

# **MAKING WAVES**

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**Editorial Team**

Cdr Abhijit Singh  
Dr. M Joshy Paul  
Mr.Jithin S George

Phone : +91 011 26154901  
Fax : +91 011 26156520

**Address**

National Maritime Foundation  
Varuna Complex, NH-8 New Delhi-110010, India  
E-mail: [maritimeindia@gmail.com](mailto:maritimeindia@gmail.com)  
URL : [www.maritimeindia.org](http://www.maritimeindia.org)

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### **Wen Jiabao backs greater international role for India**

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said Beijing and New Delhi should seize opportunities to expand converging interests and backed India for greater role in international affairs. “As a fast growing big country with over a billion people, India should and can play an increasingly important role in international affairs,” he said addressing the Indian Council of World Affairs. “China and India have shared interests and common views on the issue of U.N. Security Council reform. We both maintain that priority should be given to increasing the representation of developing countries,” he said.

Terming the boundary dispute between the two countries as a “historical legacy”, Mr. Wen said, “It would not be easy to completely resolve this question. “It requires patience and will take a fairly long period of time. Only with sincerity, mutual trust and perseverance can we eventually find a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution,” he said. Mr. Wen noted that the two countries have had good dialogue and communication and expressed a sincere desire to work together to resolve the boundary question. “In the face of difficulty, the most important thing to do is to press ahead along the right track, narrow differences step by step, build consensus and increase confidence,” he said.

Mr. Wen said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and he had agreed to set up a working mechanism for consultation and coordination on border affairs “which would help enhance our mutual trust and maintain peace and tranquillity in the region“. On the economic front, Mr. Wen said China understood India’s concerns on bilateral trade imbalance and was ready to take measures to facilitate access of Indian IT products, pharmaceuticals and farm produce to the Chinese market. China and India should work together to achieve a \$100 billion two-way trade target by 2015, he said, adding that agreements worth \$16 billion were inked during his visit. Mr. Wen announced that China would provide \$1 million for the reconstruction of Nalanda University, the ancient seat of learning in Bihar which was a favourite of visiting Chinese scholars. The two countries

declared that next year would be the Year of China-India exchange which would see 500 Indian youths visiting the nation.

Source(s): 16 December

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article956565.ece>

### **India tells China: Kashmir is to us what Tibet, Taiwan are to you**

Drawing a dramatic parallel between the territorial red lines of both countries, India told China that just as New Delhi had been sensitive to its concerns over the Tibet Autonomous Region and Taiwan, Beijing too should be mindful of Indian sensitivities on Jammu and Kashmir. The comparison – which is intended to drive home the depth of Indian concerns over recent Chinese attempts to question the country's sovereignty in Kashmir — was made by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna in his meeting with China's Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on the sidelines of the Russia-India-China trilateral meeting.

This is the first time India has drawn this parallel directly, Indian officials told *The Hindu*. Briefing reporters about the meeting, Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao said the two Ministers reviewed the state of bilateral relations, which Mr. Yang described as being in “very good shape.” As India-China relations grew, Mr. Krishna said, there was a need for both sides to be sensitive to each other's core concerns. “In that context,” said Ms. Rao, “[the External Affairs Minister] spoke of Jammu and Kashmir and expressed the hope that China would be sensitive to J&K just as we have been to the Tibet Autonomous Region and Taiwan.” According to Ms. Rao, Mr. Yang said in response that China always believed the problem of Jammu and Kashmir could only be resolved through dialogue and negotiations between India and Pakistan and that there has been no change in its policy. The Chinese Minister also said Beijing wanted to expand the political content of the relationship between the two countries. “He said both countries should see each other's growth as an opportunity and not a challenge.” India has been objecting to the Chinese policy of issuing ‘stapled’ visas to Kashmiri-domicile Indian citizens. New Delhi suspended defence exchanges with Beijing in August after an Indian general from Kashmir was denied a proper visa to travel to China on an official visit.

On the question of a permanent seat for India on a reformed UN Security Council – a question Mr. Krishna raised in a general way without reference to President Barack Obama's recent announcement – Mr. Yang said he acknowledged there had been a fundamental change in the international situation and that consultations were needed on the question of UN reform. He added that China was willing to continue and increase its consultations with India and others on this question, a stand Ms. Rao described as “incrementally speaking, a positive development.” But she quickly added: “To say that they have given full-scale endorsement would be inaccurate.” Also, Mr. Krishna held bilateral talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and attended a working dinner of the RIC trilateral. Ms. Rao said Mr. Lavrov strongly supported India's prospective membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and urged the country to work closely together with Russia and others for promoting security and cooperation across the Asia-Pacific region. The RIC Foreign Ministers also strongly endorsed the idea of a trilateral discussion on the situation in Afghanistan and agreed that the BRIC forum, which links the three with Brazil, be expanded to include South Africa by the time of the next summit.

Also present at Mr. Krishna's meeting with the Chinese Foreign Minister was Duan Yunlin, vice governor of Hubei province. Mr. Duan spoke of Hubei's economic relations with India and described his own involvement in promoting business links with Bangalore and Andhra Pradesh. Mr. Krishna said he hoped India-China bilateral trade would cross the target of \$ 60 billion but urged the Chinese side to do more to ensure a better balance.

