

**India-Oman Side event
CR8; 15 May 2026; 3-430 pm**

Ancient Trade Routes: The Journey of INSV Kaundinya

INSV Kaundinya, a stitched-plank sailing vessel inspired by ancient Indian shipbuilding traditions, was proposed to retrace India's early maritime trade routes across the Indian Ocean. These routes connected the Indian subcontinent with Southeast Asia, East Asia, the Arabian Peninsula, and East Africa as early as the 1st millennium BCE. Traders in the past, relied on monsoon wind systems, advanced coastal navigation, and robust maritime knowledge to exchange spices, textiles, beads, metals, and cultural ideas. These sea lanes were not only commercial corridors but also conduits for the spread of language, culture, science and technology, and diplomacy.

By sailing these routes, INSV Kaundinya symbolically highlighted the long-standing role of India and Oman as responsible maritime civilisations, comfortable operating far beyond coastal waters and engaging with what we now term areas beyond national jurisdiction. The historical routes retraced by Kaundinya from December 29, 2025 till January 14, 2026 through vast stretches of the high seas, from the birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi, Porbandar in India to Muscat in the Sultanate of Oman. This historic expedition was a major milestone in efforts to revive, understand and celebrate our shared maritime heritage through a living ocean voyage. These oceans today fall under the framework of the UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea), the constitution of the Oceans.

This voyage builds on a rich continuum of maritime heritage. In 2010, the *Jewel of Muscat*—a sewn ship based on 9th-century engineering and constructed without the use of nails—successfully sailed from Oman through India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and onward to Singapore. Together, these journeys underscore the long-standing roles of India and Oman as seafaring civilizations, adept at navigating far beyond coastal waters and engaging in what are now described as areas beyond national jurisdiction. They stand as important milestones in understanding and celebrating our shared maritime legacy.

These voyages are not only a diplomatic or an outreach mission. They are a reaffirmation of the importance of supporting contemporary ocean governance and represent humanity's endeavour to connect, share and prosper together.

The Permanent Missions of India and Oman are pleased to welcome sailors of INSV Kaundinya as well as experts, scholars from Oman and practitioners engaged in the maritime domain. We look forward to your presence in this session for a free-flowing discussion. A few leading questions are as follows:

1. Whether the current maritime environment is feasible for seafarers that continue to rely on traditional sea-routes?
2. How state parties can best cooperate and international mechanisms put in practice that underline the importance of safety and security of seafarers, sea lanes of communication and the environment?
3. What are some best practices from our shared history of trade and communication which can be implemented in today's world that brings a focus towards sustainability?

Ancient Trade Routes

Thursday, 15 May 2026 | 3:00 PM | Conference Room 8 (CR8), UN Secretariat Building, New York

This event celebrates the enduring maritime heritage shared by India and Oman. INSV Kaundinya, a stitched-plank sailing vessel inspired by ancient shipbuilding traditions, has retraced the early maritime trade routes of the Indian Ocean that — from the 1st millennium BCE — connected the Indian subcontinent with Southeast Asia, the Arabian Peninsula, and East Africa. These voyages highlight the seas as a shared global common and represent humanity's endeavour to connect, share, and prosper together.

PROGRAMME

TIME	PROGRAMME ITEM	SPEAKER / DETAILS
	Registration & Welcome of Guests	Delegates, Guests, and Invitees
3:00 PM	Opening Remarks by Moderator (1 min)	Mr. Raghoo Puri <i>Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations</i>
3:01 PM	Remarks by Ambassador of India (5 mins)	H.E. Harish Parvathaneni <i>Ambassador, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations</i>
3:06PM	The Sultanate of Oman and India: Maritime Heritage to Contemporary Ocean Governance (5 mins)	H.E. Omar Said Omar Alkathiri <i>Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations</i>
3:11 PM	The Voyage of INSV Kaundinya (20 mins)	Indian Navy Delegation <i>(Crew members of INSV Kaundinya)</i> <i>Showcasing the sail and maritime expedition retracing ancient Indian Ocean trade routes</i>
3:31 PM	Short video about the arriving of India Ship Kaundinya to	Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman to the

	Oman. (5 mins)	United Nations
3:36 PM	Strategic Marine Scientific Cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and India (10 mins)	Amb. Dr. Adnan Al Azri, Deputy Permanent Representative for Maritime Affairs and Continental Shelf <i>Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations</i>
3:46 PM	Oman-India Relations Across Ages and Civilizations- Recorded video (4 mins)	National Museum of Oman <i>Highlighting the maritime history of the two nations and their shared legacy across the Arabian Sea</i>
3:50 PM	Interactive Session (20 mins)	Open Discussion <i>Participants, Crew Members, Experts, Scholars, and Maritime Practitioners Moderated by Mr. Raghoo Puri, Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations</i>
4:10 PM	Concluding Remarks by Moderator (1 mins)	Mr. Raghoo Puri <i>Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations</i>