



Government of India
Ministry of Defence



RESOURCE-GEOPOLITICS AND SECURITY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC



CONFERENCE BOOKLET

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADC	Aide de Camp
AVSM	Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (Medal for distinguished service of a very high order for the Indian Armed Forces)
BOBP-IGO	Bay of Bengal Programme - Inter-Governmental Organisation, Chennai
BSoG-VUB	Brussels School of Governance
CBE	Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire
CSC	Australian Conspicuous Service Cross
CSIS	Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia
DAV	Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam
DG	Director General
DKI-APCSS	Daniel K Inouye Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies
DMS	Distinguished Military Service (One of the Logohu Awards [National Awards] of Papua New Guinea)
Isr Navy	Israeli Navy
ITN	Italian Navy
IFS	Indian Foreign Service
MPS	Institute for Maritime Policy and Strategy, Haifa
MQM	Master of Quality Management
IDSS	Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, RSiS, Singapore
IN	Indian Navy
IRS	Indian Revenue Service
NESA	Near East and South Asia Centre, Washington DC

ABBREVIATIONS

NHCC	Naval Higher Command Course
NM	Nausena Medal (Indian Navy medal, awarded for gallantry or devotion to duty)
NMF	National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi
NWC	Naval War College, Goa
OAM	Order of Australia Medal
PVSM	Param Vishisht Seva Medal (Medal for distinguished service of an exceptionally high order for the Indian Armed Forces)
RAN	Royal Australian Navy
RSiS	S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore
RWP	Rana Wickrama Padakkama (Combat Gallantry Medal)
SLN	Sri Lanka Navy
SM	Sena Medal (Army medal, awarded for gallantry or devotion to duty)
USP	Uttama Seva Padakkama (Eminent Service Medal)
USN	United States Navy
UYSM	Uttam Yudh Seva Medal (Medal for Distinguished Service in War)
VSM	Vishisht Seva Medal (Medal for distinguished service)
VSV	Vishista Seva Vibhushanaya (Distinguished Service Decoration)
YSM	Yudh Seva Medal (War Service Medal)

MESSAGE FROM THE CNS



Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi

PVSM, AVSM, NM

Chief of the Naval Staff

Indian Navy



Over the course of the six years since its launch in 2018, the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) has become emblematic of the Indian Navy's outreach at the strategic level, where it seeks to engage the world's sharpest maritime minds to ascertain how best we might, in seamless cooperation, identify and seize the opportunities that are the 'other face' of the many challenges that confront us in the maritime domain. It is this ability to concentrate upon the maritime opportunities rather than being overwhelmed by the maritime challenges of the Indo-Pacific, which makes the IPRD quite so special and relevant a forum. The mature discourse progressed within each edition of the IPRD enables us to perceive the geopolitical glass of the Indo-Pacific as being half full rather than half empty. It accordingly enables, guides, buttresses, and enhances wise, inclusive, and sagacious maritime policymaking, even in areas such as "resource-geopolitics" that might otherwise be viewed as a classic manifestation of contentious and antagonistic competition.

India's maritime policy, encapsulated in the acronym SAGAR — Security and Growth for All in the Region — underscores the importance of holistic maritime security in promoting mutually reinforcing economic and societal growth. As is the case with several other major powers, India's grand strategy, her military strategy, and her maritime strategy, too, are all increasingly being contextualised to the Indo-Pacific. For India, the Indo-Pacific remains a "strategic geography" in which India formulates and executes a large range of inclusive, pluralistic, cooperative, and collaborative regionally beneficial maritime strategies. Providing "first-order specificity" to this maritime policy of SAGAR is the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), with its seven deeply interconnected lines-of-thrust or pillars. In the ongoing global quest for a sustainable "blue" economic model that acknowledges the world ocean as the

fundamental source of all life upon Earth, the criticality of marine resources has grown exponentially. Small wonder then, that two of the seven pillars of the IPOI focus upon marine resources and their equitable sharing. Importantly, the marine resources that drive contemporary geopolitics are to be found not only with the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and Legal Continental Shelf (LCS) of specific Indo-Pacific nation-states but also — and far more abundantly — in the global maritime common. Hence, large and regionally effective navies, in both of which categories the Indian Navy aspires to belong, must, of necessity, turn their gaze ever outwards, pushing the horizons of their awareness and knowledge to encompass new and increasingly ambitious cooperative and collaborative endeavour. It is, therefore, entirely fitting that the Indian Navy has been utilising successive editions of the IPRD to provide “second-order specificity” to the IPOI. Thus, while IPRD-2022 drew regional and global attention to the need to emphasise the adjective “holistic” in understanding the new dynamics of maritime security, the 2023 edition launched into policy-relevant cooperative and collaborative options emanating from the trade and connectivity ‘spoke’ of the intricately connected web that is the IPOI. The 2024 edition of the IPRD continues this sequential and incremental process and seeks to focus our attention upon the ‘holistic security’ implications of resource-geopolitics across the Indo-Pacific. As always, in these strategic-level endeavours, the Indian Navy relies heavily upon the global reputation for maritime excellence that has been assiduously acquired by its knowledge partner, the National Maritime Foundation (NMF). If the intellectual brilliance of this year’s assemblage of speakers — many of whom are richly experienced maritime practitioners in their own right — is any indicator, it is clear that the NMF has once again done all of us proud. I look forward with keen interest to the deliberations of IPRD-2024 and wish the conference and all its participants, including the very distinguished members of the impressive audience, fair winds as they collectively navigate us through the often-turbulent waters of resource-geopolitics and security.

Sam no Varunah! Jai Hind!!



(Dinesh K Tripathi)
Admiral
Chief of the Naval Staff

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Admiral Karambir Singh

PVSM, AVSM, VSM, IN (Retd)

Chairman, National Maritime Foundation

Former Chief of the Naval Staff

Indian Navy



As we gather for the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2024, it is my proud privilege to welcome you to this vital forum. Organized by the National Maritime Foundation, this dialogue has become a beacon for maritime discourse, uniting a diverse array of experts, practitioners, and thought leaders to address the most pressing challenges in the Indo-Pacific. This year's theme, "Resource-Geopolitics and Security in the Indo-Pacific", is particularly relevant as it addresses issues that are increasingly shaping the strategic environment of our region.

The Indo-Pacific stands at a critical juncture where the interplay between resource scarcity and geopolitical ambitions is driving significant changes. As we examine the landscape of resource geopolitics, it is evident that we are not merely dealing with traditional power rivalries, but also grappling with the broader implications of these contests for the security and stability of our maritime domain. The competition for marine resources is no longer a distant concern; it is happening in our waters, impacting the livelihoods of millions, and shifting the balance of power.

A key dimension of this competition is the behaviour of major powers, particularly in their approach to resource acquisition. China's disregard for the established Rules-Based Order, especially the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982, exemplifies this challenge. By asserting expansive territorial claims and pursuing aggressive resource extraction in areas like the South China Sea, China threatens not only regional stability but also the very principles that underpin international maritime governance. Also of concern are China's extensive investments through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), in the maritime infrastructure of developing nations, which has enabled it to establish a disruptive presence in critical maritime spaces and exert control over the strategic assets of these nations.

This approach has far-reaching consequences, not just for the countries directly involved, but for the entire Indo-Pacific region. The Indo-Pacific is not insulated from broader global conflicts and crises, which further complicate the region's security dynamics. Ongoing conflicts in the Red Sea and Ukraine, for instance, have both direct and indirect impacts on marine resource geopolitics. The Red Sea, a critical maritime corridor, has been affected by regional conflicts that jeopardize energy security and disrupt global trade routes. Similarly, the conflict in Ukraine has underscored the fragility of global supply chains, particularly in critical resources such as energy and food. These conflicts highlight the interconnectedness of global geopolitics and the necessity for a comprehensive approach to maritime security that considers the broader global context.

The extreme fragility of the Pacific Island Nations and the small island nations of the Indian Ocean is another critical concern in the context of resource competition between great powers. These nations, often located in resource-rich yet geopolitically sensitive areas, are particularly vulnerable to the pressures of great power competition. The impacts of climate change, coupled with competition for marine resources, pose existential threats to these nations in terms of both, environmental sustainability and security. The security implications of resource competition in these regions are profound, with the potential to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and create new sources of instability.

Given these challenges, the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2024 provides a crucial platform for addressing the complex interplay between resource geopolitics and maritime security. Our discussions this year will focus on identifying the trends, drivers, and impacts of resource competition while also exploring opportunities for cooperation and collaboration in managing these challenges. It is essential that we work together to ensure that the benefits of the Indo-Pacific's resources are shared equitably and sustainably, in a manner that promotes peace and stability across the region. As we engage in these deliberations, I encourage all participants to bring their expertise and insights to the table. The outcomes of our discussions will not only contribute to the formulation of effective policies but also play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the Indo-Pacific. Together, we can work towards building a secure, stable, and prosperous region that is resilient to the challenges of the 21st century.

Let us seize this opportunity to make meaningful contributions to the security and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific.

Jai Hind.

THE INDO-PACIFIC REGIONAL DIALOGUE

The ‘Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue’ is a generic name given to a series of annual conferences organised at the apex-level of the Indian Navy and conducted in seamless coordination with the Navy’s knowledge partner, the National Maritime Foundation (NMF). Both these organisations fully recognise that the contemporary maritime-security dynamic of the vast and predominantly oceanic expanse known as the ‘Indo-Pacific’ is currently dominated by the strategic moves and counter-moves of various regional and extra-regional actors.

Against the kaleidoscopic backdrop of these moves and countermoves, India seeks to provide wise and sagacious options to stitch the regional fabric together through cooperation, collaboration, and comity, by way of the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), which provides “first-order-specificity” to India’s maritime policy that is encapsulated in the acronym SAGAR. Accordingly, since 2022, successive editions of the IPRD are being utilised as an effective platform to sensitise the global strategic community of the extreme relevance of the deeply interconnected web of seven spokes (or pillar or lines-of-thrust) that the IPOI is, and to sequentially flesh out each of its constituent lines-of-thrust to provide “second-order-specificity” to SAGAR.

The term ‘Indo-Pacific’ has, in recent years, moved quite decisively from its origins within the discipline of ‘biogeography’ into ‘geopolitics’, where it has acquired very considerable traction. Insofar as India is concerned, the contemporary spatial extent of the ‘Indo-Pacific’ is a predominantly maritime expanse, which incorporates all littoral and islandic nation-states of West Asia and Africa; goes right across the Indian Ocean in its entirety, envelops Southeast Asia (ASEAN), stretches into the Western Pacific to include the littorals of East and Northeast Asia (including North and South Korea, Japan and China), and even reaches across Australia and New Zealand into the sprawl of Southern Pacific island nations.

The widespread usage of this term signifies a growing recognition that economic and security connectivities between the Indian and the Pacific oceans are so extensive and intensive that they can be sensibly considered only as a single strategic system. This contemporary recognition restores the historical ‘strategic-unity’ of this region, as typified by the extensive and strong maritime-trade links and other forms of maritime intercourse that existed for millennia between its kingdoms and other geopolitical entities.

As a resurgent maritime nation, India, likewise, seeks to emphasise its great civilizational and cultural heritage and offers the region an inclusive model of constructive engagement. Three levels of international outreach define the Indian Navy's conceptual positioning as the principal maritime manifestation of the sovereign power of the Republic.

- Successive editions of the IPRD reflect the Indian Navy's international outreach and engagement at the strategic level.
- The "Goa Maritime Conclave" (GMC), on the other hand, is emblematic of the Indian Navy's international outreach at the cusp of the strategic and operational levels. As such, it principally addresses serving naval personnel at middle and senior levels, up to and including of Chiefs-of-Navy. It supplements the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), since the latter remains a rotational sub-regional construct.
- The "MILAN" series of multilateral exercises is reflective of Indian Naval international endeavours at the cusp between the operational and tactical levels.

What are the central nodes that might define the security dynamics of the Indo-Pacific from India's perspective and the perspectives of its maritime neighbours? What are the more significant of maritime challenges in this region and what ought to be India's strategies for risk-mitigation? Perhaps even more importantly, since every challenge is simultaneously an opportunity, what are the opportunities that present themselves before India's maritime policy-shapers, policy-makers, and, the practitioners of these policies? How should other regional players react to the geopolitical game-moves by India and other major players within the Indo-Pacific? These are some of the questions that successive editions of the IPRD, all of which, thus far, have been held at the resplendent 'Manekshaw Centre' in New Delhi, have sought to explore.

IPRD 2018

The first edition of the IPRD was held on 27 and 28 February 2018 at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. It sought to focus upon four basic themes of great relevance to regional geopolitics: (1) maritime merchandise trade; (2) regional connectivity-models such as the BRI, the International North-South Transit Corridor (NSTC), the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC), Project MAUSAM, and the SAGAR concept; (3) pan-regional changes and challenges to the overall maritime environment of the Indo-Pacific; and (4) the role of Indian industry within both, the private and the public sectors, in enhancing holistic maritime-security.

The inaugural IPRD was graced by Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, and Shri Nitin J Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister for Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, who delivered the 'Commemorative Address' and the 'Keynote Address' respectively. Additionally, eight international speakers from six friendly foreign countries participated in this event.

IPRD 2019

The next edition, 'IPRD-2019' (05 and 06 March 2019), explored five interconnected themes, each of which were of great contemporary relevance. These were: (1) Achieving Cohesion of the Indo-Pacific through Maritime Connectivity: Practical Solutions; (2) Attaining and Maintaining a Free and Open Indo-Pacific: Way-ahead measures; (3) A Regional Approach to the Blue Economy; (4) Maritime-Industry 4.0: Skill-Development and Employment-generation Opportunities; and, (5) Achieving Complementarity between SAGAR and SAGARMALA: Regional Opportunities. The 'Commemorative Address' was delivered by the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri. The international representation among the speakers at the event was 13.

IPRD 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a cancellation of IPRD-2020 which was to be held on 17 and 18 March 2020, and had envisaged discussions and analyses of six themes insofar as they impacted the Indo-Pacific. These ranged from the convergences, divergences, expectations and apprehensions of a maritime-India within the Indo-Pacific to the Impact of Climate Change upon Maritime Security, and Energy-Insecurity to Lawfare.

IPRD 2021

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued unabated throughout 2021, the IPRD-2021 was conducted in an entirely online format using the Cisco-Webex platform. The overarching theme for IPRD-2021, held from 27-29 October 2021, was "Evolution in Maritime Strategy during the 21st Century: Imperatives, Challenges, and Way-Ahead." This edition of the conference explored the evolution and contemporary execution of multiple regional maritime strategies along eight major themes as follows:

- Evolving Maritime-Strategies within the Indo-Pacific: Convergences, Divergences, Expectations and Apprehensions.
- Adaptive Strategies to Address the Impact of Climate Change upon Maritime Security.
- Port-led Regional Maritime Connectivity and Development Strategies.
- Cooperative Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) Strategies within the Indo-Pacific.

- Impact of the Increasing Recourse to Lawfare upon a Rules-based Indo-Pacific Maritime Order.
- Strategies to Promote Regional Public-Private Maritime Partnerships.
- Strategies to Address the Manned-Unmanned Conundrum at Sea.
- Energy-Insecurity and Mitigating Strategies.

IPRD 2022

After a two-year interregnum imposed by the COVID-19 – the 2020 iteration of the IPRD had to be cancelled, and the 2021 edition was conducted online – the 2022 edition of the IPRD was conducted once again in the physical format on 23, 24, and 25 of November 2022. This edition witnessed a remarkable upscaling of the event – the duration was increased from two to three days – and saw an enhanced international representation of the speakers (23 speakers from 19 countries).

The IPRD-2022 was centred upon the IPOI and its operationalisation, with particular but not exclusive focus on the pillar of ‘Maritime Security’ (or more accurately, ‘holistic’ maritime security). Through six professional sessions spread over the three-day period, the IPRD-22 explored how the areas of maritime cooperation envisaged in the IPOI could be optimally and inclusively operationalised. The ‘Commemorative Address’ at IPRD-2022 was delivered by Shri Rajnath Singh, the Hon’ble Raksha Mantri. In addition, Shri Bhupendra Yadav, the Hon’ble Minister for Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, and Shri Ajay Bhatt, the Hon’ble Raksha Rajya Mantri delivered ‘Special Addresses’ at the event.

IPRD 2023

The next edition, IPRD-2023, was focused upon the central theme of “Geopolitical Impacts Upon Indo-Pacific Maritime Trade and Connectivity”. The three-day event, conducted between 15 and 17 November 2023, was conducted in six professional sessions that aimed at offering an in-depth perspective on various facets of trade, connectivity, and maritime transport. The six sessions were: (1) Nodes of Maritime Connectivity, (2) Maritime Connectivity Initiatives across the Indo-Pacific, (3) Maritime Connectivity through Shipping and Trade (Part 1), (4) Maritime Connectivity through Shipping and Trade (Part 2), (5) Private Industry in the Safety and Security of Indo-Pacific Maritime Trade and Shipping, and, (6) Maintaining a Rules-based, Safe and Secure Indo-Pacific.

The Keynote Address was delivered by Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, the Hon’ble Vice President of India, while Special Addresses were delivered by Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, the Hon’ble Finance Minister, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, the Hon’ble Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, and Smt Meenakshi Lekhi, the Hon’ble Minister of State, MEA. In addition, 23 international speakers from 16 countries participated in IPRD 2023.

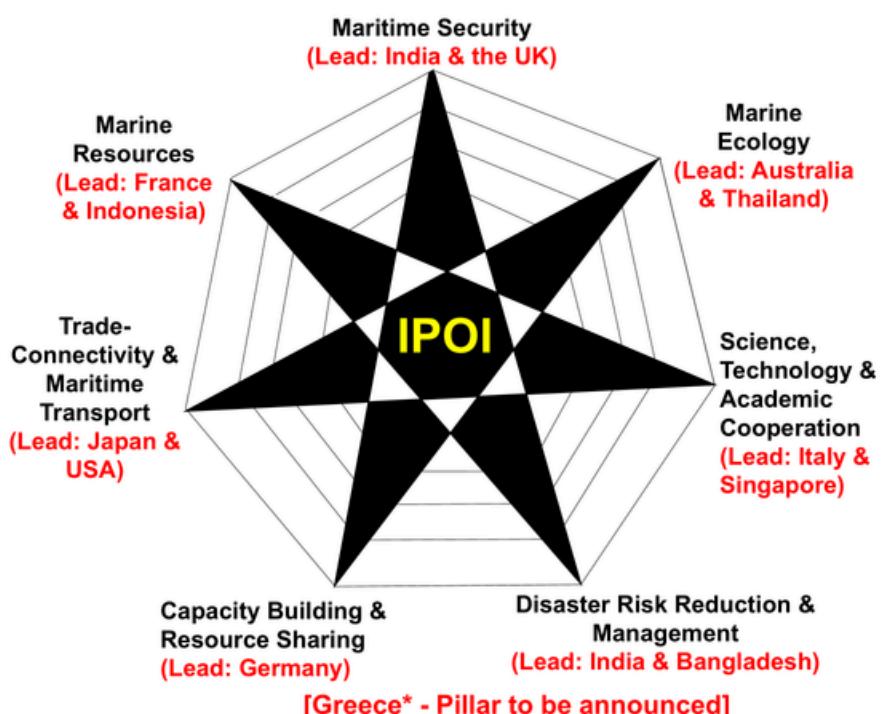
As the Indian Navy hosts a yet another effervescent and deeply impactful conclave of professionals, subject-matter experts, policy-makers, academia, scholars and eminent citizens, not only from India but from across the Indo-Pacific, it is evident that this annual conference has, in a relatively short span, demonstrably emerged as a signature event in the regional maritime calendar. It is also amply clear that events such as the IPRD play a crucial part in weaving the fabric of regional maritime cooperation.