Source(s): 15 December

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article886483.ece>

### **India-Russia ties in the neoliberal era**

The official visit of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to India last was “bound to be successful, in theory,” as an experienced Russian scholar coyly predicted. Not only the annual summit was meticulously choreographed but there is also a growing “bipartisan” interest in India in the relationship. The right-wing lobbies weaned on old-fashioned “anti-communism” that mocked at Soviet-Indian friendship, the Left which nostalgically (and simplistically) views Russia as the inheritor of Soviet legacies and the

government with a pronounced “pro-American” tilt — all agree that India should have a privileged bond with Russia. No mean thing in our highly fragmented polity.

Only the common people and intellectuals — who used to constitute the vanguard of Soviet-Indian friendship — are missing from the spectacle. Ironically, 2010 was also the 55th anniversary of the historic visit by Nikita Khrushchev and Nikolai Bulganin to India but no one remembered. To be sure, the distinctive mark of summit 2010 in Delhi is that the “market forces” have penetrated the veins and arteries and even the capillaries of the two countries' relationship. Such things are probably part and parcel of our current neo-liberal era. But is that a good thing to happen? A reverse osmosis is happening in the Sino-Indian partnership. For China, public diplomacy in India has assumed great significance. Anyway, both Russia and India seem content with the way things turned out and are settling for a durable “strategic partnership” based on “convergence of interests,” uncluttered by ideals or ideology. There is, of course, no question of infidelity in such a partnership and no scope for adulterous acts — not even flirtatious intimacies. An extraordinary calmness has come to prevail, which is truly rare in relationships.

Mr. Medvedev's visit can be considered “historic” — the true commencement, arguably, of the post-Cold War era of Russian-Indian “strategic partnership.” The ties have been salvaged from the seemingly hopeless shipwreck of the 1990s and retrieved from the long night of India's “unipolar predicament” (leading to the signing of the U.S.-India nuclear deal in 2008) and, lately, fresh content has begun to be injected into it so that the partnership could acquire the *raison d'etre*. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced the success of this enterprise when he said Russia had become a “special and privileged” partner with which India would pursue a relationship independent of its ties with other countries. By “other countries,” he probably meant the U.S. and China. Shorn of diplomatese, New Delhi would nonchalantly accelerate its strategic ties with Washington which, as India understands, is bent on “containing” China, while Sino-Russian ties are deepening and expanding and the two countries increasingly coordinate their stance on regional and international issues, as the latest instance over North Korea amply testifies. New Delhi expects Moscow not to get flustered by the cut

and thrust of U.S.-India ties, which by far outstrip Russia's reset with the U.S. and are of a qualitatively different character.

India would give primacy to bilateral issues in the partnership with Russia. Wherever there is convergence on regional and international issues that is fine. And if there is any divergence, that's only natural and the two countries learn to live with it. The joint statement issued after Mr. Medvedev's visit reflects this new thinking. It underscores that India and Russia can still have a "strong convergence of their views on regional and international issues of importance to the security of both countries." But then, that's blasé. Russia's joint statement with China following the summit in Beijing in late September 2010 pledged the two countries to promote a "new security concept" on the basis of mutual trust, mutual benefits, equality and cooperation.

The Sino-Russian statement promised mutual support for each other's core interests. The Russian-Indian statement remains silent on the Indian stance on, say, Russian interests in the Caucasus or the Russian stance on India's differences with Pakistan. With regard to the Afghan problem, while there is similarity in the Indian and Russian assessments, the two sides offer nothing in terms of a joint initiative. India faces regional isolation while Russia has an active regional policy with regard to the Afghan problem that even provides for cooperation with Pakistan. India appears to have serious reservations about the U.S.' AfPak strategy and yet seems adamant on working principally with the U.S. The joint statement is silent on what sort of Afghanistan the two countries seek. Shouldn't it be a "neutral" Afghanistan free of long-term foreign military presence? The two countries must be seized of the looming prospect of a long-term NATO military presence in the region as a crucial vector of the alliance's determination to become a global security organisation that can intervene in "hot spots."

In political terms, the balance sheet of the summit favoured India. The Indian sherpas negotiated hard and the Russians were generous — support for India's bid for permanent membership of the U.N. Security Council, inclusion in the Nuclear Suppliers Group and other technology control regimes, SCO and APEC. The Indian commentators may have over-interpreted the joint statement's portions on terrorism as constituting Russian criticism of Pakistan, but India can derive satisfaction that Russia joined it in calling upon Pakistan "to expeditiously bring all the perpetrators, authors and

accomplices of the November 2008 Mumbai attacks to justice.” In return, New Delhi expressed solidarity with Moscow's “efforts to eliminate terrorism from Russian soil.

However, the leitmotif of Mr. Medvedev's visit was the substantive engagement of the two countries at the bilateral level. Much hope is placed on the recovery of bilateral trade from the stagnation that persisted till 2-3 years ago. The target of \$20 billion by 2015 seems reachable, spearheaded by military-technical cooperation and nuclear commerce. India is taking a focussed approach to the relationship. Put simply, Russia is willing to offer India high technology that the West is not yet ready to give. As a Delhi newspaper commented thoughtfully, “Russian technology may not be as good as that of some countries of the West, but at least it is available.”

