating mechanism. Comprising senior government representatives from Member States, the CSO plays a vital role in reviewing key agenda items, formulating recommendations, and submitting policy matters to the Council of Ministers for final consideration and approval.