CONCEPT NOTE

RESOURCE GEOPOLITICS AND SECURITY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

SAGR. Stretching from the coast of Africa to that of the Americas and from the southern coastline of Asia to that of Antarctica, the Indo-Pacific is a predominantly maritime space even though it does, of course, incorporate an important continental dimension as well. For India, the Indo-Pacific is not, in and of itself, a strategy. It is, instead, a strategic geography within which New Delhi formulates and executes a number of diverse strategies, all designed to promote regional economic and societal security and growth, thereby meaningfully contributing to peace, prosperity, and stability. Indeed, holistic maritime security and mutually reinforcing economic and societal growth throughout the Indo-Pacific is India's desired end-state. Consequently, India's maritime policy is encapsulated in the acronym SAGR, which expands to "Security And Growth for All in the Region" and is also the Hindi word for 'ocean'.

Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI). Providing first-order-specificity to SAGR is the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), which was launched by India's Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, on 04 November 2019 at the 14th East Asia Summit in Bangkok. The IPOI comprises seven maritime lines-of-thrust and is, perhaps, best thought of as an intricate 'web' of seven deeply interconnected 'spokes', as the following conceptual-schematic depicts



Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD). Fleshing-out the IPOI by providing second- and third-order-specificity is the aim of successive editions of the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD). The IPRD is the Indian Navy's annual, international, apex-level conference, and is the principal manifestation of the Navy's outreach at the strategic level. As was enunciated by India's honourable Finance Minister at the 2023 edition of this mega event, "the IPRD has, indeed, gained considerable traction and is fast establishing itself as the maritime supplement of the Raisina Dialogue". Each successive edition of the IPRD is planned to sequentially focus upon the pillars/spokes of the IPOI web, one by one.

IPRD-2022. The 2022 edition of this conference (IPRD-2022) sought to familiarise the region's strategic community with the IPOI (in its entirety) and sensitise it to the enormous potential of this initiative. While accepting the ubiquitous impact of regional geopolitics upon the IPOI, IPRD-2022 was successful in identifying a number of maritime best-practices and several way-ahead solutions that could be adopted regionwide.

IPRD-2023. An important pillar of the IPOI is "Trade, Connectivity, and Maritime Transport". With its overarching theme being Geopolitical Impacts upon Indo-Pacific Maritime Trade and Connectivity, IPRD-2023 successfully injected a sense of realism in exploring the multiple dimensions of this pillar and identified regional policy-options and practices that could be proliferated across large swaths of the region.

IPRD-2024. In focusing upon Resource-Geopolitics and Security in the Indo-Pacific, the 2024 edition of the IPRD (IPRD-2024) will explore and elaborate upon the several dimensions of another vital pillar of the IPOI web, namely, "Marine Resources". It will concentrate upon those marine resources that are driving contemporary geopolitics and are likely to do so in the foreseeable future. There are several examples of such resources. One concerns the regional food-insecurity resulting from the dwindling of fish-stocks (partly due to climate change) and a sharp increase in illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, especially in oceanic areas beyond national jurisdiction. This challenge needs an urgent common response, especially when juxtaposed against burgeoning populations in the Indo-Pacific. Another is the geopolitical race for cobalt, lithium, nickel, and other hard-to-find minerals, as also rare earth elements (REE) such as tellurium and neodymium that are needed for the millions of batteries, solar panels, wind turbines, and other such renewable-energy devices that will be required if we are to successfully transition from fossil-fuels to renewable sources of electricity and other forms of energy. The demand for copper and steel is likewise expected to skyrocket.

There are several decarbonisation pathways via which the global economy can limit warming to 1.5° C and there are corresponding technology mixes involving different combinations of raw materials but all of them will involve fundamental shifts in the demand for different minerals. Solar photovoltaic plants, wind farms, and electric vehicles all require more minerals to build them than their fossil-fuel-based counterparts. These will create new sources of value while reducing others, thereby driving geopolitics within the Indo-Pacific. **IPRD-2024 will endeavour to identify these mega trends and posit policy-options that could be pursued to advantage.**

It is, of course, insufficient to focus solely upon geopolitics without reference to security. In the maritime context, the relation between geopolitics and 'holistic maritime security' cannot be overemphasised, the latter term implying an all-encompassing state of affairs resulting in the freedom from threats emanating at-, from-, or through- the sea. The ongoing competition, and occasional confrontations, for exploration and exploitation of living and non-living resources of the oceans are illustrative of the security dimension of resource-geopolitics. The IPRD 2024, consequently, will also endeavour to flesh out the Marine Resources spoke/pillar of the IPOI and explore its linkages-to and connectivities-with the Maritime Security spoke/pillar.

IPRD-2024 will also explore whether and how cooperation, collaboration, and comity might offer alternative pathways within resource-geopolitics. As things stand, competition, confrontation, and conflict over resources, are the defining geopolitical features of our age. The Indo-Pacific is no stranger to this geopolitical roil and is, even today, experiencing the effects of geopolitical turbulence. This turbulence could emanate from relatively distant areas in and around the Black Sea and Baltic Sea, or far more proximate ones in the vicinity of the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea, as also the East China Sea, the South China Sea, and the Philippine Sea. Indeed, manifestations of resource-geopolitics extend all the way down to the once idyllic island States of the South Pacific.

Since no meaningful solution pathway can be determined unless the contours of the problem are well understood, the deliberations of IPRD-2024 will seek — in the first instance — to sensitise the regional strategic community to the spatial and temporal dimensions and the various manifestations of the problems caused by resource-geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific. This will allow the eminent speakers and members of the audience alike to identify and advocate alternatives, even while acknowledging that the adoption of such alternatives is unlikely to be without its own challenges. For instance, the UN, and customary international law, have long recognised the world ocean (along with the atmosphere, Antarctica, and outer space) as a global common to be guided by the principle of the common heritage of humankind.

And yet, some geopolitical actors, a few of which are to be found within the Indo-Pacific as well, are challenging the very foundations of consensually derived international law itself, especially the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). They hold that State power is the principal determinant of political and economic outcomes and that regional and international governance institutions and international law need only be paid lip service. This poses a serious challenge from which actors within the Indo-Pacific cannot and must not shy away if we are to discharge our common responsibilities in respect of inclusive societal development, inclusive economic development, environmental sustainability, and peace and security. IPRD 2024 will accordingly dilate upon how best the region as a whole should confront such challenges.



SPEAKER PROFILES
*(In alphabetical order of
Surnames)*

Shri Rajnath SINGH

Hon'ble Raksha Mantri (Defence Minister)
Government of India



Shri Rajnath Singh was born on July 10, 1951, into a farmer's family in Babbhara, District Varanasi (now District Chandauli), Uttar Pradesh (UP). He received his basic education in his hometown and later completed his M.Sc. in Physics from Gorakhpur University, UP. He began his career as a lecturer in Physics at K.B. Post-Graduate College in Mirzapur, UP.

In 1972, he became the RSS Karyavah (General Secretary) of Mirzapur city. From 1969 to 1971, he served as the Organizational Secretary of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) in the Gorakhpur Division. Shri Rajnath Singh entered politics in 1974, and in 1977, he was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly. He was later elected as a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) in 1988 and became the state's Education Minister in 1991. During his tenure as Education Minister in UP, he established some landmarks by introducing the Anti-Copying Act and Vedic Mathematics in the syllabus. He became a member of the Rajya Sabha in 1994. On November 22, 1999, he became Union Surface Transport Minister, wherein he had the opportunity to initiate the National Highway Development Programme (NHDP), a visionary project of India's former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

On October 28, 2000, he became the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and was twice elected as an MLA from the Haidargarh constituency in Barabanki. On May 24, 2003, he was appointed Union Minister of Agriculture and later, Minister of Food Processing. During this period, he initiated several significant projects such as the Kisan Call Centre and the Farm Income Insurance Scheme. He also launched the 'Bharat Suraksha Yatra,' which traversed several states to address the growing threats to internal security.

Shri Rajnath Singh became the BJP National President on December 31, 2005, a position he held until December 19, 2009. In May 2009, he was elected to the Lok Sabha from Ghaziabad, UP. On May 26, 2014, Shri Rajnath Singh took oath as Union Minister for Home Affairs, a portfolio he held until May 30, 2019. On May 31, 2019, he was appointed as the Union Minister for Defence. Subsequent to the formation of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Government after the 2024 General Elections, Shri Rajnath Singh has once again assumed charge of the Ministry of Defence.

General Anil CHAUHAN

PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM

Chief of Defence Staff

Secretary to the Government of India

Ministry of Defence (Department of Military Affairs)



General Anil Chauhan is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasala. He was commissioned into the Sixth Battalion, the Eleventh Gorkha Rifles in Jun 1981, from the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun. He has vast experience in operations across a wide spectrum of conflict and terrain profiles. He commanded an Infantry Battalion, along the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir, a Mountain Brigade in Manipur, an Infantry Division in the Kashmir Valley and a Corps in the North East. He was the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command from 01 September 2019 to 31 May 2021.

After his retirement from active military service, the General served as a Military Advisor to the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) from 20 October 2021 to 29 September 2022. A graduate of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, the Army War College and the National Defence College, the General has tenanted important staff and instructional assignments which include an instructional tenure at HQ IMTRAT, Bhutan, Military Observer on a UN Mission to Angola, General Staff Officer 1 (Operations) of the Mountain Division, Director, Perspective & Planning (TAS) at Army HQ, Chief of Staff, HQ 15 Corps and Director General of Discipline Ceremonial & Welfare.

Academically inclined, the General has authored two books, namely, 'Aftermath of a Nuclear Attack', and 'History of 11 Gorkha Rifles Regimental Centre', and has also supervised the writing of the history of 19 Infantry Division. Currently, he is working on a book on the Military Geography of India's Northern Borders. He was awarded an M. Phil degree in Defence and Strategic Studies from the University of Madras in 2012.

The General officer assumed the appointment of the Chief of Defence Staff on 30 Sep 2022.

Admiral Dinesh K TRIPATHI

PVSM, AVSM, NM

Chief of the Naval Staff

Indian Navy



Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi assumed command as the 26th Chief of Naval Staff on 30 Apr 24. Prior to this appointment, he was the Vice Chief of Naval Staff.

He completed his schooling from Sainik School Rewa, and thereafter joined the prestigious National Defence Academy. He was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 Jul 1985 and specialised in Communication and Electronic Warfare. His command assignments include command of INS *Vinash* (Missile Vessel), INS *Kirch* (Missile Corvette), and INS *Trishul* (Guided Missile Frigate). Whilst in command of INS *Kirch*, he played a pivotal role during HADR operations after the Tsunami of Dec 2004, for which he received a letter of appreciation from the then President of Sri Lanka.

The Admiral is an alumnus of the Defence Service Staff College, Wellington, the College of Naval Warfare and the Naval Command College at the US Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, where he won the prestigious Robert E. Bateman International Prize.

His other sea-going appointments include Executive Officer of INS *Mumbai* (Guided Missile Destroyer), Fleet Electronic Warfare Officer, Fleet Communication Officer as also the Fleet Operations Officer (akin to the Chief of Staff to the Fleet Commander) of the Western Fleet. His staff appointments include the Director of Naval Operations (DNO), Principal Director of Network Centric Operations (PDNCO), and Principal Director Naval Plans (PDNP).

After his promotion to the Flag Rank, he held several important appointments such as the Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Policy and Plans), Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, Commandant of the prestigious Indian Naval Academy, Director General of Naval Operations, Chief of Personnel and the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command.

Adm Dinesh K Tripathi is a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Nao Sena Medal for devotion to duty. He is a keen sportsman and avidly follows tennis, badminton, and cricket.

Captain (Dr) Sean ANDREWS, CSC

Royal Australian Navy
National Security College
Australian National University
Canberra, Australia



Captain Sean Andrews is a Principal Warfare Officer and Under Sea Warfare specialist. Receiving his commission in 1990 as a Seaman Officer, he has completed extensive sea service in destroyers, frigates and patrol boats. He has enjoyed the full range of operational sea postings including Command.

Captain Andrews is a graduate of the Australian Command and Staff College and has represented the RAN at the US Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, where he attended the Joint Advanced Warfighting School. He has embedded and deployed with United States forces, which include the US Navy's 7th Fleet and the US Army's 10th Mountain Division. He has also deployed extensively in all regions of contemporary maritime and joint operations including South and East China Sea, Indian and Pacific Oceans, Afghanistan and the broader Middle East region, most recently as the Commander of the Australian Headquarters.

Captain Andrews holds a master's degree in Strategy and Policy, a master's degree in Maritime Studies, and a PhD in International Relations. Captain Andrews's research specialises in International Relations (with a focus on Middle Powers), Maritime Strategy, Maritime Security, Naval theory, National Policy and National Defence.

Most recently, Captain Andrews was a Visiting Fellow at the Changing Character of War Centre at Oxford University. He is an Associate Member of Kings College London, former Director of the Sea Power Centre – Australia and the Founder of the Indo-Pacific's Six Nation Maritime Working Group. Captain Andrews is now the Senior Maritime Fellow at the National Security College, Australian National University.

Captain Andrews writes and presents internationally on issues of maritime character, and his book 'Australia's Maritime Domain: An Integrated Approach' was released in May 2024.

Prof (Dr) Christian BUEGER

Professor of International Relations
Department of Political Science
University of Copenhagen
Denmark



Christian Bueger is a Professor of International Relations at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, where he leads the Ocean Infrastructure Research Group. He is one of the directors of SafeSeas – the research network for maritime security and a research fellow at the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). Prof. Bueger is a leading scholar on maritime security and global ocean politics. Across over 190 publications he has investigated issues, such as maritime strategy, law of the sea, maritime domain awareness, blue crimes, operational coordination, and capacity building.

With Tim Edmunds, he is the author of *Understanding Maritime Security* published by Oxford University Press in 2024. The book is a new go-to resource for a comprehensive understanding of maritime security and the solutions available. His current research develops guidelines for critical maritime infrastructure protection, including subsea data cables, and offshore wind energy.

Bueger holds a PhD from the European University Institute. Throughout his career, he held positions at Cardiff University, Greenwich Maritime Institute, University of Malta and the National University of Singapore. He has worked as a consultant and advisor for the European Parliament, the European Council, the International Maritime Organization, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, and the Indian Ocean Commission. His work is regularly featured in international news, including Al Jazeera, BBC and The Guardian. Further information is available on his website: www.bueger.info

Professor (Dr) Renato Cruz de CASTRO

Distinguished Professor
International Studies Department
De La Salle University, Manila
Philippines



Renato Cruz De Castro is a distinguished professor at the Department of International Studies, De La Salle University, Manila, and holds the Dr. Aurelio Calderon Chair in Philippines-American Relations. He is an adjunct faculty at the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP), where he handles the module International Security Studies. (ISS). He was a visiting fellow at the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) of the Japanese Ministry of Defense in the summer of 2018. He was a visiting researcher at the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) from June to August 2017. From September to December 2016, he was based in the East-West Center in Washington D.C. as the U.S.-ASEAN Fulbright Initiative Researcher from the Philippines. He is an alumnus of the Daniel Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DIAPCSS) in Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A. In 2009, he became the U.S. State Department ASEAN Research Fellow from the Philippines and was based in the Political Science Department of Arizona State University.

Professor De Castro served as a consultant to the National Security Adviser (NSA), Secretary Caesar Garcia, of the National Security Council (NSC) during the Aquino Administration (2010-2016). He conducts several professional courses on International Relations, Strategic, and Security Studies at the National Defense College (NDCP), Special Intelligence Training School (SITS) of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP), General Staff and Command College of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the Foreign Service Institute (FSI). He is a module director managing the graduate course on International Security Studies (ISS) in the NDCP. As a member of the Albert Del Rosario Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ADRI) Board of Trustees, he writes monthly opinion columns for the Philippine Star and Business World. He has written over 100 articles on international relations and security that have been published in several scholarly journals and edited works in the Philippines, Japan, South Korea, Canada, Malaysia, France, Singapore, Taiwan, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Australia, and the United States. In 2019, the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Political Science Association (PPSA) announced that Professor De Castro is the most prolific Filipino Political Scientist in scholarly publications and one of the top 10 Filipino Political Scientists in terms of several citations. The 2022 AD Scientific Index ranked him 92nd among the top 100 scientists in the Philippines and one of the top 50 Social Scientists in the country. AD Scientific Index also ranked him as the number one Filipino Political Scientist in publications and citations.

He earned his Ph.D. from the Government and International Studies Department of the University of South Carolina as a Fulbright Scholar in 2001. He obtained his B.A. and two master's degrees from the University of the Philippines.

Ms Jane Git Yin CHAN

Senior Fellow and Coordinator, Maritime Security Programme, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS)
S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)
Singapore



Ms Jane Chan is a Senior Fellow and Coordinator of the Maritime Security Programme at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. Her main research interests include maritime security issues in Southeast Asia, law and order at sea, regional maritime cooperation and confidence-building measures, and regional boundary delimitation and territorial disputes. She is an affiliated faculty at the Singapore Arm Forces (SAF)-NTU Academy (SNA). Her publications includes John Bradford, Jane Chan, Stuart Kaye, Clive Schofield and Geoffrey Till (eds.), *Maritime Cooperation and Security in the Indo-Pacific Region: Essays in Honour of Sam Bateman*, (Brill), 2022, Christian Bueger and Jane Chan (eds.), *Paving the Way for Regional Maritime Domain Awareness: Information Fusion Centre*, Nanyang Technological University, 2019, Sam Bateman, Rajni Gamage and Jane Chan (eds.), *ASEAN and the Indian Ocean: The Key Maritime Links*, RSIS Monograph, 2017, Geoffrey Till and Jane Chan (eds.), 'Naval Development in Southeast Asia' (Routledge, 2014).

Vice Admiral Pradeep CHAUHAN

AVSM & Bar, VSM, IN (Retd)

Director General

National Maritime Foundation

New Delhi



An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, the Defence Services Staff College, the Naval War College, and the National Defence College, with BSc, MSc and MPhil degrees under his belt, Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, AVSM & Bar, VSM, is currently the Director-General of the National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi, which is India's foremost resource centre for the development and advocacy of strategies for the promotion and protection of India's maritime interests.

The admiral retired on 30 November 2013 after an illustrious, rich, and varied four-decade-long career in the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy, in the course of which he has been publicly commended three times by the Hon'ble President of India. Not one to rest on past laurels, he has remained active even after retirement and is a much sought-after thought-leader and leadership mentor. Apart from being on the visiting faculty of the higher-command establishments of all three of India's defence services, as also tri-Service establishments such as the College of Defence Management, Hyderabad and the National Defence College, New Delhi, he has also been advising the government through his interaction with the Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence (Navy), the Ministry of External Affairs, and the National Security Council Secretariat. He is, in addition, a prolific writer with over 95 published professional articles and papers, and, a respected Adviser and Fellow of several important think-tanks.

Professor (Dr) Wongi CHOE

Head, Centre for ASEAN-India Studies
Korea National Diplomatic Academy
Republic of Korea



CHOE Wongi is a professor of Indo-Pacific Studies and serves as the Head of the Center for ASEAN-Indian Studies at the Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA). His current research interests include South Korea's regional role and strategy, the geo-political dynamics, maritime security and regional architecture in the Indo-Pacific.