Source(s): 5 January

<http://www.hinduonnet.com/thehindu/thscrip/print.pl?file=2011010555431400.htm&date=2011/01/05/&prd=th&>

### **India, Russia strike deals during Medvedev visit**

India and Russia signed a series of defence, energy, trade and cultural agreements during Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's two-day (Dec 21-22) visit to India. The deals announced were largely already known, and no financial figures were given, but the accords will go some way to satisfy those concerned about India too quickly cutting its close ties with its Cold War ally. Following are details of some of the major agreements and memorandums of understanding signed:

**FIFTH-GENERATION FIGHTER AIRCRAFT:** India and Russia concluded an agreement for the design and development of what is expected to be 250-300 supersonic fighter aircraft over 10 years, reported to be worth up to \$35 billion. The agreement, which will see India's state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd work alongside Russia's Rosoboronexport and Sukhoi, is expected to begin delivery of an Indian version of the Russian aircraft by 2017. The deal had first been discussed more than a year ago. It is a boost for Indo-Russian defence ties, which date back to Soviet times but have waned recently. Russia now competes with companies from the United States, France and other European countries to win contracts for new aircraft in one of the worlds biggest defence markets.

**NUCLEAR POWER;** The two countries signed a deal to expand a Russian-built nuclear power plant in Kudankalum in southern India, involving discussions on the construction of a third and fourth reactor. Media reports say Russia declined to finalize a deal on two more reactors until they get clarification on a liabilities bill passed in India's parliament, which has worried foreign firms. Russia is keen to continue supplying nuclear technology and expertise to India as the country plans to add 63,000 megawatts of nuclear power by 2032 to underpin its economic growth, but faces competition from French and U.S. suppliers. State-run Rosatom said it was planning to build 18 reactors across three sites in India, the head of the Russian firm, Sergei Kiriyenko, said.

**HYDROCARBONS:** Russia, the world's largest energy producer, signed an agreement with India to create an administrative framework for joint projects in the oil-gas sector, and agreed to increase hydrocarbon cooperation to allow smooth formation of public and private joint ventures in both countries. India has been keen on Russia to invest in its hydrocarbon reserves and, in turn, increase its participation in Russian exploration as Asia's third-largest oil consumer seeks less dependence on imports. India's state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corp is in talks with Russia's Bashneft about developments in the Arctic Trebs and Titov oilfields, and the company already has a stake in Russia's Sakhalin-1 oil and gas project in the Pacific.

ONGC signed an agreement with Russian oil-to-telecoms firm Sistema to consider opportunities for a potential transaction involving Sistema's majority stake in oil company Bashneft. Sistema said its 49 percent stake in mid-sized oil company Russneft, as well as ONGC's fully-owned Imperial Energy, may also be considered for possible deals. Russia's largest petrochemical company Sibur and India's Reliance Industries also announced the creation of a joint venture for production of butyl rubber in India with \$450 millions of investments.

**PHARMACEUTICALS;** India, considered the 'pharmacy of the world' for its market-leading position as a generic drug manufacturer, signed a memorandum of understanding with Russia on enhanced cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector, through joint ventures, joint research projects and knowledge exchanges. Both countries had highlighted pharmaceuticals as a key sector of trade negotiations prior to

Medvedev's arrival in Delhi, with India keen to leverage its global expertise, and Russia looking to lower its dependence on imported medicine.

**VISAS:** In a bid to increase people-to-people contacts and encourage cultural exchanges, the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding to simplify procedures for obtaining business and tourist visas for citizens of both countries. The countries signed a second agreement on establishing a framework to check irregular migration.

**TRADE:** Behind the rhetoric of expanding ties with its fellow BRIC economy -- the term used to group emerging powers Brazil, Russia, India and China -- bilateral trade is eclipsed by Russia's booming economic ties with the European Union and China. The Kremlin said trade with India will total \$10 billion this year, while official statistics show Russia's trade with the European Union stood at \$246 billion in the first 10 months of 2010, and trade with China was \$47.5 billion in the same period. India and Russia agreed to boost bilateral trade to \$20 billion by 2015.

Source(s): 22 December

<http://in.reuters.com/article/idINIndia-53727220101222>



### **Countering Chinese “String of Pearls” through naval diplomacy**

Dinakar Peri

“String of Pearls” is the term used with reference to the Chinese construction of ports and facilities across the Indian Ocean region. As one Chinese Admiral remarked, “Indian ocean is not India’s ocean”, China has been making belligerent moves to foray into the Indian Ocean – long considered India’s backyard and its exclusive domain. Indian naval and diplomatic overtures have gone on an overdrive to counter the aggressive moves.

