

# REGIONAL CHALLENGES & PERSPECTIVES ON MARITIME SECURITY

AN INDIAN VIEWPOINT

- “Whoever controls the Indian Ocean dominates Asia. This ocean is the key to the seven seas in the twenty-first century, the destiny of the world will be decided in these waters.”

-Alfred Thayer Mahan

- **India has a maritime tradition stretching back in history**

# India' Maritime History - 1

- World's first tidal dock built at Lothal around 2300 B.C.
- The Rig Veda, written around 2000 B.C., describes naval expeditions with 100-oared ships.
- Roman writer Pliny refers to India's trade with Rome.
- Alexander the Great built a harbor at Potala where the Indus river branches into two.

# India's Maritime History - 2

- A crude magnetic compass was used by Indian mariners in the 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> century A.D.
- In 984-1042 A.D. the Chola kings of south India dispatched naval expeditions to Burma Malaya and Sumatra.
- In 1292 A.D. Marco Polo gave an admiring description of Indian ships.

# Indian Maritime History – 3

- Decline of Indian maritime power commenced in 18<sup>th</sup> century A.D.
- Indian sea power had almost disappeared when the Portuguese arrived in India.
- European control of Indian waters.
- Indian shipbuilding activity continued. Bombay Dock completed in 1735. It is in use even today.

# What explains India's long maritime tradition?

- India's geographical location.
  1. Sitting atop the Indian Ocean
  2. The Arabian Sea to our west and the Bay of Bengal to the east
  3. India has a coastline of 7516 kms.

# Importance of the Seas

- Coastline of 7516 kms.
- Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 2 million square km.
- 6<sup>th</sup> largest producer of fish
- 6 million people dependent on fishing and related activities for their livelihood.
- 200,000 traditional craft, 34000 mechanized boats, and 180 deep sea fishing vessels.
- 11 major ports and 148 minor ports
- Merchant/marine of 618 vessels with GRT of 6.43 MMT
- 1197 far-flung islands

# What does India consider as its neighborhood?

- Persian Gulf to the Straits of Malacca
- Indian island territories in the Indian Ocean to the Central Asian Republics.

- Annually about USD 200 billion of oil passes through these waters.
- 2 choke points
  1. Strait of Hormuz
  2. Strait of Malacca
- Estimated that 15 million barrels of oil pass daily through the Strait of Hormuz.
- 9.5 million barrels of oil per day pass through the Malacca Strait.

# Indian Maritime Doctrine

- For the first time India has a written maritime doctrine.
- Issued by the Indian Navy on April 25, 2004
- It visualizes 4 roles for the Indian Navy
  1. Military role
  2. Diplomatic role
  3. Constabulary role
  4. Benign role

# Military Role-1

- To provide conventional and strategic deterrence against regional states
- To exercise sea control in designated areas of the Arabian Sea and the bay of Bengal and at entry/exit points to the IOR
- To safeguard India's mercantile marine and sea-borne trade in our SLOC's, during peace and war.
- To provide security to India's coastline, island territories and offshore assets.

# Military Role-2

- In war, carry conflict to enemy territory
- To provide power projection forces when required to land our Army in an area of interest
- To counter the LIMO (Low Intensity Maritime Operations) threat
- To provide second strike nuclear capability
- To work in conjunction with the Army and Air Force to preserve, protect and promote India's national interests

# Diplomatic Role

- To be an effective instrument of Indian foreign policy
- To develop health maritime partnerships
- To be able to contribute to UN peacekeeping forces.
- To be capable of interoperability with multi-national forces.

# Constabulary Role

- To protect India's sovereign interests in the EEZ
- To carry out regular surveillance in the extended neighborhood
- To show presence and patrol focal areas of interest

# Benign Role

- Humanitarian aid
- Disaster relief
- Search and Rescue (SAR)
- Salvage operations

# India's Maritime Challenges

- Illegal Immigration
- Drug trafficking
- Gun running
- Terrorism
- Piracy
- Pollution
- Smuggling

# India-US Maritime Cooperation

- Framework for Maritime Security Cooperation
- Naval exercises
- CSI
- PSI



Thank You