His most recent writings include "AUKUS: Strategic Implications for Regional Security" (in Korean, February 2024); "Why Seoul Should Embrace New Delhi in its Strategic Outlook" (March 2024); "China's Change of Status Quo in the South China Sea and Prospects for Maritime Order in East Asia" (in Korean, December 2023); "US-China Rivalry and the Atrophy of ASEAN Centrality" (in Korean, December 2023); "ROK's Indo-Pacific Strategy: Achievements to Date and Challenges Ahead" (in Korean, October 2023); "India's Multi-alignment Diplomatic Activism and Implications for ROK-India Strategic Partnership" (in Korean, May 2023); "South Korea's New Southern Policy: the Limits of Indo-Pacific Geopolitics" (book chapter, April 2023); "The ROK's Indo-Pacific Strategy under President Yoon: Key Elements and Strategic Implications" (December 2022); "The Quest for Strategic Balance and South Korea's Indo-Pacific Conundrum" (August 2021); Thirty Years of ASEAN-ROK Relations (A co-edited volume in Korean, 2019), etc.

He received a BA and MA in international relations from Seoul National University in Korea and PhD in political science from University of Washington in the United States.

Rear Admiral (Prof) Shaul CHOREV

IsrNavy (Retd)

Head of the Institute for Maritime Policy & Strategy (MPS)

Israeli National Centre of Blue Economy and Innovation

Haifa, Israel



Rear Admiral Shaul Choren is the Head of the Maritime Policy & Strategy Research Center, the Wydra division for Shipping & Ports and the Ezri Center for Iran and the Persian Gulf, University of Haifa. As a professor in the International Relations division of the School of Political Science, he is also the Head of the Reuven Chaikin Chair for Geostrategy and head of the M.A. program in National Security and Maritime Strategy at the University of Haifa.

Formerly, Admiral Choren has been the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations of the Israeli Navy, and also the Head of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission. He has also held numerous senior positions in the Israeli defence establishment, including Assistant to the Minister of Defense for Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Defense; Commanding Officer of the Haifa Naval Base; and Commanding Officer of an Israeli Naval Flotilla (missile boats & submarines). He was also the Head of the Dolphin Submarines Project in the German Shipyards (HDW & TNSW) between 1989 and 1992.

Choren holds a BA in Economics and Political Sciences from Bar Ilan University (1985), MSc. from the United States Naval Postgraduate School (1989), and a PhD from Bar Ilan University in Science Technology and Society (2005).

Prof Choren lectures on maritime strategy and Israel's defence policy, international security, arms control technology transfer, and innovation system in the defence laboratories.

HE Mr Hervé DELPHIN

Ambassador of the EU to India

Delegation of the European Union to India and Bhutan

New Delhi



Ambassador Hervé Delphin presented his Letters of Credence to the Hon'ble President of India, Shrimati Droupadi Murmu on 23rd October, 2023.

With a career spanning 30 years with the European Union (EU), he is a specialist in foreign policy and international relations. Prior to his posting in India, he was heading the policy planning at the European Diplomatic Service, EEAS, where he also served as Acting Director of Strategic Communications and Foresight. From 2014 to 2017, he was Head of the Unit in the European Commission in charge of the EU humanitarian and emergency response to major crises in the European Neighbourhood and the Middle East. Previously, he served as the Head of the Cabinet of European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Kristalina Georgieva and as Deputy Head of the Cabinet of Commissioners Louis Michel and Karel de Gucht, responsible for the development policy and external relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

He is a visiting professor at the College of Europe, Department of International Relations and Diplomatic Studies, in Bruges (Belgium). He has published several papers and articles related to international relations and global strategic issues.

A French national, he was awarded the title of "Knight of the Legion of Honour" (Légion d'Honneur), the highest French National Order, in 2014. Hervé Delphin holds a double Master's degree in Political Sciences and Contemporary History from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques and a Master's degree in European Studies from the College of Europe in Bruges.

Ms Priyasha DIXIT

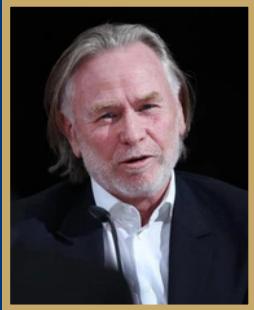
Research Associate
National Maritime Foundation
New Delhi



Ms Priyasha Dixit is currently a Research Associate at the National Maritime Foundation. She completed her graduate studies at the University of Delhi and holds a BA in History and Political Science. She also holds an MA degree in Law, Politics and Society from Ambedkar University, New Delhi (AUD). Her key research areas are 'Enhancing Maritime Consciousness (Maritime History, Maritime Heritage, and Maritime Culture)', and 'Maritime Geostrategies of the Indo-Pacific'.

HE Mr Philip GREEN, OAM

High Commissioner of Australia to India
Australian High Commission
New Delhi



High Commissioner Philip Green is an Australian diplomat with experience on four continents, having served as Ambassador or High Commissioner to Germany, Singapore, South Africa and Kenya.

High Commissioner Green's career includes the following highlights:

- Oversight of the implementation of Australia's Indo-Pacific Strategy following its launch in 2017.
- Lead responsibility for the development of Australia's policy on the Quad from 2017 to 2019.
- Piloting the conclusion of the Enhanced Strategic Partnership with Germany and the Australia-Germany Hydrogen Accord (2021).
- The conclusion of Australia's Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with Singapore in 2016, and the upgrade to the Australia-Singapore Free Trade Agreement of the same year.

Mr Green was Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's International Adviser (2009-2010), and Chief of Staff to Foreign Minister Rudd (2010-2012). He led the Secretariat for the Review of Australian Intelligence Agencies 2004. Mr Green was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for his role in the response to the Bali terrorist tragedy in 2002.

He is a graduate of the University of Sydney in Arts (First Class Honours) and Law. He holds honorary degrees from James Cook University and Murdoch University.

Dr (Ms) Tumaini S GURUMO

Senior Lecturer

Department of Maritime Transport
Dar-es-Salaam Maritime Institute
Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania



Dr Tumaini Shabani Gurumo is the Rector and a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Maritime Transport at the Dar es Salaam Maritime Institute, where she has been teaching since 2005. She served as Acting Deputy Principal for two consecutive years starting in 2013 and was appointed to the fully-fledged position in 2015. Dr Tumaini possesses a wide array of experiences and expertise, teaching modules such as maritime law, shipping insurance and salvage, carriage of goods by sea, and shipping business. She has supervised numerous students and mentored junior staff and has participated in various assignments including regulations drafting, skills development, policy formulation, and quality assurance.

Dr. Tumaini is the author of the book "UCHUMI WA BLUU: Fursa na Chachu ya Maendeleo" and has published scholarly articles in international journals. Her current research areas of interest include the blue economy, improving Tanzania's maritime sector, and law and policy. She holds a PhD in International Maritime Law from Dalian Maritime University, P.R. China, an MSc. in Maritime Affairs (Law and Policy) from the World Maritime University, Sweden, an LL.B. from Tumaini University, Iringa University College, United Republic of Tanzania, and a Diploma in International Relations and Diplomacy from the Centre for Foreign Relations, United Republic of Tanzania.

Ambassador Peter IIAU

Commodore (Retd), MQM, DMS, CBE

Security Risk Consultant

Pacific RBS Limited

Former Ambassador of PNG to Indonesia



Peter Ilau has over 40 years of experience in government, military, and diplomatic roles. He is a seasoned professional known for his exceptional leadership, strategic thinking, and crisis management skills. Having served as the Ambassador for Papua New Guinea to Indonesia and as the General of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force, he has extensive experience in top-level positions and navigating highly risky security situations. Currently, he is the founder and CEO of Pacific RBS Ltd, a consultancy firm specializing in risk management issues. He provides consulting services to companies across Papua New Guinea, leveraging his expertise in government relations, international diplomacy, and military operations to help clients navigate complex challenges and achieve their business objectives.

Commodore Ilau is also a Strategic Security and Risk Advisor to Council in the University of Papua New Guinea and a consultant to the PNG SEZ Authority. Fluent in English, Motu, and Pidgin, he holds a master's degree from the University of Woolongong, and a graduate diploma from the Southern Cross University, Australia.

Dr Hassan KHANNENJE

Director
The HORN International Institute for Strategic Studies
Nairobi
Kenya



Dr Hassan Khannenje is the Director of the HORN International Institute for Strategic Studies, a research and policy think-tank based in Nairobi, Kenya, recently ranked number 18 as a 'think- tank to watch' in the world by the Global think tank index.

He is a Fulbright scholar with a PhD in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from Nova Southeastern University, Florida, USA with a concentration in international conflict. He holds a Masters in Peace and Conflict Studies from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, USA, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History from the University of Nairobi. He has previously worked as an Adjunct professor at Wayne State University, Michigan, USA. He currently serves as a Council Member of the Technical University of Kenya.

He is a consultant with governmental and intergovernmental organizations and agencies including Kenya's ministries of foreign affairs, defence and interior as well as the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) among others, mainly on defence and security, diplomacy and foreign relations, terrorism and violent extremism within the greater horn of Africa region. Has facilitated and moderated many high-level international workshops, seminars and conferences for local, regional and international institutions and outfits such as GLOBSEC among others.

Dr Khannenje is an author and practitioner specialising in geopolitics, defence and security, diplomacy and foreign affairs, peace and security, terrorism and violent extremism whose work has contributed to books and book chapters, peer-reviewed articles and opinion pieces in regional and international publications and print media.

He is an expert analyst and a regular contributor with various local and international media houses that including BBC, VOA, TRT, CGTN, SABC, Al Jazeera, ZDF, ARD, CFI, News Central, Russia Today, CNN, Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation, Spanish News, Le Monde, New York Times, Daily Nation and the East African, NTV, KBC, Tv47, Citizen, and KTN among others on issues of geopolitics, terrorism, security, diplomacy, and foreign relations.

Dr P KRISHNAN

Director

Bay of Bengal Programme-Inter Governmental Organisation
(BOBP-IGO)
Chennai



Dr P Krishnan has significantly advanced sustainable livelihood options for island farmers and fishers and institutionalized evidence-based coastal resource management. He developed sea surface height (SSH)-based augmented Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) advisories, enabling year-round fishing advisories in the Andaman Islands. He also contributed to the Sustainable Fisheries Development Plan and Conservation Management Plan for the Lakshadweep Islands, part of India's Integrated Island Management Plan (IIMP).

At MoEFCC-NCSCM, Dr. Krishnan worked extensively on coastal zone management, mapping all coastal ecosystems in India and profiling their sensitivity thresholds. He developed a framework for identifying Critically Vulnerable Coastal Areas (CVCA) and contributed to the Coastland Marine Biodiversity Integration Network (CoMBINe) Database. His work has influenced India's regulatory and management frameworks, including the CRZ 2019 notification and ICZM.

As Principal Scientist at NAARM, he developed frameworks for measuring ease of doing research (EoDR), preparing grant proposals, and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation. He contributed to national policy documents, including the National Agricultural Disaster Management Plan (NADMP) and Draft Mariculture Policy for India. Dr. Krishnan has led multi-institutional projects funded by national and international agencies, published over 90 research papers, authored 15+ books, 15 policy papers, and developed six IT applications for evidence-based decision-making.

HE Ms Ina Hagniningtyas KRISNAMURTHI

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to India and Bhutan
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
New Delhi



HE Ms Ina Hagniningtyas Krisnamurthi is the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Indonesia to the Republic of India and concurrently accredited to the Kingdom of Bhutan. She has held this prestigious role since March 2022 in India and October 2022 in Bhutan, where she resides in New Delhi. Her career spans several significant diplomatic and advisory roles. Prior to her current appointment, she served as the Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on Economic Diplomacy from February 2019 to January 2022, and as the Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations in New York from 2016 to 2019.

Ms Krisnamurthi's career is marked by regional and international economic cooperation leadership. She was the Director of ASEAN Economic Cooperation from 2014 to 2016 and previously served as the Director for Trade, Industry, Investment, and Intellectual Property Rights. She held several prominent positions in her earlier years, including Deputy Director for EU Affairs and Counsellor for Politics on European Union Affairs at the Embassy of Indonesia in Brussels. Her diplomatic career also includes service as Vice Consul and Second Secretary for Information and Social Culture at the Consulate General of Indonesia in Vancouver, Canada.

Ms Krisnamurthi holds a Master of Arts degree from the Faculty of International Studies at Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia, and a Bachelor of Arts in Socio-Culture from the University of Indonesia. In addition to her extensive career, she has made important contributions as Chair of the 31st Intergovernmental Group on Oilseeds, Oils, and Fats at the FAO and lead negotiator for the Trade and Sustainable Development Chapter of the Indonesia-EU Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IEU-CEPA). She is also a member of the advisory boards for the Center on International Cooperation at New York University and BEDO (Business and Export Development Organization).

Throughout her career, Ms Krisnamurthi has been passionate about advocating for issues related to women and children, while also fostering international collaboration to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Her dedication to economic diplomacy and regional cooperation, especially through initiatives like ASEAN and RCEP, highlights her commitment to global development and multilateral cooperation.

Vice Admiral G Ashok KUMAR

PVSM, AVSM, VSM, IN (Retd)

National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC)

National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)

Government of India



Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd), is currently the National Maritime Security Coordinator (in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India) at the National Security Council Secretariat.

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, the Admiral was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 Jul 1982. In his distinguished naval career of nearly 40 years, he has held various challenging Staff and Command assignments. He served as the Commanding Officer of INS *Kulish* and *Ranvir*, and as Executive Officer of INS *Brahmaputra*. His important shore tenures include Head of Training Team (Navy) at Defence Services Staff College, Wellington; Defence Advisor at the High Commission of India, Singapore; and Chief Staff Officer (Operations) of the Western Naval Command. In the Flag rank, he was Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST); Chief of Staff (COS), Southern Naval Command; Flag Officer Maharashtra and Gujarat (FOMAG); and Commandant, National Defence Academy. The Admiral was the Deputy Chief and Vice Chief of Naval Staff for a total of over 5 years from Jun 16 to Jul 21, just prior to his superannuation.

His contributions to the Indian Navy have indeed been immense, including an array of operational and administrative initiatives such as conceptualising the concept of Mission Based Deployments, implementing the Transition Cycle, Launch of the IFC IOR, inauguration of Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIIO), introduction of BTech at NDA, etc.

He is a graduate of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington; the Army Higher Command Course, Mhow; and the Expeditionary Operations Course, Quantico, Virginia, USA. He has been decorated with VSM, AVSM and PVSM and was the Honorary ADC to the Hon'ble President of India. The Admiral was appointed as India's first National Maritime Security Coordinator on 16 Feb 2022. Through numerous innovative initiatives, he has institutionalised a number of structures and mechanisms for enhanced multi-agency coordination towards comprehensive maritime security of India.

Admiral Sunil LANBA

PVSM, AVSM, IN (Retd)

Former Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee

Former Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy

Former Chairman, National Maritime Foundation

Distinguished Fellow, Delhi Policy Group



An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, the College of Defence Management, Secunderabad, and the Royal College of Defence Studies, London, Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM, AVSM, IN (Retd) is the former Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) of the Republic of India, and former Chairman of the National Maritime Foundation (NMF).

The Admiral, who distinguished himself in an illustrious naval career spanning four decades, served successful tenures aboard several ships in the Eastern- and Western Fleets of the Indian Navy. His command assignments included the command of the *Kakinada* — a specialised Mine Countermeasures Vessel; the *Himgiri* — an indigenous Leander Class Frigate; INS *Ranvijay* — a *Rajput* Class Guided-missile Destroyer, and INS *Mumbai*, an indigenous *Delhi* Class Guided-missile Destroyer. He has also been the Executive Officer of the aircraft carrier, the *Viraat*, and served with great distinction as the Fleet Operations Officer of the Western Fleet.

As the Chief of Staff of the Southern Naval Command in the rank of Rear Admiral, he was responsible for the transformation of the training methodology for the future Indian Navy. He was thereafter appointed Flag Officer Sea Training and ushered-in a whole slew of measures to greatly enhance the battle-effectiveness of Indian warships and rationalised their combat manning. Later, as the Flag Officer Commanding Maharashtra and Gujarat Naval Area, he implemented significant coastal-security initiatives and multiagency coordination mechanisms, which have since ensured safe seas and secure coasts along India's western seaboard.

He served as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Southern and Western Naval Commands, and as the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff in the rank of Vice Admiral and assumed office as the Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) in May 2016, on promotion to the rank of Admiral.

Mr Jaideep MAZUMDAR

Indian Foreign Service
Secretary (East)
Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India



Shri Jaideep Mazumdar, born in Shillong, India, joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1989. Most recently he has been Ambassador of India to Austria, the Holy See and Montenegro and Permanent Representative to the UN and other international organisations in Vienna. He was also Governor on the Board of Governors of the IAEA during this time and Chair of the Plenary of the Wassenaar Arrangement. Prior to that, he was Ambassador to the Philippines, Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia. In his career of over 34 years, he has served in various diplomatic capacities in China (Hong Kong and Beijing), in Bangladesh, at the United Nations in New York, and in Cairo, Egypt. He has also served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Beijing and in Kathmandu.

In his stints in New Delhi, he has served in the Prime Minister's Office on foreign affairs, defence and security issues, atomic energy and space, as Chief of Protocol and as Head of the Southern Division in the Ministry of External Affairs of India looking after bilateral relations with countries in Southeast Asia, as well as Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Island Countries. Concurrently, he then also headed the Nalanda Division in the Ministry of External Affairs, charged with the revival of the ancient Nalanda University, an East Asia Summit initiative.

Ambassador Mazumdar assumed the position of Secretary East in the Ministry of External Affairs on 11 March, 2024.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics and a Master's degree in Management. Apart from the English language, he is conversant in Assamese, Bengali, Hindi and Chinese. Travelling, reading and music are his interests.

He is married to Parvati C. Mazumdar, a former civil servant and now an Education Consultant. They have two children - a son, Ronojoy, an economic journalist and a daughter, Deboleena, a behavioural data scientist.

Mr Raj MOHABEER

Officer in Charge
General Secretariat
Indian Ocean Commission
Mauritius



An economist by profession, Mr Raj Mohabeer has held, since 2000, the post of Officer in Charge at the General Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Commission – an inter-governmental Organisation of the South-West Indian Ocean Island States. Prior to this period, he was working as an economist at the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development of the Republic of Mauritius. His portfolio includes economic cooperation, trade, regional integration and infrastructure, maritime security and blue economy – areas of intervention that span to countries beyond the IOC Member States and region. He also deals with Small Islands Developing States issues together with the Pacific and Caribbean regions.

Raj Mohabeer has gained extensive and deep knowledge of the region. Among the various dossiers under his responsibility, Mr Mohabeer has been promoting Blue Economy and has spearheaded the development of a Maritime Security Architecture for the Western Indian Ocean under the MASE Programme, actively advocating for the participation of the international community to join in. He has also been the head of the Secretariat for the Contact Group Against Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia.

Dr (Ms) Shafiah F MUHIBAT

Deputy Executive Director for Research
Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)
Jakarta, Indonesia



Shafiah F Muhibat joined CSIS in December 2000. She is currently the Deputy Executive Director for Research (since January 2022) — previously she was the Head of Department of International Relations (2018-2021) and Deputy Head of Department of Politics and International Relations (2016-2017).