In recent times China with its growing wealth has or is in the process of constructing ports, listening posts and pipelines in various Indian Ocean littorals – a proposed rail link, via Myanmar to Chittagong port in Bangladesh, Construction of Sona deep sea port at Cox Bazaar in Bangladesh, Construction of Hambantola port in Sri

Lanka and a full facility at Gawadar port, west of Karachi, in Pakistan. It also attempted to gain access to Seychelles but the attempts were thwarted by India. Recently, it has opened an underground SSBN base on Hainan Island in the South China Sea and indications are that the new Jin-class SSBN's will be deployed here. These facilities span across the Indian Ocean effectively encircling India. The Chinese move is not entirely India centric though it is part of a larger India containment strategy. It's a long term multi-purpose strategy. The major driving force behind this is to ensure sustained oil supplies and secure the strategic shipping lanes through which majority of its oil and trade transit. Hence, the sea lanes stretching from Gulf of Aden to Strait of Malacca are the backbone for sustaining the export driven Chinese economic behemoth and such excessive dependence makes it a liability and makes the economy and the country vulnerable. These facilities offer berthing rights, repair and refuelling facilities to Chinese naval assets and help mitigate the adverse effects to some extent and the pipelines bypass the sea lanes wherever possible and feasible.

On the strategic side, Malacca strait is a choke point to restrict the Chinese to the South China Sea and the countries in the region have 'not so cordial' relations and China has territorial disputes with all of them and of late China has taken very aggressive posture with all its neighbours and has resorted to bullying as is evident in the recent incidents. In the trawler incident with Japan it blocked the supply of rare earth metals to bring Japan to its knees and in the incident of South Korean warship sunk by North Korean torpedo, it blocked a resolution reprimanding the North, in the United Nations.

It has no friends in the region and those that toe its line are those nations run by dictators be it Myanmar, North Korea or for that matter Pakistan. In this context, in the event of a conflict with India or with the US over Taiwan, India and US can impose a naval blockade and cut off the crucial oil supplies denting a blow to the Chinese military machine. All these instances have sent alarm bells ringing in the Indian Strategic community and India and the Indian Navy have been taking steps from some time and the things are slowly falling in place in maintaining Indian dominance in the Indian Ocean region. Let's examine some of the prominent measures taken in this direction.

Firstly, Indian Navy's (IN) modernization program is very well on track and has acquired lot of assets in line with its ambition of being a true blue water force. It is ramping up its aviation arm with the induction of Mig-29's and is developing new bases along the coast under project Seabird at Karwar and an exclusive submarine base near Visakhapatnam.

IN's capabilities have been recognized and acknowledged time and again. For instance, in December 2004 when Tsunami struck, IN was the first to respond and deployed its vessels for relief operations and has received much praise for it.

It has also been escorting US and coalition vessels on their request in the war on terror. Indian fleet of over 130 ships with its stealth frigates and destroyers is a potent force and its surface fleet is definitely ahead of the Chinese. The rapid expansion of the Chinese submarine fleet is a concern though and India has to take urgent steps to address its depleting submarine levels. Countering the Chinese needs a multilateral approach and India has been making the right moves of late.

Indian diplomacy, particularly naval diplomacy, has been reaching out to the countries in the Indian Ocean. Indian navy has off late embarked on a series of exercises and forged partnerships with countries across Indian and Pacific oceans. The Indian Navy started the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium to provide the Indian Ocean littorals a forum to come together to cooperate on the security aspects in the region.

This has been institutionalized now with regular interactions. Indian Navy has a very strong and sophisticated hydrographic arm which has played a silent role in helping various states map their coastlines and will soon assist Saudi Arabia. China views this as a guise by the Indian Navy to get access to ports and naval bases.

IN has also generously gifted offshore patrol vessels to Maldives and Seychelles in their quest to establish their maritime forces and has also been patrolling their coastline and exclusive economic zones (EEZ). They are also being integrated into Indian coastal defence network which helps India keep a track of movements on their side. Reports indicate that Maldives will lease two islands to India for development and to establish observation posts.

IN has also strengthened its presence in Africa. It has established a listening post in Madagascar and has acquired berthing rights in Oman. It was requested to provide

sea cover to the African summit, recognition of its strength and role. The IN's anti-piracy patrolling and operations in the Gulf of Aden has been very successful and many African countries are now looking forward to India to play a greater role.

IN is being extensively used by the government as a tool in diplomacy. It has conducted exercises with many countries which have grown in size and complexity over time and IN ships have gone on port calls quite frequently from Asia, Middle East to Africa. It has exercised with major countries in the region US, UK, France, Japan and Singapore.

The MALABAR series of exercises with the US have grown in complexity exponentially and Japan and Singapore also joined in one edition which prompted China to issue a demarche to know the intention of the exercise. It signed an agreement in 2008 with Japanese coast guard for joint patrolling in the Asia-Pacific region.

The countries adjoining Malacca strait Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore have been reluctant at outside intervention in policing the channel but have agreed to Indian help in this regard. Recently, Indian Prime Minister has toured Japan and Vietnam as part of the "Look East policy" and has also engaged Indonesia.

It has signed strategic partnerships with them and is expanding the defence cooperation with them which has raised eyebrows in China. India has agreed to supply those spares for their Russian origin weaponry and also train their soldiers in its military establishments. All these moves are in the right direction and will fructify in the long term.

India and China are not going to war anytime soon and China definitely doesn't intend to fight India in its own backyard and the moves are more of pressure tactics and broader agenda of a long-term containment. So, India should be consistent in its efforts and move ahead with combined approach of naval acquisitions and partnering with other like-minded countries in the region.

Source(s): 30 December

<http://idrw.org/?p=2081>

## **US' Indian Ocean Folly**

James Holmes and Toshi Yoshihara

Generally speaking, elected leaders and their advisers craft policy goals and, in conjunction with senior military leaders, provide strategic direction for the armed forces. As military theorist Carl von Clausewitz put it, policy shouldn't be a 'tyrant,' but it still 'permeates' all but the more routine administrative elements of military affairs.

