

Sri Lanka signs maritime cooperation agreement with India and the Maldives

Sri Lanka signed a trilateral agreement with India and the Maldives to cooperate on maritime security in the Indian Ocean region.

During the second National Security Advisor (NSA) level meeting held in Colombo on the 8th of July. The three neighboring countries agreed to cooperate in carrying out surveillance, anti-piracy operations and curbing illegal activities including maritime pollution.

Secretary, Ministry of Defence and Urban Development Gotabhaya Rajapaksa signed on behalf of Sri Lanka while Shivshankar Menon, National Security Advisor of India and Mohamed Nazim Minister of Defence and National Security of the Maldives were the other signatories.

The three countries have reached an agreement on the importance of raising the maritime cooperation among them in the current context of maritime security environment in the Indian Ocean region, Sri Lanka Defence Ministry said.

The meeting follows several senior official and technical level consultations held among the three neighboring countries.

At the conclusion of the meeting the representatives of the three countries signed an outcome document detailing specific areas of cooperation in the maritime security sphere.

High Commissioner of India Y. K. Sinha, High Commissioner of Maldives Hussain Shihab and Joint Secretary of the Security Council Secretariat (India) Saurabh Kumar were among the foreign delegates.

High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India Prasad Kariyawasam and the commanders of the three armed forces and Coast Guard were in attendance at the meeting.