Her research interests include issues of regional security in the Indo-Pacific, ASEAN, maritime security, Indonesia's foreign policy, and development cooperation. In 2017, she joined the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) Singapore as a Senior Fellow at the Maritime Security Programme for one year. She was the Chief Editor of The Indonesian Quarterly, a quarterly academic journal published by CSIS, from 2013 to 2016; Doctoral Fellow at the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy in Hamburg, Germany, from 2009 to 2012; and has received various scholarships and research grants, among others from the German Academic Exchange Service, the Managing Global Governance Network, USAID, JICA, and Korea Foundation. She served in the panel of jury for the 2023, 2022, and 2021 Adam Malik Award.

She earned a masters degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) in 2003 and Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Hamburg in 2013.

Rear Admiral Arjun Dev NAIR

VSM, IN
Commandant
Naval War College
Goa



Rear Admiral Arjun Dev Nair is the Commandant of the Naval War College at Goa on 20 Nov 23. The Admiral took charge of the Navy's Apex Training Institution from Rear Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar, NM. The Naval War College conducts training for senior officers, including foreign participants, on defence planning, strategic and operational subjects, with the aim of promoting the culture of strategic and operational thinking.

The Flag Officer is an alumnus of Indian Naval Academy and was commissioned in the Indian Navy on 01 Jul 91. He is a specialist in Anti-Submarine Warfare and has served on frontline warships of the Navy such as IN Ships *Ranvijay*, *Delhi* and *Tabar* as ASWO. He was also the commissioning crew of IN Ships *Nashak* and *Tabar*. A graduate of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and National Defence College, New Delhi, Rear Admiral Arjun Dev Nair has commanded IN Ships TRV-72, *Nashak*, *Kirpan* and *Trikand*. He was Principal Director (Training) at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala as well as the Fleet Operations Officer of the Western Fleet. He has held various important staff appointments at Naval Headquarters, New Delhi, which include tenures as Assistant Chief of Personal (Administration and Civilian) and Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Staff Requirements).

The Flag Officer is a recipient of VSM in 2018. He is a gold medalist in MSc (Defence and Strategic Studies) from Madras University and holds an MPhil (Defence and Strategic Studies) degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University. He is an avid reader in strategic affairs and military history. He is also a keen sportsman interested in cricket, tennis and football.

Rear Admiral Jens NEMEYER

Commander of the Murwik Naval Academy
Germany



Rear Admiral Jens Nemeyer began his military career in 1983 as a Bundeswehr conscript and underwent naval officer training at the Naval Academy Mürwik from 1984 to 1986. After helicopter pilot training with the Royal Navy in 1987, he flew Sea King helicopters for Naval Air Wing 5. His international experience includes serving as an exchange officer and helicopter pilot with the Royal Navy from 1990 to 1992. He then became a flying instructor and Executive Officer at Naval Air Wing 5 before completing the 38th Admiral Staff Officer Course.

Nemeyer commanded Naval Air Wing 5 and held various leadership roles in personnel management and policy at the Bundeswehr Personnel Office, the Federal Ministry of Defence, and NATO's Allied Maritime Command. He served as Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations at the Bundeswehr Joint Forces Operations Command and later as Deputy Chief of Staff Operations at NATO.

He has significant operational experience, including Operation SHARP GUARD, Operation ATALANTA, and NATO's SEA GUARDIAN. His honors include the Gold Cross of Honour of the Bundeswehr and several international service medals. Since 2021, he has served as Commandant of the Naval Academy Mürwik.

The Admiral is a recipient of the Gold Cross of Honour of the Bundeswehr, the Bundeswehr Foreign Duty Medal ATALANTA, the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Service Medal EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, and the SACEUR Recognition Award.

Dr NGUYEN Hung Son

Vice President

The Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV)

Ha Noi, Viet Nam



Nguyen Hung Son is Vice President of the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam and Director-General of the East Sea (South China Sea) Institute. Prior to his current designation, Nguyen Hung Son was Deputy Director-General of the Institute for Strategic Studies at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam.

His research focused on major powers relations, regional security governance, maritime security and Vietnam's foreign policy. As a diplomat, Nguyen Hung Son served as Minister Counsellor of the Vietnam Embassy in Ottawa, Canada (2015-2018) and Second Secretary of the Vietnam Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden (2004-2006).

He also served at the ASEAN department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during which period he extensively participated in regional summits, and had hands-on experience on many regional processes and issues involving ASEAN. He was a member of the Vietnam High-Level Task Force delegation negotiating the ASEAN Charter in 2006-2007. While he was serving as the head of the ASEAN Standing Committee division at the ASEAN department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam presided over the ASEAN Standing Committee from July 2000 to July 2001.

Nguyen Hung Son got his BA degree from the National Economic University of Vietnam, an M.Sc degree in International Economics from Birmingham University of the United Kingdom, and a PhD degree in International Relations from the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam.

Professor Alessio PATALANO

Professor of War & Strategy in East Asia
Co-Director, Centre for Grand Strategy
Director, Indo-Pacific Programme
Department of War Studies
King's College London



Alessio Patalano is Professor of War & Strategy in East Asia at the Department of War Studies (DWS), and Co-Director of the Centre for Grand Strategy (CGS) at King's College London (KCL). He specialises in maritime strategy and doctrine, Japanese military history and strategy, East Asian security, and British defence and foreign policy towards the Indo-Pacific. His book on Japan titled Post-war Japan as a Seapower has redefined the study of the country's post-war history, whilst his work on Chinese maritime coercion remains as a reference in the field. At CGS, Prof Patalano leads the King's Japan Programme and the newly established Indo-Pacific Programme. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (FRHistS), a Visiting Professor at the Japan Maritime Command and Staff College (JMCSC), and an Adjunct Fellow at the Institute of Contemporary Asian Studies, Temple University Japan.

Prof Patalano maintains an active policy role collaborating regularly with think tanks and government institutions. He is a Senior Fellow at Policy Exchange, the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), and is Sir Herbert Richmond Fellow on naval strategy at the Council on Geostrategy. He is also visiting fellow at the Royal Navy Strategic Studies Centre (RNCSS) and non-resident fellow at the Royal Australian Navy Seapower Centre. In 2022, Prof Patalano became the first specialist advisor on the Indo-Pacific to the Foreign Affairs Committee in the UK Parliament. In 2023, he became also the first academic to be awarded a Commendation of the Ambassador of Japan to the UK for his outstanding contribution to the advancement of UK-Japan ties in defence and security. Prof Patalano is an active media commentator and writer (Nikkei, The Spectator); he collaborates on international documentaries, and is also regularly involved in military education, developing and delivering programmes on East Asian affairs.

Mr Jeffrey S PAYNE

Assistant Professor

Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESA)

Washington DC

USA



Jeffrey Payne currently serves as an Assistant Professor at the Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies. He pilots NESA's maritime security programming, including its ongoing series devoted to the Indian Ocean Region and wider Indo-Pacific. In addition, he leads NESA's engagements relating to maritime information sharing/data analysis.

Mr Payne analyzes Chinese foreign policy, Indian Ocean Regional affairs, and maritime security. He is particularly interested in the intersection of maritime security and strategic competition in the Indian Ocean, as well as how technology and information can assist in furthering security cooperation. His work informs United States Combatant Commands, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and interagency efforts inside the United States government. Mr Payne takes part in United States government efforts relating to Maritime Domain Awareness and helps facilitate internal discussions across bureaucratic seams existing in the Indian Ocean. He has presented before international conclaves, security forums, and defense institutions in Europe, the Middle East, South Asia, and East Asia. Specific programs he leads under the NESA banner include the Indian Ocean Region Island Forum, the Quadrilateral Maritime Series, and the Collaborative Maritime Domain Awareness Series.

He hails from landlocked Indiana, potentially explaining his fascination with the sea. Prior to joining the NESA Center, Mr Payne served as a professor at Butler University and consulted for the World Bank. He performed his graduate studies at Indiana University-Bloomington.

Dr (Ms) Eva PEJSOVA

Japan Chair

Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS)

Brussels School of Governance (BSoG - VUB)

Belgium



Eva Pejsova is Japan Chair at the Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS) of the Brussels School of Governance (BSoG) and Associate Fellow at the French “Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique” (FRS). Until 2019, Dr Pejsova was in charge of the Asia portfolio at the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), the EU’s official agency for foreign and security policy research and analysis.

She holds a PhD in Strategic Studies from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in Singapore and has previously worked with the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the French Prime Minister’s Office, the OECD and the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF).

Dr Pejsova lectures at SciencesPo (Paris School of International Affairs) in Paris, the Geneva Centre for Security Studies (GCSP), as well as briefs the Members of the European Parliament. She is member of the CSCAP EU Committee and the Europe-India Research and Dialogue Network (EIRDN).

Her research focuses on security and defense dynamics in the Indo-Pacific, EU – Asia relations, Japan’s foreign and security policy, maritime security, as well as broader issues related to good ocean governance.

Admiral Jayantha PERERA

RWP, VSV, USP, ndc, psc, MSc(DS), MSc (D&SS)
Former Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy



As the 19th Sri Lanka Navy Commander possessing thirty-seven years of military experience, who wishes to constantly be associated with defence and maritime affairs both locally and internationally, Admiral Jayantha Perera is an expert in the area of maritime defence. As a professional aptly qualified in a myriad of military disciplines, which particularly captures the aspects of safeguarding maritime boundaries and enforcing principles of good governance in the ethical conduct of oceanic affairs, he was duly able to rise to the upper echelon of his military career, by being appointed as the 19th Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy in the year 2014. Having obtained his first Master of Science degree in Defence Studies from the University of Madras, his military inspirations further fuelled him to pursue his career interests as a charismatic officer in the Sri Lanka Navy, where he was able to successfully complete his second Master of Science degree in Defence and Strategic Studies at the National Defence University of Islamabad, Pakistan. Before attaining the honour of being appointed as the 19th Sri Lanka Navy Chief, Admiral Perera also held many senior responsible naval appointments, where he was able to secure the glorious opportunity of becoming the first Commanding Officer of the SLN Flag Ship Sayura in 2000. The exemplary service rendered by him towards protecting the motherland has made him walk past milestones of victory by becoming a recipient of several gallantry medals, which were awarded for the acts of bravery performed both on the battlefield and at sea. Upon retirement as the Navy Chief, he was appointed to serve in the capacity of Advisor to the President on Maritime affairs in 2015 and was subsequently able to execute duties as a member of the Presidential Task Force for the prevention of the spread of COVID-19, within the military forces and the prisons. At present, while extending much valued services as a consultant and a board director to Maclarence group of companies in Sri Lanka, his recent appointment as a member of the steering committee on law and order functional under the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce governance framework, has made him impart effortlessly on diverse platforms, the knowledge and experience acquired over the years of serving in various capacities as a senior naval officer.

Dr (Ms) Sumathy PERMAL

Head
Centre for Maritime Security and Diplomacy &
Coastal and Marine Environment (MSD)
Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA)
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Sumathy Permal is a Senior Fellow and Head of Maritime Security and Diplomacy & Coastal and Marine Environment, with the Maritime Institute of Malaysia. Ms. Permal's research areas are on geo-politic and geo- strategic in the Asia Pacific and maritime security issues in the Indo Pacific. Sumathy Permal is on the editorial board of the Australian Journal of Maritime & Ocean Affairs Australia and Associate Member of the Corbett Centre for Maritime Policy Studies. She was also the International Expert Panel for National Bureau of Asian Research and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA on Maritime Awareness Program, 2016. She is a Profession Fellow On- Demand Exchange Program by the U.S. Department of State for Think-Tank in Asia and in the East Asian International Relations (EAIR) Caucus, a Network for Researchers Studying Scholarly and Policy Issues in Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia.

Ms Marianne PERON-DOISE

Research Associate

Director of Indo-Pacific Observatory

The French Institute of International and Strategic Affairs
(IRIS)

Paris, France



Marianne Péron-Doise (@mariannederon) is a Paris based geopolitical analyst. Her research interests include strategic dynamics in the Indo-Pacific, EU-Asia security relations, security and defense policies in Asia (Japan-Korean Peninsula-ASEAN-South Asia-Oceania), maritime security issues, as well as on the role of the EU as a security actor and provider.

She is currently associated Research Fellow at the French Institut des Relations Internationales et Stratégiques (IRIS) where she is Director of the geopolitical Observatory for Indo-Pacific. She was Research Fellow at the French Institute for Strategic Research, Military School (IRSEM) from 2015 to 2022. Before joining IRSEM, she was Political Advisor at the NATO Maritime Command in Northwood (UK) from 2012-2015. She is consultant for the EU maritime project CRIMARIO since 2015.

Marianne has held several positions of responsibility related to Asia in the French Ministry of Armed forces from 2008 to 2012. She has also been a visiting fellow at the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) and the National Institute of Defense Studies (NIDS) in Tokyo. Marianne teaches classes in Maritime Security at Sciences-po Paris and Université Catholique, Lille and regularly attends maritime international Conference.

Ms Neetu Kumari PRASAD

Joint Secretary (Marine Fisheries)
Department of Fisheries
Ministry of Fisheries Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Government of India



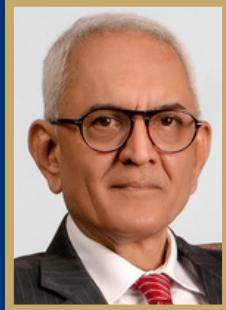
Ms. Neetu Kumari Prasad is an Indian Administrative Services (I.A.S) Officer of 2001 Batch, Telangana Cadre. She has worked extensively in Telangana State and has held several key positions such as Commissioner of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Commissioner of Commercial Taxes and Member Secretary of Pollution Control Board.

She began her career in 2002 as the Sub-Collector of Bhadrachalam. She worked as Warangal Municipal Commissioner, Joint Secretary of Tourism Department, Joint Collector of Nizamabad and Additional Commissioner of the GHMC, Joint Collector, Nalgonda District, Dist. Collector, East Godavari District, Dist. Collector, Karimnagar District and Commissioner, PR&RD. During her tenure in Telangana, she has several achievements to her credit such as the conferment of National Award from the Prime Minister of India for implementing Aadhar (Unique Identification Number) linkage with the social security schemes, National Award from the Prime Minister of India, for Excellence in Public Administration, the National Award for the best state in the capacity of Commissioner Rural Development for good performance in skill development, etc.

She was appointed to Government of India in August 2023 as Joint Secretary in Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries Animal Husbandry and Dairying. During her assignment, she introduced several innovations such as Vessel Communication Devices (Transponders) for fishing vessels, low-cost fishing harbours, alternatives to ice in fish storage & artificial reefs to augment coastal fisheries, brackish water (coastal) aquaculture development and regulation in India.

Ambassador PS RAGHAVAN

Chairman
National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)
National Security Council Secretariat
New Delhi



Ambassador Raghavan is a former career diplomat, who is now Chairman of the National Security Advisory Board, which advises India's National Security Council on issues of security and strategic affairs.

In a 36-year diplomatic career, he has served in different capacities in USSR, Poland, United Kingdom, Vietnam and South Africa. He was India's Ambassador to Russia (2014-16), Ireland (2007-11) and the Czech Republic (2004-07).

From 2000 to 2004, he served in the Indian Prime Minister's Office, dealing with Foreign Affairs, Defence, National Security, Space and Atomic Energy.

In the Ministry of External Affairs (2011-14), he founded and headed the Development Partnership Administration, which implements India's projects abroad. He was also Secretary (Economic Relations), steering India's external economic engagement, and Secretary overseeing Administration and e-governance.

Among his other assignments were as Political Adviser to the Indian Peace-Keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka (1987-88), Chief Coordinator of the BRICS Summit (2012) and Special Envoy of the Government of India to the Sudan and South Sudan (2012-13).

He is a Distinguished Fellow at the Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi and Emeritus Resource Faculty at the Rashtriya Raksha University, Gandhinagar. He writes and lectures widely on foreign, national security and strategic affairs.

Rear Admiral Kunal Singh Rajkumar, VSM

Flag Officer Doctrines and Concepts (FODC)



Rear Admiral Kunal Singh Rajkumar is a National Defence Academy alumni (77th Course) and was commissioned in the Indian Navy on 1st January 1991. The Flag Officer is an Executive Surface Warfare Officer who has served 15 years at sea having commanded a guided missile corvette and a guided missile frigate.

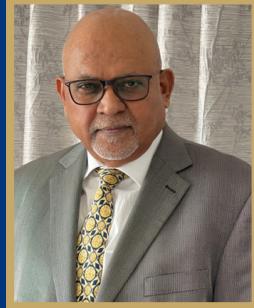
Amongst his important shore appointments include being the Principal Director Naval Operations and Principal Director Net Centric Operations at Naval Headquarters, Directing Staff at Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and Commodore Training at the Navy's Training Command.

On promotion to Flag Rank in 2021, he served at the Defence Intelligence Agency at HQIDS, New Delhi and later as the Chief Staff Officer Operations of the Western Naval Command, headquartered at Mumbai till Jan 24. He is presently appointed as the Flag Officer Doctrines and Concepts (FODC) wherein he leads the analysis and development of tactical warfare, operational concepts and doctrines. For his distinguished service, the Flag Officer was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal in 2024.

RAdm Rajkumar has attended the Head of Department Surface Warfare Course at U.S.A, Joint Services Command Staff Course at U.K., the Higher Defence Management Course at Secunderabad and the apex level National Defence College Course at New Delhi. The Flag Officer is married and blessed with two children.

Commander Allan F RODRIGUES

IN (Retd)
Independent Analyst
New Zealand



Allan Rodrigues retired honourably from the Indian Navy in 1994 after serving for 21 years. He is the sword of honour of his course and winner of the Lengtaine Medal at the prestigious Defence Services Staff College in Wellington, India. During his Naval career he has commanded IN Ships *Nipat*, *Himgiri*, and *Subhadra*. He has also been the 'Commander Work-Up and Sea Training' of the Western Fleet and the Second in Command (XO) and Chief Instructor of the erstwhile Indian Naval Academy at INS *Mandovi*, Goa. He migrated to New Zealand in 1995.

In New Zealand, Allan has been a senior manager and C-SUITE 'board level' senior management consultant. He specialises in aligning strategy, finance, operations, decision engineering and performance management. Over the last 30 years, Allan has been the lead management consultant for several major multi-million dollar projects over a range of industry sectors including the development and analytics for the reform of the sea and inland port & freight hub sector, the alignment of key supply chain hubs and assets across New Zealand to increase supply velocity, value based projects for the TV satellite and broadcasting sector, major electricity utilities, kiwifruit and agronomy, a review of the captive insurance sector, a benchmarking project for a major Australian Bank and technology start-ups under risk. He has designed a 4th generation Balanced Scorecard and an IT Portfolio Management Financial Model. Amongst the major projects he has undertaken is a 'Real Options' valuation of a major section of the national electricity grid in New Zealand, a valuation of the worldwide marketplace for the satellite 'occasional-use' time sensitive carriage of news and sports, strategic alliance and several strategic planning and valuation projects under risk and uncertainty.

Allan's qualifications include an MSc (Defence Studies) University of Madras (Lentaigne Medal) and an MBA (Elective Finance) from the Henley Management College and Business School, Oxford on Thames, Oxfordshire UK. He is a noted industry based adjunct professor who has been invited to both lecture (and guest lecture) at the master's degree level universities in New Zealand and Australia over a period of twenty years from 2001 to 2021. He has conducted advanced logistics and supply chain governance advisories for senior operations/supply chain managers of major NZ companies and defence services on behalf of the Centre for Supply Chain Excellence at the University of Auckland. He is currently serving the MD of the Business Binnacle Ltd a management consulting practice. He is currently semi-retired from full-time consulting work.