But what happens if political leaders fail to assert control of strategy?

Over the past decade, successive US presidential administrations have focused their energies on matters other than maritime strategy, something that often appeared remote from more immediate concerns like counterterrorism and conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Enjoying the strategic holiday that began when the Soviet Navy vacated the seas leaving the US Navy unchallenged in the world's oceans and seas, it seemed that US forces just didn't need to fight anymore for command of important waters.

As a result, strategic nautical documents are typically couched in generalities and platitudes. On the Indian Ocean, for example, the 2008 National Defense Strategy, a Bush-era treatise, said: 'We look to India to assume greater responsibility as a stakeholder in the international system, commensurate with its growing economic, military, and soft power.' Yet concrete details of what this actually entails are scant. The 2010 National Security Strategy is equally vague. Documents like these instead portray abstractions like 'proliferation,' 'piracy,' and 'anti-access'—not living, breathing antagonists with their own capabilities, resolve, and capacity to innovate—as the principal challenges.

The 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review, for example, prophesies that the US military will be 'increasingly challenged in securing and maintaining access to the global commons and must also be prepared for operations in unfamiliar conditions and environments.' It also promises to furnish 'solid direction on developing capabilities that counter the proliferation of anti-access and area-denial threats, which present an increased challenge to our maritime, air, space, and cyber forces.' Yet by refusing to name prospective adversaries or speculate about how such adversaries might attempt

to counteract US strategy, Washington has effectively withheld actionable strategic guidance from the armed forces.

In the resulting policy vacuum, those responsible for executing national policy—the US Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard—have taken to devising strategy largely free of close supervision from their political overseers. This effectively inverts the Clausewitzian principle of policy and strategy. In the triservice 2007 US Maritime Strategy A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower, the uniformed service chiefs announce that the sea services will shift their centre of gravity from the Atlantic and Pacific—the theatres where World War II and the Cold War unfolded—to the Pacific and Indian oceans.

The Maritime Strategy reaffirms that the US Navy will remain the two-ocean navy it has been since Congress approved the Two-Ocean Navy Act in 1940, in anticipation of a two-front war against Germany and Japan. But the second ocean is no longer the Atlantic—it's the Indian Ocean and the adjacent Persian Gulf.

No political authority seems to have ordained such a redeployment. But if policy defaults, can-do strategists might end up taking charge. The framers of the strategy vow to stage preponderant combat forces in the Western Pacific, the Indian Ocean and the Gulf for the foreseeable future, making the US Navy a squarely Asian navy. Whether the Obama administration is intellectually prepared to undertake a shift of such consequence—or even agrees that such a shift is warranted—is unclear. And parsing the language of the Maritime Strategy, it's also unclear whether the sea services are genuinely prepared to shed longstanding commitments to focus their energies on South and East Asia. US efforts at strategy-making obscure as much as they clarify.

In 1943, as war raged across the Pacific, columnist Walter Lippmann published *US Foreign Policy: Shield of the Republic*. This petite yet hard-hitting volume excoriated US presidents for assuming commitments of colossal scope in the Pacific following the Spanish-American War—notably annexing the Philippine Islands—without generating sufficient naval strength to defend them. (Theodore Roosevelt was an honourable exception to this rule.) They attempted to use a fleet designed to dominate the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico to uphold commitments straddling half the globe. For Lippmann, this amounted to 'monstrous imprudence.' Letting a chasm open

between policy and strategy, he maintained, sapped US policy in the Pacific of popular support while encouraging Japanese aggression and hastening the onset of war.

Is the United States, beset by apathy and economic malaise, again drifting toward an imprudent strategy—this time amid the vastness of the Indian Ocean? The evidence suggests so, although this time the intellectual drift is far from irreversible. At first glance, the Maritime Strategy appears to set clear geographic priorities, concentrating fleet operations in the Western Pacific, the Persian Gulf, and the Indian Ocean—in a word, in maritime Asia. The key passage:

‘Credible combat power will be continuously postured in the Western Pacific and the Arabian Gulf/Indian Ocean to protect our vital interests, assure our friends and allies of our continuing commitment to regional security, and deter and dissuade potential adversaries and peer competitors.’

But having issued a clear mandate to reposition forces to maritime Asia, the document instantly attaches a disclaimer, noting that ‘This combat power can be selectively and rapidly repositioned to meet contingencies that may arise elsewhere.’ Should some adversary attempt to disrupt or deny traffic through the maritime commons, moreover, the service chiefs reserve the right ‘to impose local sea control wherever necessary, ideally in concert with friends and allies, but by ourselves if we must.’

The commons—the waters outside the jurisdiction of any coastal state—spans the globe. To fulfil the Maritime Strategy’s directives, then, the Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard must act as a global force, able to defeat enemies wherever they may be found. To describe this as ambitious is something of an understatement.