Rear Admiral (LH) Giuseppe SCHIVARDI

Italian Navy
Study Center Director
Naval Staff College, Venice
Italy



Rear Admiral Giuseppe SCHIVARDI has served on various units of the Italian Fleet including the Cruiser DUILIO, the frigates SAGITTARIO and GRECALE, and the destroyer MIMBELLI. He has commanded the minehunter ALGHERO, the experience ship CARABINIERE and, from October 2011 to October 2012, the 2nd Frigate Squadron. As part of his operational assignments, he has participated in numerous international missions under national, NATO, WEU and international coalition aegis in the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Adriatic.

From 2003 to 2011, at the Naval Staff College in Venice, he was Professor of Global Strategy, and the Director of the Institute's Study Center. He holds a degree in Maritime and Naval Sciences from the University of Pisa and a degree in Political Sciences from the University of Trieste.

He is co-author of *"Odyssey of a submariner; from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean 1940-1943"* and of *"All aboard: the sailors of Italy on September 8th 1943 between ethics and raison d'état"* both published by Mursia in 2007 and 2008 respectively. In addition, he has collaborated on various academic projects with prestigious institutions such as the Cà Foscari University of Venice and other Italian universities' departments involved in foreign policy and maritime security issues studies and with the King's College of London.

From 2015 to 2018 he was Naval and Defence Attaché at the Italian Embassy in Paris. In July 2020 he left active service, but was called back to service by the Chief of Staff of the Navy, and assigned the position of Director of the Study Center with the specific task of coordinating a broad-spectrum project for the diffusion of the "maritime thinking" with the aim of federating all the actors of the so-called maritime "cluster" (universities, scientific research, industry, services and security managers...) at national level. In the field of training and development of maritime strategic thinking, he is in charge of relations with the corresponding Study Centers at European and international level.

He is fluent in English and French. Married since 1988 to Ornella BOAROLO, he has two daughters, Mila and Francesca.

Mr Mahadevan SHANKAR

Founder and CEO, Arzuh International

Co-Founder, The Current and Strategic Affairs Forum (CASA)
Australia



Arzuh International's Founder CEO, Mahadevan Shankar, has a successful 30+ year career as a Board Member, Big 4 Accounting Firm Partner, Business Executive, Investor, Start-Up Co-Founder, and Strategic Advisor.

His biggest achievements come from bringing together smart, practical, forward-thinking teams and leaders to create incredible outcomes in an international environment.

A Chartered Accountant by profession, Mr Shankar has built his experience across multiple sectors and economies including Australia, Canada, India, Papua New Guinea, South Pacific countries, Russia, Central Asian Region, and Africa. As a core member and regular contributor to several reputed Think Tanks, Business Councils, and Chambers of Commerce in India, Australia, and Papua New Guinea, he shares erudite, discerning analysis and provides input on strategic and business issues.

As an Honorary Adjunct Fellow of the NMF, he has leveraged his networks across Oceania and the South Pacific region countries. He has actively contributed to the Forum for India Pacific Islands Countries (FIPIC) Summits held in November 2014 in Fiji, August 2015 in India, and May 2023 in Papua New Guinea and has been engaged in several QUAD initiatives by facilitating separate MOUs between the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers, India (SIDM) with the Australian Industry & Defence Networks (AIDN) in September 2021 and the International Security Industry Council of Japan (ISIC) in April 2022.

As the National Convenor for Defence and Security National Industry Group in the Australia India Chamber of Commerce (AICC), he has facilitated many important interactions between businesses in both countries in key areas of defence manufacturing, cybersecurity, and maritime domain. He has facilitated MOU between AICC and SATCOM Industry Association (SIA) in November 2022 and AICC and the Geospatial World Chamber of Commerce (GWCC) in June 2023.

Mr Deepak SHETTY

*Former Secretary to the Government of India
Former Director-General of Shipping
Senior Advisor (India)
Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN)*



Mr Deepak Shetty is a member of the 1980 batch of the Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise). He served in the civil service for over 36 years from 1980 to 2016 and retired as a Secretary to the Government of India. He was the Joint Director General of Shipping, Ministry of Shipping, Government of India for 4 years and was appointed subsequently as the Director General of Shipping, a post that he held for two years. He is a recipient of 26 national, regional and international awards and commendations, some of which include:

- Presidential Award of Appreciation Certificate for Specially Distinguished Record of Service, awarded on Indian Republic Day, 2002
- Commendation Certificate for Meritorious and Sincere Services Rendered, conferred on International Customs Day, 2002
- Commendations, separately, from External Affairs Minister, Government of India (2015) and Foreign & Maritime Affairs Minister, Government of Seychelles (2016) for outstanding global maritime & diplomatic services
- Commendation from Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, at the United Nations, New York, in 2014, for his singularly exceptional contribution to the best-in-class international model of rescue, relief and rehabilitation of piracy impacted Indian seafarers.

He currently serves as Senior Adviser (India) to Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN), Copenhagen, Global Director-cum-Trustee of International Seafarers' Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN), London, and is also a certified Independent Director on Board of Directors of several Indian companies. He is also a Maritime Transportation and Crime Expert and has been on the 'Global Experts Roster' of the Security Council of the United Nations, New York from 2016 to 2022.

Ambassador Kanwal SIBAL

Chancellor

Jawaharlal Nehru University

Former Foreign Secretary of India



Ambassador Kanwal Sibal, with 41 years of experience in diplomacy, is a former Foreign Secretary to the Government of India. He has been Ambassador to Turkey, Egypt, France and Russia, and Deputy Chief of Mission in Washington DC (with personal rank of Ambassador).

He was a member of India's National Security Advisory Board from 2008 to 2010 and is on the Executive Council of the Vivekananda International Foundation. He is also an Adviser to the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum.

He is a member of Leaders for Peace, an international forum of retired prime ministers, foreign ministers, heads of international bodies etc, established by former French Prime Minister Mr. Raffarin. He was made a Grand Officer of the National Order of Merit by the French President in 2004, the second highest distinction in this Order.

In 2017 he received the Padma Shree award from the President of India for public service. The same year, he was decorated by the Russian Foreign Minister for Contributions to International Cooperation.

He has written more than 700 Op-Eds and other articles on Indian foreign policy and international affairs for major national and foreign media. He is active on X.

He was appointed Chancellor of the Jawaharlal Nehru University in September 2023.

His book of poems "Snowflakes of Time" was published by Bloomsbury in 2016.

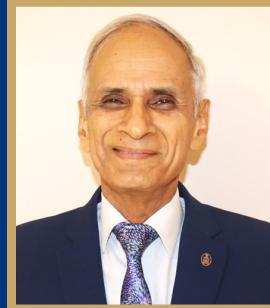
Admiral Karambir SINGH

PVSM, AVSM, IN (Retd)

Former Chief of the Naval Staff

Chairman, National Maritime Foundation

New Delhi



Admiral Karambir Singh was India's 24th Chief of the Naval Staff from 31 May 2019 to 30 November 2021. He is currently the chairman of the National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi, a position he assumed on 17 January 2022.

The Admiral was commissioned into the Indian Navy in July 1980. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, and the College of Naval Warfare, Mumbai. A Naval aviator, he earned his wings in 1981 as a helicopter pilot and has flown extensively on the Chetak (Alouette Mk III) and several variants of Kamov helicopters.

He has commanded the Indian Coast Guard Ship Chandbibi, the guided-missile corvette INS Vijaydurg, and two of the Indian Navy's frontline guided-missile destroyers, namely, INS *Rana* and INS *Delhi*. He has also tenanted the seagoing appointments, including those of Fleet Operations Officer of the Western Fleet.

On promotion to flag rank, the Admiral served as the Chief of Staff of the Eastern Naval Command. He has also tenanted other important flag appointments such as the Chief of Staff of the Tri-Services Unified Command in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and the Flag Officer Commanding Maharashtra and Gujarat Naval Area (FOMAG).

As a Vice-Admiral, he was the Director-General, Project Seabird, and oversaw all aspects of the development of the Indian Navy's expansive and modern base at Karwar in India's southern state of Karnataka. He then served as the Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, and later as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff at the Naval Headquarters. He was the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command and assumed Command of the Indian Navy on 31 May 2019, serving until his retirement from active service on 30 November 2021.

Commodore Manish SINHA

Indian Navy
Executive Director
National Maritime Foundation
New Delhi



Cmde Manish Sinha was commissioned into the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy on 01 January 1992 and has specialised in Gunnery and Missiles. He is an alumnus of Naval Academy, INS Dronacharya, Defence Services Staff College (Wellington) and Naval War College (Goa). His educational qualifications include Masters and MPhil degrees from Madras University.

The officer's background is largely in Operations, Defence Cooperation and Training. He has been privileged to command Coast Guard Ship C-01 followed by IN ships Ajay and Betwa. He has served as Executive Officer on board IN Ships Abhay and Shivalik.

His staff assignments include tenures at the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff/ Defence Intelligence Agency (Defence Protocol & Foreign Liaison); Naval Headquarters (Joint Director Foreign Cooperation) and Headquarters Western Naval Command (Command Ops Officer, Command Plans Officer and Staff Officer to Chief of Staff).

His Training assignments include the 1st Training Squadron on board INS Tir; Directing Staff and Head of Training Team (Navy) at Defence Services Staff College (Wellington); as also member of the first Indian Military Training Team (IMTT) positioned at the Command and Staff College, Tanzania.

He is an avid reader and wildlife photographer.

Vice Admiral Krishna SWAMINATHAN

AVSM, VSM

Vice Chief of the Naval Staff

Indian Navy



Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, AVSM, VSM assumed charge as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff on 01 May 2024. The Flag Officer was Commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 Jul 87 and is a specialist in Communication and Electronic Warfare. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla; the Joint Services Command and Staff College, Shrivenham, United Kingdom; the College of Naval Warfare, Karanja; and the United States Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, USA.

A recipient of the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal, the Admiral has held several key operational, staff and training appointments in his naval career including the Command of missile vessels INS Vidyut and INS Vinash; the missile corvette INS Kulish; the guided missile destroyer INS Mysore and the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.

On promotion to the rank of Rear Admiral, he served as the Chief Staff Officer (Training) at Headquarters, Southern Naval Command, Kochi and played a key role on the conduct of training across the Indian Navy. He was also instrumental in raising the Indian Naval Safety Team that oversees operational safety across all verticals of the Navy. He then went on to head the Work-Up Organisation of the Navy as the Flag Officer Sea Training after which he was privileged to be appointed as the Flag Officer Commanding, Western Fleet. After commanding the Sword Arm, he was appointed as the Flag Officer Offshore Defence Advisory Group and Advisor, Offshore Security and Defence to the Government of India. On promotion to the rank of Vice Admiral, the Flag Officer was Chief of Staff of the Western Naval Command and Controller of Personnel Services at NHQ. Prior to his current assignment as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, he served as Chief of Personnel at NHQ.

VAdm Swaminathan's educational qualifications include a BSc degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; MSc in Telecommunications from Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi; MA in Defence Studies from King's College, London; MPhil in Strategic Studies from Mumbai University; and PhD in International Studies from Mumbai University.

Mr Damien SYED

Deputy Chief of Mission
Embassy of the Republic of France
New Delhi



Born in 1979 in Neuilly-sur-Seine, Mr Damien SYED graduated from the University of Paris where he obtained a master in European law, and from the National Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilizations in Paris (Hindi, Urdu). After his admission to the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs, he worked as head of section at the department for the French citizens abroad (2003-2005) then as desk officer for Mali and Guinea at the Africa and Indian Ocean department (2005-2008).

From 2009 to 2012, he was desk officer for Afghanistan and Pakistan at the Asia and Pacific department. From 2012 to 2015, Mr. SYED was first secretary at the embassy of France in Malaysia. From 2015 to 2018, he was consul general of France in Kolkata. From 2018 to 2019, he was deputy-director, in charge of traineeships, at the National School of Administration (ENA). From 2019 to 2022, Mr. SYED was the head of the South Asia division at the Asia and Pacific department of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. Since the 31st of August 2022, he has been the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of France in India.

Professor Hideshi TOKUCHI

President
Research Institute for Peace and Security (RIPS)
Tokyo, Japan



Professor Hideshi Tokuchi joined the Defense Agency (the predecessor of the Ministry of Defense) of Japan in 1979, and served as the nation's first-ever Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs from 2014 to 2015 after completing several senior assignments including the Director-General of Defense Policy Bureau, of Budget and Equipment Bureau, of Personnel and Education Bureau, and of Operations Bureau.

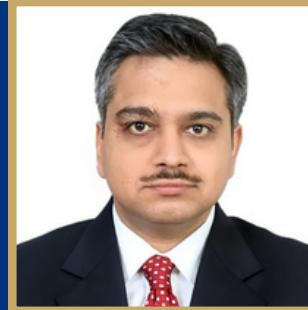
He has been the President of a Tokyo-based independent think-tank called the Research Institute for Peace and Security (RIPS) since June 2021. He teaches international security studies as a visiting professor at National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo.

He earned his Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Tokyo in 1979, and his Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy (MALD) degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in 1986.

His recent articles in English include: "Japan's New National Security Strategy – An Awakened Japan and Its Implications for Taiwan," *Prospects & Perspectives*, No. 4, January 16, 2023; "Toward the Formulation of a New "National Security Strategy" and Key Security Policy Documents – Expectations, Anxieties, and Some Proposals," *Security Studies*, Vol. 4, No. 4, December 2022; "The revision of Japan's National Security Strategy - A new opportunity for enhanced Japan-Europe security cooperation," *The European – Security and Defence Union*, Issue 44, November 2022; and "The US-Japan Alliance Cooperation on Addressing Climate Security," Ocean Policy Research Institute ed., *Climate Security*, Tokai Education Research Institute, 2022.

Mr Atul TRIPATHI

Consultant, Big Data & Artificial Intelligence
Former Consultant in the PMO and NSCS



Mr Atul Tripathi has 20+ years' experience in Generative AI, Quantum Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, UNSDG, ESG, Disaster Risk, Cyber security, Data Policy & AI Ethics. He was a consultant in Prime Minister's Office – National Security Council Secretariat. He has worked in Consultancy and Technology Industry, R&D (IIT Kanpur, ISI Kolkata). Atul has been part of delegation where he has represented the country at various international forums and international negotiations. He is an advisor for setting up data science center at IISER, Mohali, SRM University, IIPA, Executive Fellow – Woxsen University, KCC Institute – Advisory committee, Mentor & Advisor – Sabudh Foundation. He works very closely with Government of India in advisory capacity. His current research area is in Quantum Machine Learning and Generative AI.

He has been teaching AI, Cybersecurity, Quantum Computing, Data Policy, AI Ethics, Insurance, Anti Money Laundering, Risk Management at various universities, institutions and industries such as IIIT Srirangam, IIM Lucknow, IIM Indore, IIT Roorkee, BIMTECH, Goa Institute of Management, Indian Institute of Public Administration, ATI Nainital and more. He is the co-founder of Univ.ai, an EdTech company. His teaching expertise includes topics such as data governance, AI ethics, financial analytics, and data protection, impacting diverse sectors such as banking, public policy, and energy.

He has extensive hands-on experience in predictive modeling, machine learning, and big data analysis. His work spans the development of AI-based models for multilingual systems, speech recognition, and image recognition. He has also contributed significantly to public policy, providing insights into India's Personal Data Protection Bill and AI policy. As an accomplished author, he has written the "Practical Machine Learning Cookbook," translated into multiple languages.

Dr Vishwapati TRIVEDI

Indian Administrative Service (Retd)

Former Chairman, National Shipping Board

Former Chairman, Inland Waterways Authority of India,

Member, NMF Governing Council



An economist, administrator and an expert on shipping/mining/aviation and logistics, Dr. Vishwapati Trivedi is the former Union Secretary in the Ministry of Shipping and the Ministry of Mines. He is an economics honours graduate of St. Stephen's College, completed his MSc in Economics from the London School of Economics and has a PhD in International Economics from the Simon Fraser University, Canada. He is also a law graduate and a registered advocate.

Dr Trivedi has held various positions in the government and abroad in his long career with the government spanning 45 years. He was the Chairman and Managing Director of Indian Airlines and Joint Managing director of Air India. He also served at the International Monetary Fund, Washington D.C. as the Adviser to the Executive Director.

He has a rich experience in maritime and shipping sectors, having been Chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India and then headed the premier policy advisory authority, the National Shipping Board, besides being the Secretary of the Ministry of Shipping, Government of India.

He has been a visiting faculty to the World Maritime University. Dr. Trivedi has a very wide experience in the field of domestic and international arbitrations. He is a member of the Governing Council of the Indian Council of Arbitration. Dr. Trivedi also advises the Logistics Sector Skill Council, under the Ministry of Skill Development, Government of India.

Captain Wade TURVOLD

USN (Retd)

Dean, Admissions and Business Operations

Daniel K Inouye Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies

Hawaii, USA



Wade Turvold joined the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in June 2019 after a 30-year career in the U.S. Navy. He was privileged to serve in two educational assignments during this time, as the U.S. Navy Senior Service Representative and Director National Security Studies at the U.S. Army War College, and the U.S. Navy Exchange Directing Staff at the Joint Services Command and Staff College, Defence Academy of the United Kingdom in Shrivenham, England. Mr. Turvold served in a faculty position prior to becoming the Dean of Admissions and Business Operations.

He served as a Naval Flight Officer during his career and has extensive experience flying P-3C and P-8A aircraft. Mr. Turvold commanded Patrol Squadron FOUR in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, and commanded Air Test and Evaluation Squadron ONE in Patuxent River, Maryland. In addition to his command tours, he served in five operational flying assignments, operating widely in the Indo-Pacific region and globally.

His staff assignments were as Air Anti Submarine Operations Officer on the United States SIXTH Fleet staff embarked in USS LASALLE in Gaeta, Italy, and as Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations at Patrol and Reconnaissance Force, United States SEVENTH Fleet in Misawa, Japan.

Mr. Turvold graduated with Merit from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland in 1989, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree. He graduated with Distinction from the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island in 2000, where he earned a Master of Arts degree.

He has published extensively in the areas of maritime security and Indo-Pacific strategy.

Ambassador D Bala Venkatesh VARMA

Distinguished Fellow

Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF)

Former Ambassador of India to Russia



Ambassador DB Venkatesh Varma was a member of the Indian Foreign Service from 1988 to 2021. During his diplomatic career, he has worked in the Ministry of External Affairs, in the Office of External Affairs Minister and in the Prime Minister's Office. He served as India's Ambassador to Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, to the Kingdom of Spain and to the Russian Federation, until October 2021.

He has vast experience in India's Security and Defence policies, including its nuclear, missile, and space programs, having served three postings in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. He also served as Joint Secretary in charge of Disarmament and International Security in the Ministry of External Affairs between 2010-2013.

He was a key member of the Indian negotiating team involved in the Civil Nuclear Initiative with the USA during his tenure as Director in the Prime Minister's Office during 2004-2007. He has vast experience with respect to India's Civil Nuclear Programme. Amb Varma was key member of India's delegation to the Nuclear Security Summits during 2010-2013.

With three separate postings in Moscow, spanning three decades, he has vast experience in India's defence and strategic relations with Russia. As Ambassador, he was closely involved with developing India's relations with Russia including Prime Minister Modi's Act Far East Initiative, deepening of India's Defence, Nuclear, Space, Energy, Commercial, Science & Technology and Cultural relations with Russia. He has spoken at the St. Petersburg Economic Forum and the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok.

He has an M.Phil in International Relations (Disarmament Studies) from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. A Distinguished Fellow at the Vivekananda International Foundation, he has spoken at numerous think-tanks in India and abroad.

He was the first Recipient of the S.K.Singh Award for Excellence in the Indian Foreign Service in 2011 for his contribution to the negotiations of the Civil Nuclear Initiative.

Dr Gudrun WACKER

Senior Fellow, Asia Division
Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik
German Institute for International and Security Affairs
Berlin, Germany



Dr Gudrun Wacker is Senior Fellow in the Asia Division at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP) in Berlin, a think tank providing political advice to the German government and parliament. Her research focuses on Chinese foreign and security policy, especially EU-China relations, China and the Asia-Pacific region, and security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific and the Indo-Pacific. She is currently an EU delegate to the Experts and Eminent Persons Group of the ASEAN Regional Forum

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Senior Researcher and Maritime Project Leader
Institute for Security Studies
Pretoria, South Africa



Timothy Walker is the Maritime Project Leader and a Senior Researcher at ISS Pretoria. Since 2011 he has worked to strengthen African maritime security institutions and promote maritime security as a policy priority with organisations such as the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). Timothy has a master's degree in political and international studies from Rhodes University, South Africa.



ABSTRACTS OF PRESENTATIONS

The Marcos Administration's Strategic Imperative amidst the Resource Scramble in the Indo-Pacific: The Philippines' Comprehensive Archipelagic Defense Concept (CADC)

Professor Renato Cruz De Castro

This PowerPoint presentation examines the origin, evolution, and development of the Philippines' archipelagic defense doctrine. It focuses on the Aquino Administration's comprehensive border protection program and, later, on the Marcos Administration's adoption of the Comprehensive Archipelagic Defense Concept (CADC). From 2011-2016, the late President Benigno Aquino III pursued a policy of balancing or challenging China's expansive maritime claim in the South China Sea. This policy was reflected in the Aquino Administration's efforts to establish a comprehensive border protection program. The Marcos Administration showed a sense of urgency in developing the armed forces' naval capabilities to enhance the country's maritime security in the face of Chinese expansion in the South China Sea. Specifically, his administration's renewed balancing policy entails building up the Philippine military's external defense capabilities, enhancing its alliance with the U.S. by increasing American strategic presence in the Philippines and fostering security arrangements with other American allies like South Korea, Japan, and Australia, and more recently, adopting a Comprehensive Archipelagic Defense Concept (CADC). CADC aims to project the country's military power to the country's 200 nautical miles exclusive economic zone (EEZ). These moves are directed at strengthening the Philippines' diplomatic and strategic posture vis-à-vis Chinese maritime expansion in the South China Sea. In conclusion, this presentation argues that the Marcos Administration's adoption of the CADC as the country's new defense strategy and the AFP's decision to reconfigure the Horizon Three of the AFP modernization program, based on the CADC's requirements, are the most apparent indications of the evolution and development of a more defiant and robust Philippine archipelagic defense doctrine---one that is geared for more toward defending the country from external threats in the country's vast maritime domain than addressing the internal insurgencies that have plagued the country since its independence in 1946.

Resource-Geopolitics as a Current and Future Driver of Indonesia's Maritime Strategy

Dr Shafiah F Muhibat

Indonesia's maritime security is currently driven by its vast marine resources, including fisheries, oil, gas, and other seabed minerals, which are essential to its economy. The country is the world's largest archipelagic state and has one of the most expansive EEZs, which it must protect to preserve its sovereign rights over these resources. However, these waters are also among the world's most contested, with overlapping claims involving several countries.

Looking ahead, resource-geopolitics will continue to be a significant driver of Indonesia's maritime security strategy. As Indonesia navigates this complex geopolitical environment, it must balance national sovereignty, regional cooperation, and sustainable resource management to protect its maritime interests and maintain stability in the broader Indo-Pacific region.

As technological advances make deep-sea resource extraction more feasible, the competition for marine resources, including minerals from the seabed, is likely to intensify. Indonesia must prepare for this by enhancing its maritime domain awareness and investing in capabilities to protect its underwater resources. Climate change also poses a future challenge that intersects with resource-geopolitics. Rising sea levels and changing marine ecosystems could lead to shifts in fish populations, affecting Indonesia's fishing industry and potentially increasing tensions with neighboring countries over shared resources. Indonesia will need to collaborate regionally and internationally to address these challenges, ensuring that its maritime security strategy is adaptable to both geopolitical and environmental changes. Additionally, Indonesia's strategic position along major global shipping routes presents both opportunities and security challenges. The increase in maritime traffic could heighten the risk of piracy, smuggling, and potential blockades, making it imperative for Indonesia to strengthen its naval capabilities and international cooperation to safeguard these vital waterways.

The New Frontiers of Maritime Security: Critical Maritime Infrastructure Protection, Cyber Security, and Climate Change

Dr Christian Bueger

The new frontiers of maritime security: Critical maritime infrastructure protection, cyber security, and climate change

Maritime Security continues to be a field of growing importance. In this presentation, Prof Bueger draws on the insights from his recent book *Understanding Maritime Security* (with Tim Edmunds). He reflects on the history and evolution of maritime security demonstrating how the challenges incorporated under this agenda have multiplied since the 2000s and a common toolbox of solutions has emerged. He then investigates emerging challenges which define the future of maritime security, paying particular attention to critical maritime infrastructure protection, maritime cyber security, and the impact of climate change and biodiversity loss. He argues that these emergent challenges necessitate a strategic rethinking, revised efforts in maritime domain awareness, and stronger institutionalization of regional and global maritime security governance through the United Nations.

Security of Maritime Transportation of Energy: Meaningful Japan-India Cooperation Options

Prof Hideshi Tokuchi

The Indo-Pacific, including East Asia, is a huge seascape. Japan, as an Indo-Pacific nation, defines itself as a maritime country, depending much on maritime transportation for its own survival and prosperity. Thus, maritime security is always prioritized in Japan's entire national security policy.

Securing natural resources requires maritime security. The South China Sea, connecting the Indian and the Pacific Oceans, is an important seaway for Japan as a transportation route of natural resources such as crude oil and natural gas. In this regard, it should be also noted that it is only since the 1970s that China has been claiming Japan's Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea as the world began to pay attention to the area as ECAFE reported the possibility of oil reserves in the East China Sea in 1968.

Security of maritime transportation could not be achieved by any one country as the sea is a global common. Therefore, it is in the interest of Japan to enhance partnership with India, which is more maritime than before. Joint Statement of Japan-India 2+2 Ministerial Meeting on August 20, 2024 clearly states that the bilateral security and defense cooperation is recognized as an important pillar of the Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership. Bilateral dialogue on maritime issues and bilateral exercises between the two naval forces have been conducted. Also, there is a progress in the transfer of Unified Complex Radio Antenna (UNICORN) and related technologies, and future cooperation in the area of ship maintenance in India is being explored between the two navies. As equipment and technology cooperation entails a large circle of stakeholders, including the military and the civilians, the governments and the industries, and scientists and operators, it requires a lot of energy, but it will have a huge impact on the overall bilateral relations.

Japan-India cooperation in maritime security is also promoted in multilateral contexts, i.e., in the Quad and in the IPOI. Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA), promoted by the Quad to secure open sea lines of communication and to provide capacity-building assistance for regional partners, will be the basis of maritime security including security of maritime transportation. Also, Japan is a lead country of trade-connectivity and maritime transport pillar of India's IPOI. All these efforts, bilateral and multilateral, should be integrated and generate unity. Future Japan-India cooperation on the security of maritime transportation of energy may depend on energy transition. Less dependence on fossil fuels and more dependence on renewable energies such as hydrogen will affect the trade routes and accordingly their security.

US Perspective on the “State-of-Play” of Resource-Geopolitics in South- and West Asia

Prof Jeffrey Payne

The waters of the Indo-Pacific host numerous challenges that speak to the growing competitive nature over research wealth. From threats to freedom of navigation to the erosion of fisheries, the rules that govern the global commons are at risk. These remarks will address how the United States approaches the rising scale of resource competition throughout the Indo-Pacific, with a particular look towards the waters of the Indian Ocean. Key to the United States' approach are the partnerships that exist with like-minded state and non-state actors. Through diversifying means for sharing information, facilitating partner capability enhancements, and reinforcing the rules-based order, the United States is responding to current competition by amplifying its own commitment to regional and multilateral maritime governance.

Managing Competitive Resource-Geopolitics: India-UK Collaborative Options

Prof Alessio Patalano

The theme of this conference captures one of the central features that defines this century as a 'maritime' century. The Strategic Studies literature has cogently argued in recent past that the sea performs an important function both as an indirect resource for human development as well as a direct source for the sustenance and prosperity of modern societies. The ability to access marine resources, from fish stocks to raw materials in the seabed, captures the meaning of the latter function.

The use of the sea as a means of physical and digital connectivity through sea-lanes and under sea cables and pipelines refers to the former. In this respect, therefore, as our dependency on the use of the oceans to connect with each other and to grow prosperous by interacting with each other increases so is the notion that the 21st century is a true maritime century. Such a dependency on connectivity and resources, in turn, has set the conditions for state and non-state

actors alike to transform such dependencies in vulnerabilities to be exploited to one's advantage. The geopolitics of the maritime century are in one sense, the geopolitics of competition over access and exploitation of the sea as a source of connectivity and a resource on its own terms.

This talk draws upon this understanding of 'competitive resource geopolitics' to identify paths of cooperation for India and the UK. Under Prime Minister Modi's signature Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) the UK has volunteered to co-lead with India on the maritime security pillar. This talk suggests that a 'holistic' approach to maritime security is ideally placed to help foster a culture of maritime governance that can favour cooperation over competition, and the respect for the rule of law to pursue the development of ocean activities over the use of force to secure narrow national goals. In particular, the talk makes the case for the important of developing a series of networked centres of excellence across the Indo-Pacific region to nurture a common grammar and a shared vocabulary on how to ensure the security and sustainable development of the theatres across these two oceans. The talk specifically suggests that the India and the UK can lead the way by developing a first centre of excellence in maritime security in the Indian Ocean to enable this region to address cross-boundary issues from illegal fishing to drug smuggling, to the protection of critical undersea infrastructure.

Germany's Approach to Resource-Geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific

Dr Gudrun Wacker

While a reliable supply of raw materials and resources has been on the German agenda for years, the issue of supply chain resilience has become more acute due to the global pandemic. The debate took a geopolitical turn after Russia's invasion of Ukraine (energy dependency on Russia). For critical raw materials and resources that are needed for the green and mobility transition, the main risk Germany's and Europe's lies in the Indo-Pacific: It is the over-dependency on China as a supplier. Germany and the EU have published strategies on how to secure raw materials and resources. These focus on diversifying suppliers, forming raw material partnerships with third countries and building up Europe's own capacities in mining, refining and recycling. Main challenges for Germany and the EU are the time factor, the lack of state funding, the different logics of governments and companies and the dominant position of China.

French Geopolitics in the Search for New Age Resources of the Seabed in the Indo-Pacific

Ms Marianne Peron-Doise

France has a maritime area of 11 million square km, 9 million of which are in the Indo-Pacific. This represents the world's second largest EEZ behind the United States, and an Indo-Pacific power that is very committed to regional maritime security and the defence of good order at sea in line with the Montego Bay Convention, as well as being keen to participate in the development of responsible and sustainable ocean governance. Given the extent of its maritime domain in metropolitan France and overseas, France has taken a very early interest in the issue of access to seabed mineral resources. In 2015, it drew up a ' National strategy for seabed exploration and mining" updated in 2021. This is a part of the broader 'France 2030' investment plan and the country 's effort to secure energy and minerals supply and ensure France strategic autonomy. France is aware of the many complex technical, economic, social, scientific, legal and environmental issues associated with the seabed. Increasingly, there are also issues of power and governance at global level, and cooperation between states seems to be giving way to confrontation. This uncertain context and France's commitment to combating climate change and protecting biodiversity (BBNJ) have prompted it to take a strong stance on deep sea mining (November 2023, COP 27) by declaring that this activity should be banned in international waters.

Similarly, at a national level, France is aware of the need to protect its own strategic interests in a marine environment that is increasingly disputed and exposed to hybrid threats. In 2022, the Ministry of the Armed Forces published a 'Seabed warfare strategy' to ensure freedom of action for the French Armed Forces in this coveted space, not least in its overseas territories.

Contemporary Maritime Impacts of 2024 - “Critical Minerals Bubble-Burst”: Identifying New Maritime Opportunities

Mr Mahadevan Shankar

Identification of new Maritime opportunities with the ongoing Critical Minerals bubble burst will require a strategic and adaptable approach until the ongoing correction in the market forces stabilize between demand and supply. The key areas to consider are:

1. Assessing current market demand and supply gaps
2. Survey & Exploration, EIA, Technology Development for deep sea mining and metallurgy
 - Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB) to India alone issued by ISA.
 - Clarion Clipperton Zone (CCZ) exploration licenses to 16 contractors covering 1mn sq kms issued by ISA.
 - Australia India Critical Minerals Research Partnership (CMRP) with support from CSIRO funding to develop & unlock commercial deposits in IOR.
 - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) towards technology development of mining and metallurgy for transport & onshore processing.
 - Nautilus Minerals started first seabed mining ops in Papua New Guinea.
3. International Seabed Authority (ISA) & UNCLOS regulatory challenges
 - ISA has 169 member countries including Russia and China, but not USA.
 - UNCLOS challenges in SCS where China's has unilateral sovereign claims and doesn't recognise ICJ ruling.
 - License jurisdictions and dispute resolution mechanisms.
 - Environmental disasters and insurance for long term sustainable deep sea mining supply chains and maritime SLOCs.
4. Environment, Social and Governance (ESG)
 - Global ESG guidelines adoption and implementation by China owned and operated mines plus manufacturing in Indonesia not consistent with global standards.
 - US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) impact on critical minerals supply chains with higher tariffs imposed on suppliers from countries without FTA with USA and any Foreign Entity of Concern (FEOC) in other jurisdictions. FEOC ownership of certain mines in Australia impact their exports to USA markets.

Geopolitical Impact of Great and Middle Powers upon Sri Lanka's transition to a Blue Economy

Admiral Jayantha Perera (Retd)

The need to widen efforts in unleashing the abundance of potential over the oceanic territory has given new impetus to a Blue Economic upturn, which is gaining precedence as a primary branch of commerce globally. Moreover the concept of "Blue Economy", which the world at large is navigating itself towards implementing, advocates economical and eco-friendly approaches of harnessing the riches of oceanic eco-systems and its surroundings for better gains. Therefore

strengthening the maritime domain in all aspects remains pivotal, for nations to tap rightly such channels and create economic value from the vast oceans.

However, endowed with a myriad of riches and often known to be an island nation of attraction in the eyes of the international arena and the Indo-Pacific oceans, Sri Lanka has also joined the fleet in embracing and incorporating into the present domain of development, the coveted conceptualization of a Blue Economy. Located along the cross roads of the vital sea lanes, this strategic presence of Sri Lanka has served purposeful for the nation to extensively rely upon its surrounding oceanic environment, in order to maximize the benefits derived from the off-shore regions.

The vast oceans surrounding Sri Lanka are limitless in terms of its ability to contribute toward enhancing the country's economic value chain and its continued evolution. Spanning over a cross section of dimensions below ground, Sri Lanka's exclusive economic zone entails a variety of natural endowments such as marine life, exploitable minerals and conventional hydrocarbons.

The commercial opportunities such factors offer are plenty. Furthermore the surrounding oceans are now beginning to play a promising role, in allowing Sri Lanka to witness the bountifulness of its marine eco-systems. From sustaining coastal livelihoods which many coastal communities are heavily dependent on at present, Sri Lanka's off-shore regions have also been able to support numerous climate change initiatives and tourism driven recreational approaches, which the nation is now beginning to capitalize on.

Therefore, to dive deep or set sail towards attaining sustainable economic development may only remain the greatest possibility of all, if Sri Lanka is able to steer with clarity and tap rightly the treasure trove of abundance, which its Blue Economy harbours.

“Extra-regional Resource-driven Geopolitics in the South Pacific”

Ambassador Peter Ilau, Commodore(Retired)

This speech addresses the critical theme of "Resource-Geopolitics and Security in the Indo Pacific," highlighting its significance for Papua New Guinea (PNG) and South Pacific nations. The speaker emphasizes the urgent need to refine strategies that engage with the Indo Pacific framework, particularly through initiatives like SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.

Key Points:

1. Leveraging Strategic Geography: PNG's unique geographical position offers significant advantages for resource management and security. The rich biodiversity and resources in its waters are vital for economic growth and community livelihoods. Enhancing maritime infrastructure is essential for securing international shipping routes and fostering regional trade.
2. Alignment with SAGAR Principles: The speaker advocates for aligning national policies with SAGAR's principles, promoting regional cooperation, resource security, and sustainable economic practices. Collaborative dialogue with regional partners is crucial for shared prosperity and equitable growth.
3. Engagement in the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative: Active participation in this initiative is vital for enhancing maritime safety, combating illegal fishing, and ensuring sustainable resource management. Collaborative strategies can address challenges such as environmental degradation and illegal fishing.
4. Sustainable Management of Marine Resources: The speech underscores the importance of sustainable fishing practices and the protection of marine biodiversity. Incorporating traditional knowledge into resource management is essential for long-term sustainability.
5. Navigating Geopolitical Dynamics: A comprehensive understanding of the geopolitical landscape is necessary to advocate for PNG's interests effectively. The speaker highlights the importance of a united front among South Pacific nations to address resource competition and potential geopolitical tensions.
6. Collaboration Among South Pacific Nations: The speaker calls for enhanced cooperation among South Pacific nations to share best practices in resource management and develop innovative solutions to common challenges.
7. Strengthening Maritime Security Frameworks: Developing a comprehensive maritime security strategy is crucial for addressing threats such as illegal fishing and piracy. Collaborative efforts with regional partners will enhance surveillance and enforcement capabilities.

Maritime Resource-Geopolitics and Security off Southern and Eastern Africa: Opportunities for South Africa

Mr Timothy Walker

Against the backdrop of concern about intensifying competition for ocean resources and geopolitical interests shifts, southern and eastern African coastal regions also confront increasing challenges from illegal activities such as rampant fisheries crimes and drug trafficking, as well as territorial disputes and increasing environmental concerns brought about by climate change such as sea level rises and extreme weather events. These often transnational and shared challenges demand coordinated regional approaches that South Africa, with its relatively advanced maritime capabilities and aspirations to become an international maritime centre, is well positioned to lead. This presentation will explore how South Africa has sought to leverage its strategic position, naval strength, and diplomatic influence to help steer the regions and continent towards a safer, secure and sustainable future.

2024 National Defence Strategy (NDS): Naval Impacts

Capt (Dr) Sean Andrews, CSC

The Indian Ocean, including the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, have always been vital shipping routes for global transit and passage and are particularly important for most of the countries in West Asia. Greater than 20 per cent of world shipping, which includes 70 per cent of the globe's petroleum products, 80 per cent of Europe's maritime shipments and 60 per cent of the Indo-Pacific transit through this region.

Australia's western ocean (Indian Ocean) is its largest coastal region and a strategic conundrum. The Indian Ocean is a vast heterogeneous region and is the site of a broad range of global security concerns. In one theatre, there exists high-level strategic competition, and a host of maritime and non-traditional security issues including piracy, terrorism, and the fallout from failing states, environmental degradations, illegal fishing and competition for resources.