But assume Washington exercises intellectual discipline, keeping its priorities in order rather than diffusing its efforts. The sea services must still revisit a perennial debate, namely where to station the fleet to best effect. When wrestling with complex matters, it’s always helpful to consult the greats of strategic theory. Clausewitz cautions against dispersing forces and effort too widely. In the effort to do everything, everywhere, the United States risks stretching its military so thin that it proves incapable of doing much of anything anywhere. The Prussian thinker also urges commanders to shun secondary theatres or operations unless the likely gains appear ‘exceptionally

rewarding,' and unless such a diversion won't risk too much in the main theatre or line of operations. In modern parlance, they should keep their eyes on the ball.

Such a focused attitude is worth cultivating. After all, even a global fleet has finite resources, and some theatres must therefore be delegated to regional powers or triaged altogether. Sea-power theorist Alfred Thayer Mahan weighs in with two related insights. Mahan supposedly counselled commanders, 'never divide the fleet!' This quotation is apocryphal, but he did highlight the perils of breaking the fleet down into standing contingents weaker than likely opponents. This would subject each lesser fleet to catastrophic defeat and the US Navy to piecemeal defeat. (It should be borne in mind, of course, the context in which he was writing was the pre-Panama Canal world, where the US Navy couldn't swiftly combine Atlantic and Pacific forces; warships had to circumnavigate South America).

Far better, maintained Mahan and kindred thinkers like Theodore Roosevelt, to keep the full battle fleet on one coast and accept the risk of attack on the other coast than to leave one half-strength fleet in the Atlantic and another in the Pacific. Both fleets would be inferior to potential adversaries. In his 1897 book *The Interest of America in Sea Power, Present and Future*, accordingly, Mahan pronounces it 'a broad formula' that any US fleet 'must be great enough to take the sea, and to fight, with reasonable chances of success, the largest force likely to be brought against it...'

Later, in his 1911 work *Naval Strategy*, Mahan devised three criteria for appraising the strategic value of possible naval bases, namely 'position, strength, and resources.' Position referred straightforwardly enough to a site's geographic position. The best strategic positions adjoined one or more important sea lines of communication. Strength was a site's natural defences, along with the ease with which civil engineers could augment these defences to ward off attack. Resources meant a naval station's ability to sustain itself through foodstuffs, fuel, and other supplies, either from the surrounding country or through efficient transport infrastructure such as railways.

So how would this apply now? Take a look at the map of Asia through this Mahanian lens. The principal hubs for forward-deployed US sea power in Asia are in the Persian Gulf to the west and scattered among bases in Japan and Guam to the east. The Gulf island of Bahrain is home to a command centre, while US forces routinely call

at Dubai for logistical support. Forces are, as can be seen, concentrated at the opposite extremes of the vast Asian landmass. Geographic distance slows efforts to concentrate the fleet for action in either theatre. And along the way, forces bound eastward or westward depend on free passage through such narrow seas as the Strait of Hormuz, the Strait of Malacca, and the Lombok and Sunda straits. The prospect of seeing these chokepoints contested or closed altogether ought to give US naval planners pause.

All this means that US maritime strategy may be hurtling back to the future. As in the days of Mahan, Roosevelt, and Lippmann, the naval establishment may be placing the fleet at risk by partitioning it between two remote theatres, impeding fleet detachments' capacity for mutual support. Letting go of past commitments while refocusing tightly on the twin theatres designated in the Maritime Strategy may be the only way to achieve US strategic aims in a swiftly changing Asia.

Source(s): January 04, 2011

<http://the-diplomat.com/2011/01/04/us-navy%e2%80%99s-indian-ocean-folly/5/>



### **U.S. vows to fight piracy, curb small arms supply to Africa**

The U.S. government has pledged its commitment to fight piracy and the flow of small arms and weapons to Africa. The fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons is one of the key priorities on the peace and security agenda of West African states. In a teleconference interview monitored Abuja on counter-piracy efforts off the coast of Africa on Thursday, the U.S. Coordinator for Counter-Piracy and Maritime Security, Donna Hopkins, said the fight against arms and weapons was part of U.S.'s strategy to promote stability and improve security in Africa.

Hopkins, who spoke against the backdrop of the activities of pirates on the coast of Somalia, said that smuggling of arms into that country had empowered the pirates to perpetrate crime and illegality.

She said their activities had made the water unsafe, thereby endangering the economy, trade and direct foreign investment to Somalia and its neighbours. Hopkins observed that the political instability in Somalia was aiding the activities of the pirates,

noting that the U.S. government was working with the African Union to enthrone a transitional government in that country. She listed the areas of collaboration to include ports management, regional capacity building and partnership with shipping companies on protection against piracy among others.

Source(s): 17 December

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2010-12/17/c\\_13653820.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2010-12/17/c_13653820.htm)

### **China to establish permanent Senkaku patrols**

China will permanently deploy large fisheries patrol vessels in waters near the disputed Senkaku Islands, a senior Chinese official told The Asahi Shimbun.

An official with the Ministry of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries took the unusual step of granting an interview concerning the Senkaku issue to a foreign media outlet on Saturday, saying that China was planning measures to challenge Japan's control of the islands off Okinawa Prefecture. The official said fisheries patrol vessels of more than 1,000 tons would maintain continuous patrols near the islands, which are known as the Diaoyu Islands in China.

In late November, China deployed the new 2,580-ton Yuzheng 310, one of the few large fisheries patrol vessels in its fleet, to the islands.

The official called the decision to deploy the ship, which was only completed in September, in waters also patrolled by the Japan Coast Guard an "unprecedented and epoch-making step."

Source(s): 19 December

<http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201012190107.html>

### **Portugal takes delivery of second Class 209 PN sub**

Portugal took delivery of the second of two Class 209PN diesel submarines, the NRP Arpao, handed over at the Baltic coast shipyards of Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft.

In August, the navy took delivery of the Arpao's sister ship Tridente. The handover to the Portuguese navy and the ship's commissioning at HDW in Kiel, Germany, completes the \$1 billion contract signed with the German submarine

consortium in 2004 for the two vessels. But controversy surrounding the contract is far from over.

The sale is under investigation in Germany and Portugal for alleged bribes that were made in exchange for contracts won by GSC, which includes the naval shipbuilders HDW and Ferrostaal.

The Portuguese inquiry is focusing on seven Portuguese nationals and three Germans for allegedly submitting false bills in connection with the contract.

The ships were built by ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems through GSC. The consortium comprises its subsidiary HDW, industrial power and project management Ferrostaal AG, based in Essen, Germany, and shipyard Nordseewerke, a subsidiary of Schaaf Industrie AG, based on the River Em near Germany's Baltic coast.

Nordseewerke builds naval, freight and container ships as well as cruise liners, including the Pacific Princess, which was the film location for the U.S. television series "The Love Boat."

Portugal's class 209 vessels have many upgrades found on the improved class 214 submarine. The 223-foot vessels displace 1,840 tons, accommodate a crew of 32 and have air-independent, fuel-cell propulsion systems.

Source(s): 29 December

[http://www.upi.com/Business\\_News/Security-Industry/2010/12/29/Portugal-takes-delivery-of-second-sub/UPI-14931293622740/#ixzz1AhaP1ziP](http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Security-Industry/2010/12/29/Portugal-takes-delivery-of-second-sub/UPI-14931293622740/#ixzz1AhaP1ziP)

### **Somali pirates attack further South**

Just under a month after attaining a new record for easternmost attacks, the Somali pirates have now attacked international shipping farther south than ever before. According to recent Live Piracy Reports from the International Maritime Bureau, a crude tanker was attacked on Christmas Eve at 18:51.2S – 039:53.5E, and a bulk carrier was attacked on Christmas Day at 19:04.8S – 038:42.0E. These two positions are approximately half way down the Mozambique Channel, significantly further south than the previous southernmost attack, which occurred last May just north of the Channel at 12:50S – 046:52E. Fortunately, both ships in the most recent attacks were able to evade capture.

Like the “march” eastward, the southward move shouldn’t be seen as the manifestation of some great strategy. It’s simply continuing the hunt in areas where warships on counter-piracy patrols are less likely and merchant ships at low levels of alertness and preparation are more likely.

Source(s): 30 December

<http://www.maritimeprofessional.com/Blogs/Maritime-Transportation-Security-News-and-Views/December-2010/Somali-Pirates-Attack-Farther-South.aspx>

### **Bangladesh Navy to be developed as 3-dimensional force: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled her government's plan to add a submarine and two maritime helicopters to the Bangladesh Navy in near future to build it as a three-dimensional and effective force.

"The matter of inclusion of the submarine in the Navy in near future is in our active consideration, while the helicopters would be added to the Navy by the middle of 2011," she said.

The Prime Minister was addressing the winter passing out parade of Midshipmen-2009/A batch at Bangladesh Naval Academy at Patenga in Chittagong.

About problems with the neighbouring countries over maritime boundaries, the Prime Minister said efforts are underway to solve the problems. "We do not want any war or conflict in this region. We believe in peace," she said.

Source(s): 30 December

[http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/more.php?news\\_id=121409&date=2010-12-30](http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/more.php?news_id=121409&date=2010-12-30)

### **Russia announces late December purchase of two Mistral-class vessels**

The Russian Defence Ministry has decided to order two Mistral-class amphibious assault ships. The purchase of these French-built ships by Russia has been negotiated since Russia expressed interest in August 2009.

To meet the requirements of Russian law, and answering protests from the United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC), Russia had to open a formal tender for the procurement of amphibious assault ships.

However, no political side wanted to leave the impression that this would compromise the “exclusive negotiations.” According to a Kommersant report last year, the USC offered to build the ship for \$500 to \$700 million, which is higher than France’s price of some \$430 to \$580 million.

The French offer was submitted by the French naval defence company DCNS, which has already built and launched three Mistral-class vessels. The final agreement for the construction of the ships now brings together DCNS and its temporary rival USC, forming a consortium which also includes the French STX shipyard.

The Mistral-class amphibious ships (Bâtiment de Projection et de Commandement, BPC) can rapidly deploy a large number of troops, vehicles and helicopters to any coastal area in the world. Thereby, it is a powerful asset for operations abroad. In numbers, it can transport 16 helicopters, four landing barges, up to 70 vehicles including 13 main battle tanks, and 450 soldiers. In parallel, the 200 metre-long vessel can accommodate an entire operational headquarters for joint operations, as well as a medical centre. Russia plans to deploy the ships with its Northern and Pacific fleets.