One of the most significant trends in the maritime domain is the increasing pressure on resources. This is the product of numerous other related issues ranging from human population growth to climate change. Its implications have been discussed in the context of non-traditional security challenges for some time. This remains a huge problem for those considering oceans governance. Still, there are growing signs that resource scarcity has the potential not merely to be an issue in and of itself but also to create further instability and even resource conflicts. The possibility of this non-traditional security issue morphing into a traditional security one places even great onus on those developing coherent maritime strategies and government policy to consider resource management as a central task for likeminded states to collaborate rather than compete and not a peripheral one.

Resource Geopolitics and Security of the Eastern Mediterranean

Rear Admiral (Prof) Shaul Chorev, Isr Navy (Retd)

The Eastern Mediterranean has been a hub for geopolitical competition and unresolved civil wars since the Arab Spring in 2011. The region's significant geographic position makes it crucial for energy hubs and connectivity projects linking Asia, the Gulf, and Europe. Conflicts within the Middle East have led to the rise of global middle powers such as Turkey and Iran. Recent events, including the conflict between Hamas and Israel and the war between Russia and Ukraine, have significantly impacted the region's geopolitical landscape. Tensions over maritime zones, disruptions in food security, and climate change impacts continue to be major issues in the region. Even with efforts for regional cooperation and involvement from external players, the US remains a key player in the region's dynamics.

Offshore Natural Gas as a Driver of Tanzania's Geopolitics

Dr Tumaini S Gurumo

The United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania) is a sovereign state located in East Africa. Tanzania has a coastline on its Eastern side stretching 1,424 kilometers along the Indian Ocean. The country shares borders with eight African countries and is one amongst ten African countries having a coastline with the Indian Ocean. It is endowed with quite a few natural resources including natural gas. Its current offshore proven natural gas reserves amounts to 57 trillion cubic feet.

Over the years, natural gas upstream and downstream activities have been increasing, involving both national and international participation. Inadvertently production of natural gas in the country has been gradually increasing thus making Tanzania a potential natural gas hub for exportation to China, India, Japan, South Korea, and other far Eastern Asian countries.

This presentation will, therefore, introduce Tanzania and its natural gas developments; discuss the established legal and institutional framework for the management of natural gas; the interstate opportunities brought forward by global natural gas developments; and management of geopolitical aspects for the protection of territorial integrity, natural resources and state economies.

It is expected that the discovery and development of natural gas reserves in Tanzania will drastically change the course of a number of actors in the international arena as the world strives for climate change mitigation and individual states strive for survival and expansion.

Maritime Resource-Geopolitics off the Coast of Eastern Africa — The Case for Kenyan Leadership

This paper examines the geopolitics of maritime resources off the coast of Eastern Africa, focusing on Kenya's leadership within the Indo-Pacific region. The Indo-Pacific, a vast maritime region extending from the eastern shores of Africa to the Pacific Ocean, is pivotal to global industries, including energy, fisheries, and tourism. Eastern African nations such as Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Somalia, Madagascar, and the Seychelles possess significant maritime resources, including rich fisheries and substantial offshore oil and gas reserves. These resources have drawn considerable interest from global great, middle, and emerging powers leading to diverse forms of resource extraction and strategic investments. Kenya, due to its relative stability, strategic location, and relatively better maritime infrastructure, has emerged as a key player in the region that boasts significant, albeit underexploited maritime resources. However, the emergence of the region as a new frontier for global geopolitics puts the maritime question at the center of the new scramble for the greater Eastern African region particularly from the Gulf, Asia, Europe and North America as evidenced both by increased foreign maritime activity in the region. As such, we examine the broader geopolitical implications of foreign involvement in maritime resource extraction in Eastern Africa. The paper concludes by highlighting actual and potential areas for Kenya's leadership in maritime security, resource management, and economic development, thereby shaping both the current and future dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region within the Eastern coast of Africa's maritime domain. The findings underscore the critical role that Kenya and other Eastern African nations play in the global geopolitics of maritime resources.

Vietnam's Offshore Hydrocarbon Industry: Challenges and Opportunities

Dr Nguyen Hung Son

Holding a significant hydrocarbon reserves off its long coastline of over 3000 kilometers, Vietnam is potentially one of the major players in Southeast Asia's energy market. Between 2015 and 2023, the country's oil and gas industry accounted for 10-13 per cent of its GDP and 9-11 per cent of its state budget annually, although its contributions was proportionately lower than previous periods. Through the updated Law on Oil and Gas promulgated in 2022, Vietnam aims to enhance national energy security and economic development by encouraging both domestic and foreign investments into the sector and by ensuring state control through Petro Vietnam. However, the country is experiencing a downward trend in oil and gas exploration and exploitation with output decreasing by about 5-8 per cent annually due to a variety of challenges, such as price fluctuations, reserve depletions, and increased tensions in its East Sea, which is internationally referred as the South China Sea. Additionally, the complex economic relationships with neighbors, the strong transition to renewable energy and the quest for sustainable development altogether put a tough question to the efficiency and efficacy of new exploration and exploitation projects. Still, in the country's Strategy on Marine-Based Sustainable Development toward 2030 and the vision toward 2045, the offshore oil and gas sector is still considered a high priority.

Cooperative Naval Options in respect of Taiwan

Capt Wade Turvold, USN (Retd)

Tension leading to conflict across the Taiwan Strait is the most dangerous geopolitical scenario facing the world this Century. The People's Republic of China's tandem strategic efforts to become a 'great maritime power' and achieve 'reunification' with Taiwan, using force if necessary, have placed it on a collision course with the United States and its likeminded allies and partners.

India will be compelled to participate in a Taiwan conflict because of its geopolitical and economic ties with the involved stakeholders. How India shapes its participation, and how it balances its relations with other great powers while doing so, will follow its interests but also determine its global fortunes.

India's strategic approach to a Taiwan Strait conflict include offering diplomatic and operational support. Cooperative naval options include providing logistics and sustainment assistance, contributing to maintaining the sea lines of communication, and participating in combat operations.

“Global Supply Chains and Future Maritime Conflict”

Commander Allan F Rodrigues, IN (Retd)

The Global Supply Chains (GSCs) that lie across the transportation corridors of the world are driven by a technology enabled convergence marketplace of globalised commerce coupled with the seamless communication of knowledge. They were designed to provide a link between the production economies in Asia and high value markets in the West. The construct was based on radical innovations in production, transportation and fulfilment that exploited the creation/sharing of knowledge, but most importantly, required a change in thinking to make the tyranny and limitations imposed by TIME (and DISTANCE) manageable or even redundant. Conversely, the asymmetrical knowledge and power dynamics between alliance partners created conflicts on their Strategic Value Chains (SVCs) resulting in the emergence of a giant entities (some from the ‘supposedly’ low-cost production economies themselves), all of whom exploited the resources, access to expertise and global reach, to exert absolute dominion over the micro/macro environments and geographical regions they operated in.

The Pandemic followed by the Suez/Panama Canal crisis, and the wars in the Ukraine and Yemen have highlighted the need for ‘Sustainability’, ‘Resilience’ and the vital importance of ‘Security’ across the GSC construct end to end. Modern GSCs exploit the resource flexibility and knowledge capital in their global alliances whilst protecting their own interests. There are lessons from the GSCs that are transferable to both national level or military alliances seeking to create competitive advantage, or even dominion, over a region. Both these constructs, in the global marketplaces and/or the battlespaces and theatres of operation of the military, have common themes that might particularly apply to the Indian Ocean. India’s strategic security is in the process of being re-architected internally, into military theatres of operation (theaterisation), and externally, in multinational alliances like the Quadrilateral dialogue. The experience of the GSCs operating in regional theatres and global alliances, provide a window into how multi-dimensional conflicts at sea on land and in the air should be resourced, managed, and even exploited.

A Korean Perspective on Maritime Resource-Geopolitics Nexus in East Asia: Implications and Policy Options for Bilateral Cooperation with India

Professor (Dr) Wongi Choe

As a maritime, free trading nation that has vital interests in securing a maritime order based on rule of law and universal norms and values, South Korea recently reaffirmed its firm commitment to maintaining and bolstering a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region. This is why Seoul has set comprehensive security cooperation, including its various maritime dimensions in the Indo-Pacific region, as one of the central pillars in its newly announced Indo-Pacific strategy. In fact, an acute sense of crisis in the existing maritime order in the Indo-Pacific has provided a key motivation for Seoul's recent strategic repositioning and turn toward the Indo-Pacific, and Korea has vowed to join forces with like-minded countries, including India, that share values and strategic interests with Seoul. In this presentation, I explain the motivations for and directions of Korea's Indo-Pacific strategy, and lay out its policy orientations in the area of maritime security, maritime domain awareness, maritime economy, and the maritime environment. In doing so, I attempt to delineate policy options for Korea-India bilateral cooperation in the context of maritime resource-security nexus in East Asia and the Indo-Pacific region.

Contemporary and Assessed Future Contours of Sino-Malaysian Resource Geopolitics

Sumathy Permal

China-Malaysia relations continue to improve since 1974 and peaked into all-inclusive Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2013. Both countries are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of their bilateral diplomatic relations in 2024. Nevertheless, their responses on strategic engagement in the South China Sea (SCS) remain cautious. The SCS emerged as the site for many incidents involving China and other claimant states including Malaysia. The risks of miscalculations and unintended collisions have increased as China is escalating its 'grey zone' in the disputed South China Sea. 2024 has been an eventful for excessive law fare activities in the South China Sea with many of the incidents are meant to expand Chinese law enforcement in the Exclusive Economic Zone of other claimants. This paper serves three main purposes. First, it describes the importance of SCS for energy

resources to Malaysia and to China. Second, it explains the precarious state of geopolitics in the South China Sea – as evidenced by the worrying trend of confrontation between claimant states as well as the increased presence of external major powers. Third, it analyses the impacts of geopolitics in the Sino-Malaysian relations and explore possible cooperative avenues to reinvigorate ASEAN's strategy in the South China Sea, especially in the context of Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2025..

De-risking maritime supply chains in the Indo-Pacific

Dr (Ms) Eva Pejsova

The importance of maritime traffic, carrying 80% of global trade by volume and 70% by value, for today's increasingly integrated economy is beyond questionable. The need to boost 'supply chain resilience' has become a buzzword in the international security community post-Covid, focusing mainly on diversifying from or reducing the over-reliance on China, which is a central player in the global values chain. Zooming on 'maritime' supply chains helps to grasp the incredible complexity of such challenge in practice. To start with, maritime supply chains rely on a formidable variety of actors, spanning from the private sector (shipping and logistics industries, goods manufacturers, container producers, insurance companies etc.), to public stakeholders (governments, port authorities, customs, law enforcement agencies), whose objectives, interests, and concerns need to be taken into consideration. In many ways, the international shipping community finds itself in a pivotal moment. Although geopolitical instability and lasting maritime security hotspots indeed represent a major threat to the safety and freedom of navigation, they are only a part of the concerns of the industry. Non-traditional maritime security challenges, be it sea-borne crime, cybercrime, or climate change-related events including droughts,

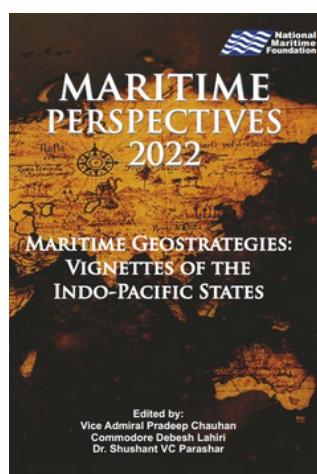
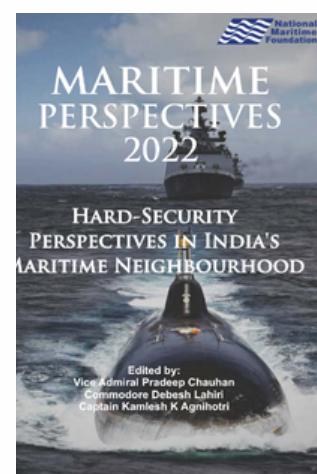
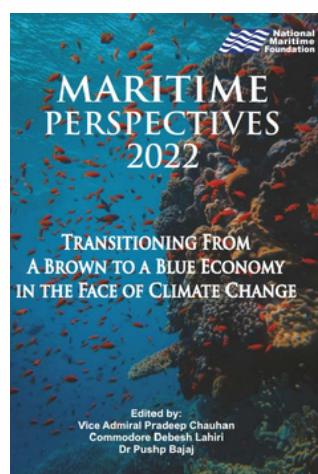
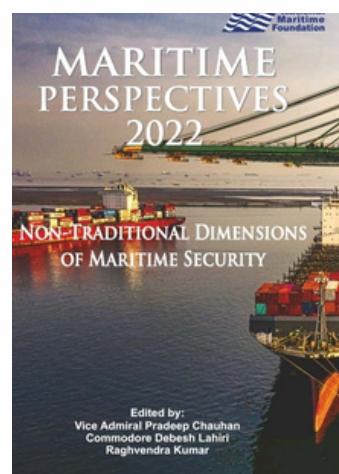
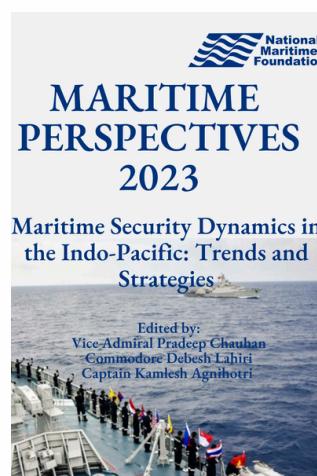
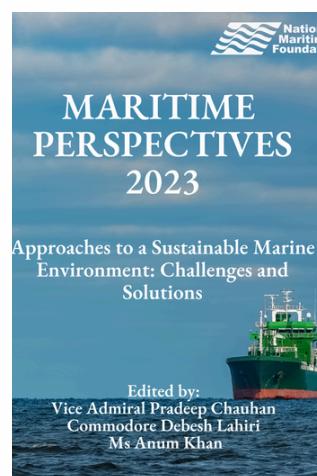
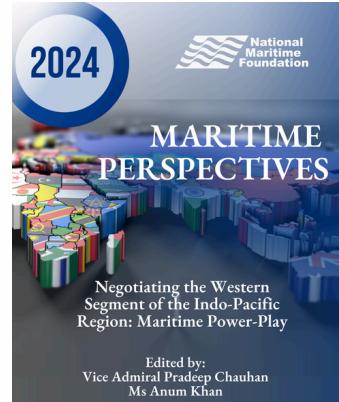
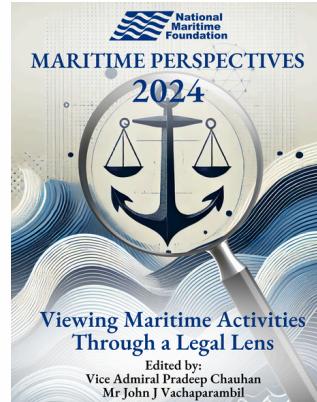
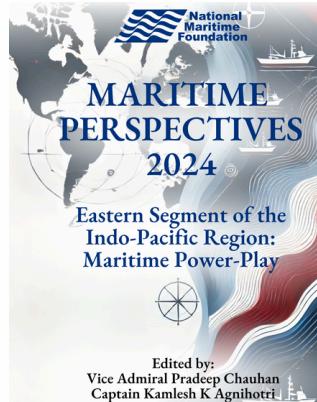
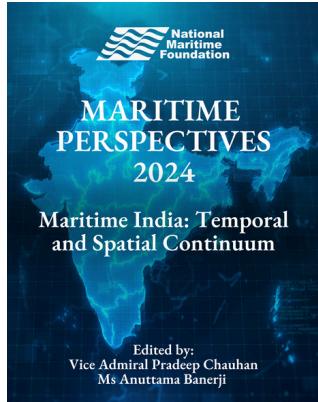
sea-level rise, and extreme weather events are everyday realities increasingly impacting the fluidity, speed, and cost of shipping. Finally, an additional layer of complexity is related to the implementation of regulatory safety and environmental standards. By 2050, UNCTAD urges for full decarbonization and modernization of the aging and increasingly polluting global shipping fleet. While energy and technological transition is needed and provides an answer to some of these challenges, its high costs need to be met and fairly distributed among all relevant stakeholders. At the intersection between geopolitics and geo-economics, de-risking maritime supply chain is about striking a delicate balance between security, sustainability, and profit. It is a daunting task that requires more than ever an enhanced international cooperation and coordination, both at the governmental and industry level, in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

NATIONAL MARITIME FOUNDATION

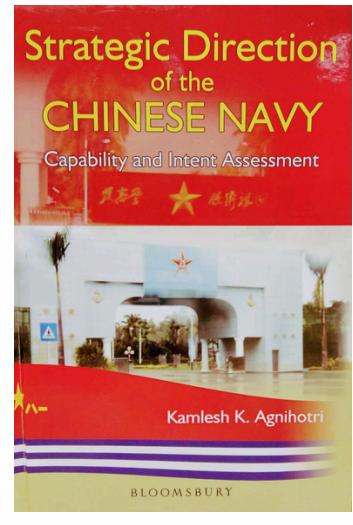
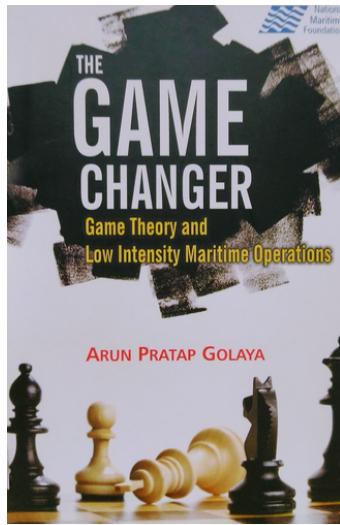
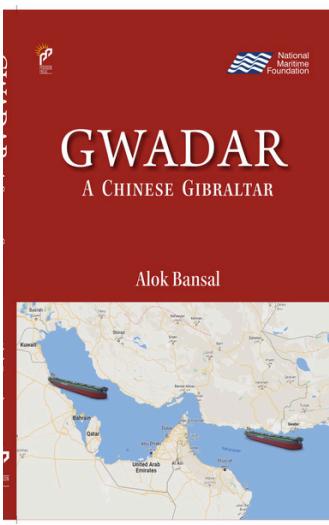
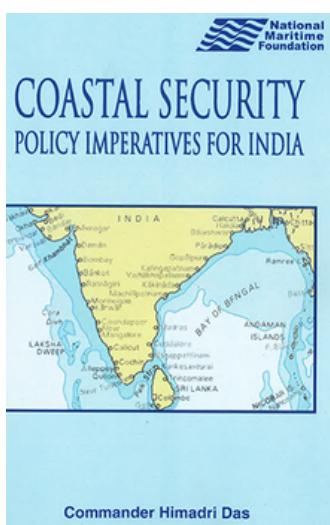
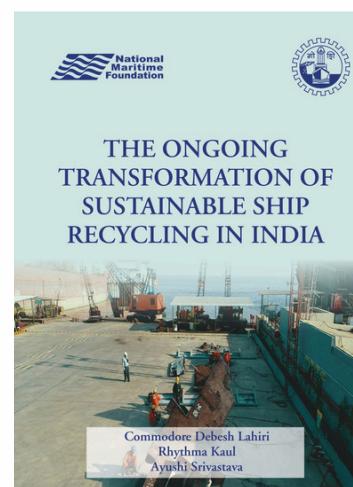
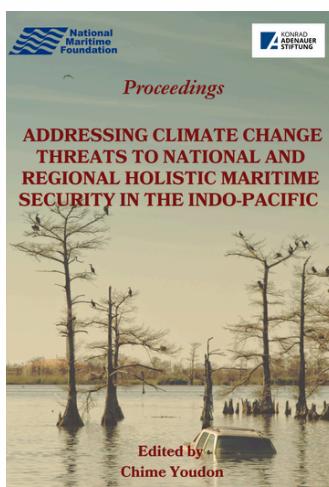
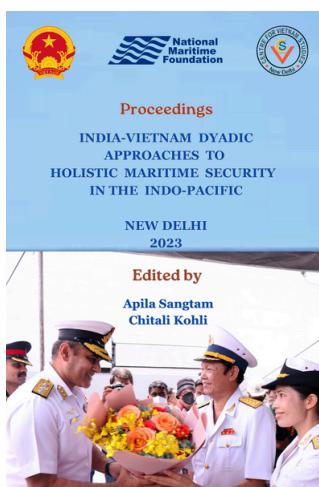
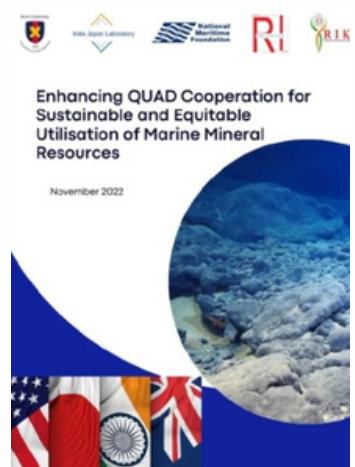
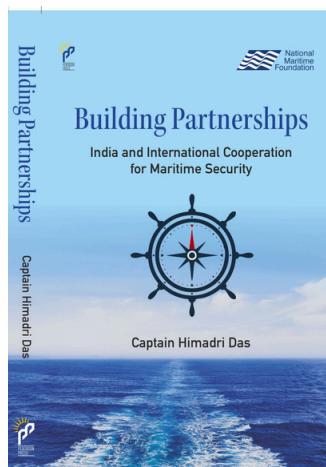
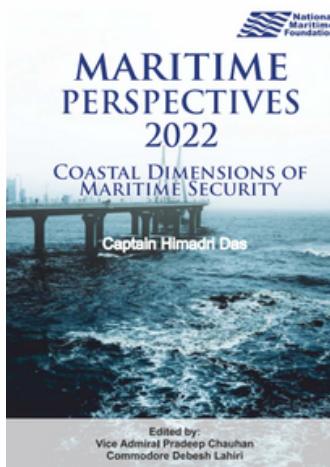