Source(s): 30 December

<http://www.newsbcm.com/doc/564>



### **US to Construct 20 littoral warships by 2015**

The United States Navy has offered Perth-based shipbuilding company Austal a contract to build up to 10 warships, each worth almost \$450 million. Last week US president Barack Obama gave the go ahead for Austal to share the shipbuilding contract with American company Lockheed Mead, which will build another 10 vessels.

Austal will build a 127-metre multi-purpose vessel called the littoral combat ship. The company's chief operating officer, Andrew Bellamy, says the aluminium trimaran has been developed for action close to shore where larger ships cannot operate effectively.

"It was developed, effectively it was invented, in Western Australia by guys in our design and R&D groups, and that technology, to have that adopted by the US Navy, is the biggest tick in the box you could ever get and something we're really proud of," he said. Mr Bellamy says the ship can be equipped for multiple applications.

"It's got a very large hangar space and in that hangar space there's a place where you put mission modules so that you basically install a module specific for the task the ship is undertaking at the time, which could be minesweeping, humanitarian relief, anti-submarine warfare," he said.

"It's a customisable product that allows the navy basically to be able to do two or three jobs with one ship instead of two or three specialist ships." The ships will be built at Austal's Alabama shipyard, with construction of the first vessel expected to start in early 2012.

Source(s): 30 December

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/12/30/3103886.htm?section=justin>



### **India to improve rail-road links to Bangladesh**

India will extend and improve its road and rail connectivity with Bangladesh to enhance trade and also to get access transit through that country to bridge distances between the mountainous north-eastern states and rest of India.

As per the agreement signed during Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to New Delhi early 2010, India will construct a bridge over Feni river in southern Tripura to get access to Chittagong port for carrying goods and heavy machineries for the land-locked region.

The Chittagong international sea port is about 75 km from Tripura's southern border town Sabroom. The proposed bridge, to be built at a cost of over Rs.13 crore, would connect Sabroom and Bangladesh's Ramgarh and would not only be the trading lifeline for the whole of northeast India, but also help trade from the south-east Asian countries.

'The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has started work to extend its railway network up to the Sabroom in southern Tripura, 135 km from Agartala, and Akhaurah in western Tripura, just 6 km from the Agartala railway station,' NFR general manager Keshav Chandra told reporters.

Dhaka and New Delhi signed a bilateral treaty last week to facilitate the transport of heavy Indian equipment, including turbines for a power plant being set up by the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) in South Tripura's Palatana.

Source(s): 6 December

<http://www.sinlung.com/2010/12/india-to-improve-rail-road-links-to.html>

### **Sri Lankan Navy strengthens maritime relationship with foreign navies: Navy Commander**

The Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the Sri Lankan Navy enabled the country to strengthen its maritime relationship with the foreign navies which participated in the celebrations and brought foreign exchange of about US \$ 7 million, Navy Commander Vice Admiral Thisara Samarasinghe said. The visiting foreign sailors travelled around Colombo and some even went to Kandy and brought different kind of goods and items.

"Discussion was also held with the Navy Commanders and Representatives from 22 navies about the possibility in the near future to train their sailors in the island and also to share the experience we gained by defeating the terrorists", he said. Six ships representing the navies of Russia, China, India, Bangladesh and Iran called on the port of Colombo to mark the 60th anniversary of the Sri Lanka Navy, Navy Commander Vice Admiral Thisara Samarasinghe said. A special conference was held on December 8 with the foreign Naval Commanders and officers on maritime security.

They were also taken to China Bay for an inspection tour. "Senior Navy Officers visited families of war heroes who made their supreme sacrifice and also disabled war heroes with a special gift package was provided to them to mark the diamond jubilee", he said.

Source(s): 25 December

<http://print.dailymirror.lk/news/news/30971.html>

### **Pakistan, Oman vow to boost economic, defence relations**

Pakistan and Oman agreed to pursue a more robust relationship with closer collaboration in defence, labour and manpower and between their private sectors. Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani in an audience with Sultan Qaboos Bin Sa`id at his palace, discussed the regional situation and the measures taken by Pakistan to address its economic and security challenges in the wake of terrorism and extremism.

The two leaders held an extensive discussion on bilateral issues and ways to explore new avenues of cooperation, during their meeting at the Bait al Baraka Palace, overlooking the Gulf of Oman. They agreed on early implementation of the decisions taken by their joint ministerial commission in March this year and directed their foreign ministers to meet at an early date for their implementation through institutionalised mechanism.

Gilani and Qaboos discussed a whole gamut of regional issues regarding Afghanistan, India, Iran, Iraq and Palestine. There was consensus on both sides for Iran's right for peaceful nuclear energy programme and that sanctions were not a solution.

On the Afghanistan issue, Qaboos recognised the role of Pakistan in the war-ravaged country's reconstruction and rehabilitation. Gilani said Pakistan supported Afghanistan's peace and stability. Appreciating Pakistan's efforts against terrorism, Qaboos said it was important that the states of the region unite and make necessary arrangements for regional security and stability through dialogue and mutual trust.

On Pakistan's relations with India, the sultan said their fraternal ties were in the region's interest and endorsed Prime Minister Gilani's call for composite dialogue for the resolution of all outstanding issues.

Source(s): 28 December

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\12\28\story\\_28-12-2010\\_pg7\\_1](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\12\28\story_28-12-2010_pg7_1)