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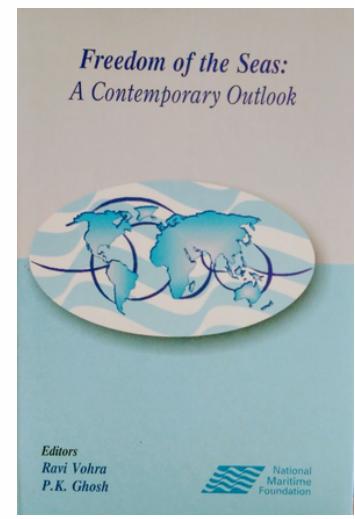
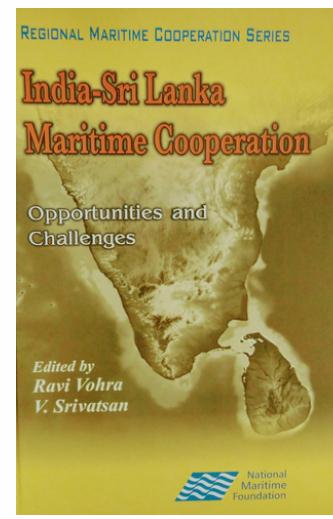
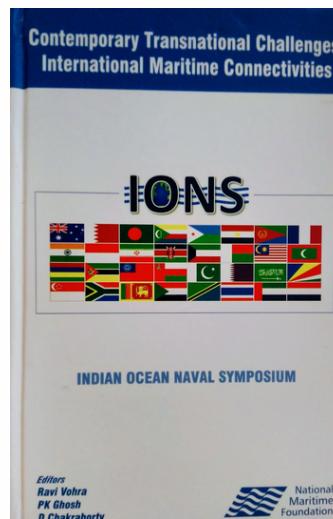
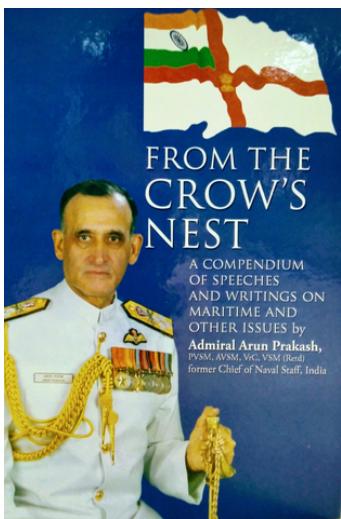
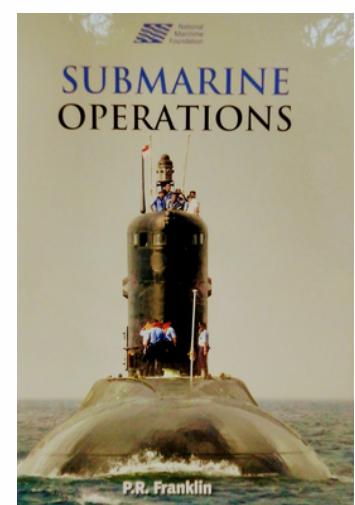
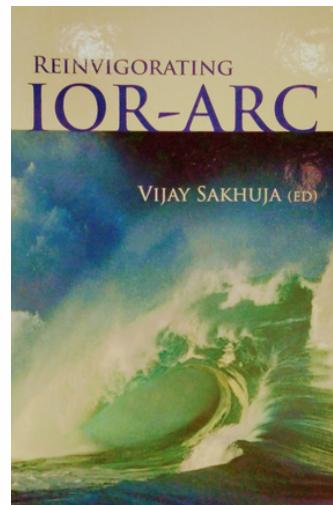
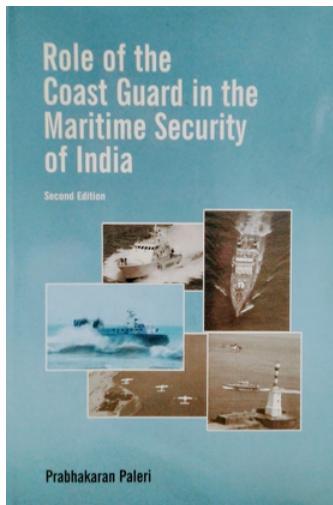
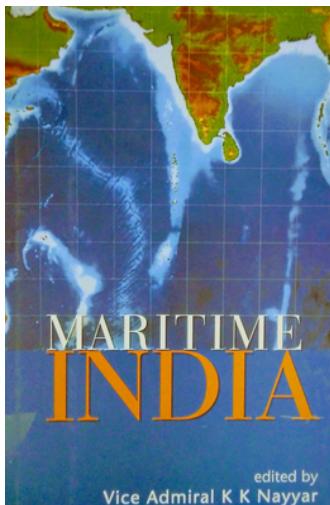
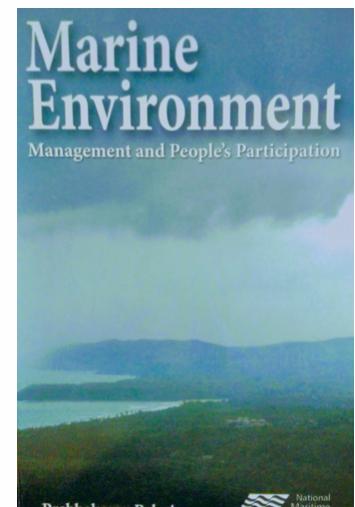
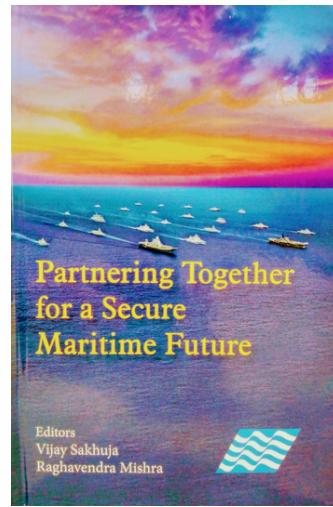
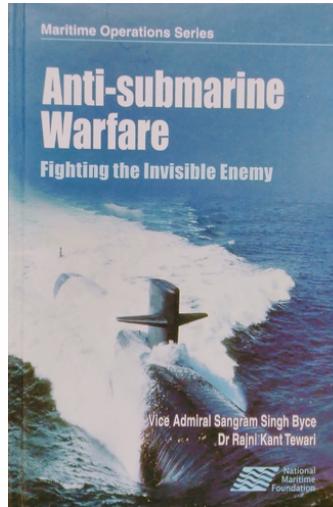
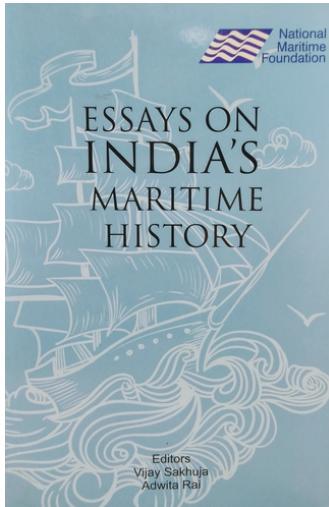
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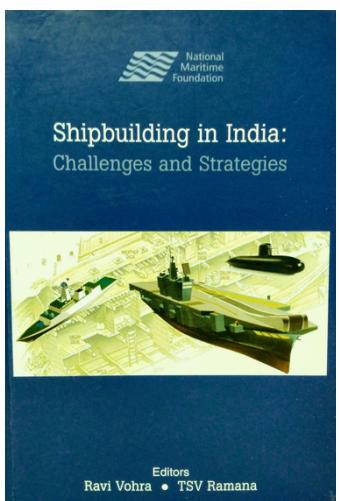
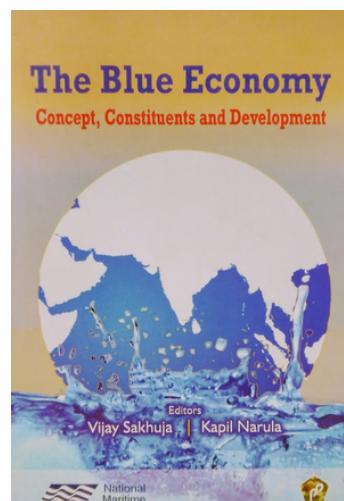
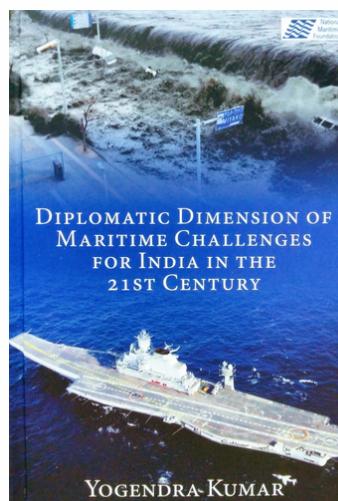
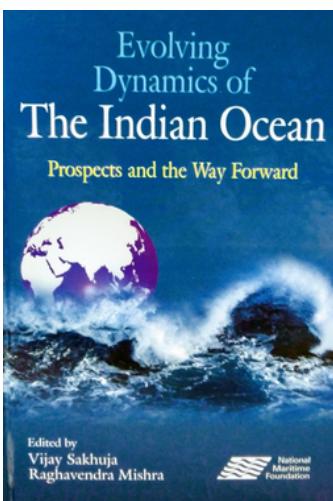
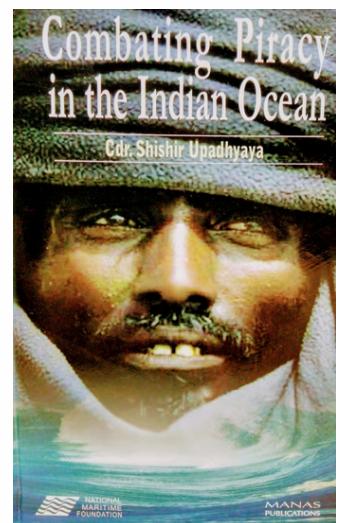
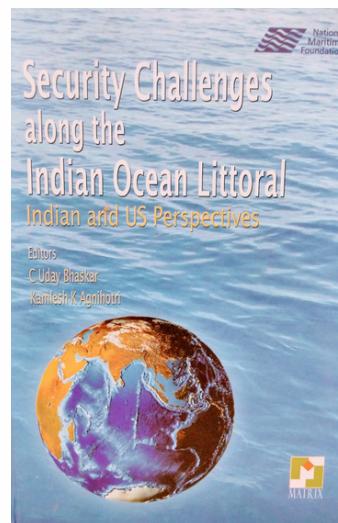
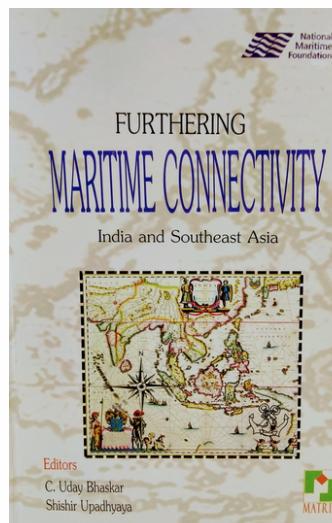
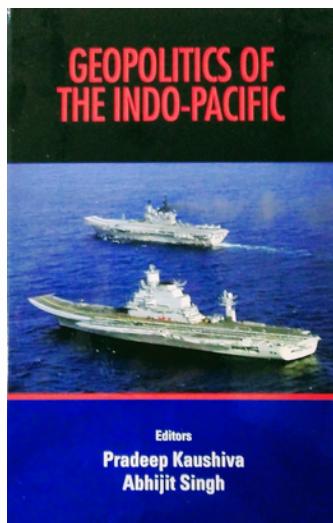
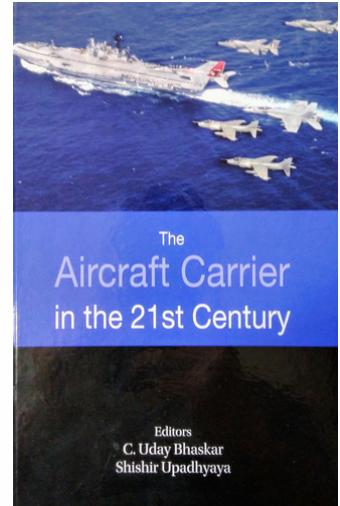
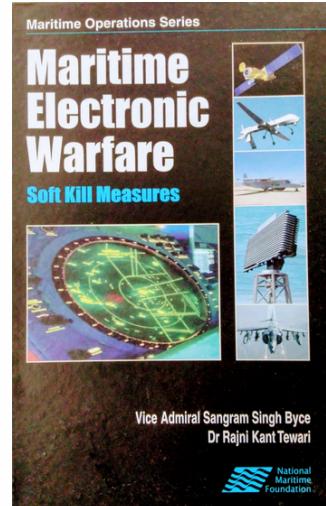
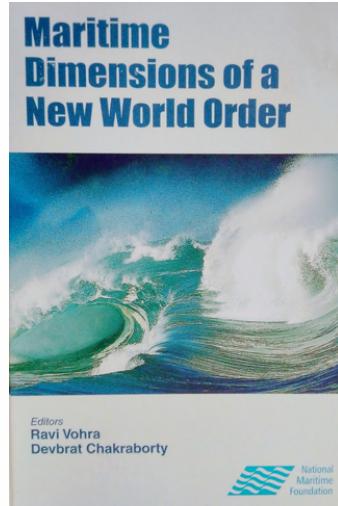
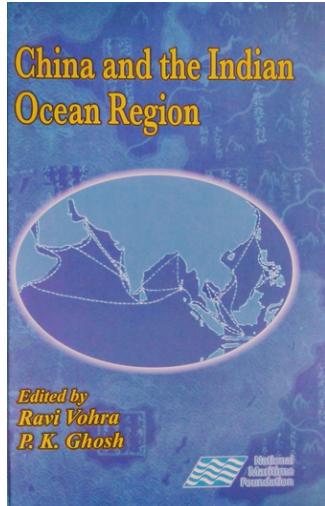
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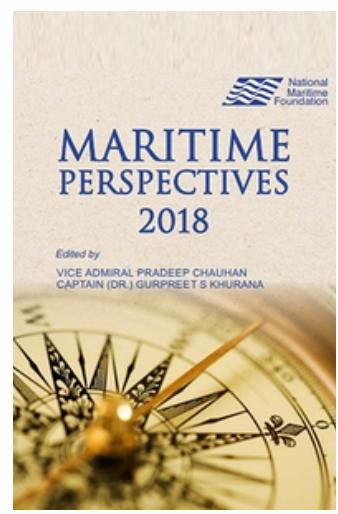
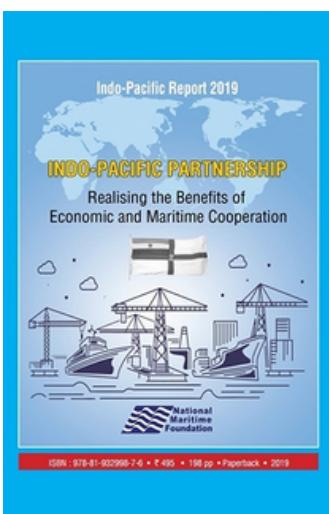
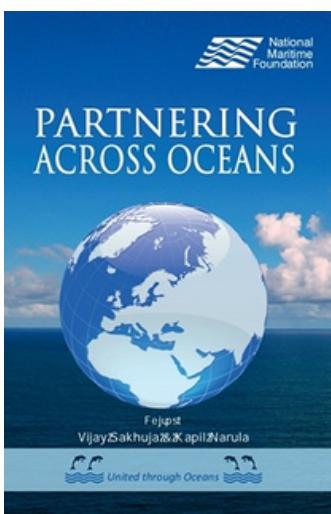
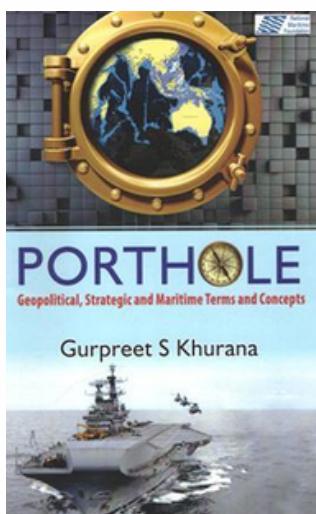
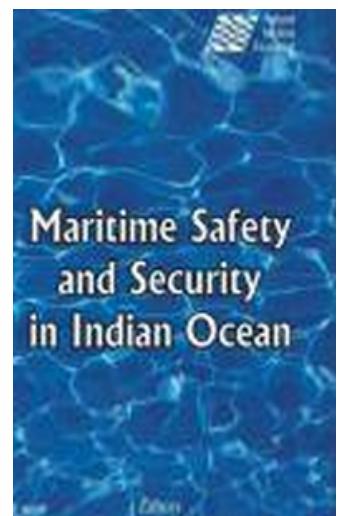
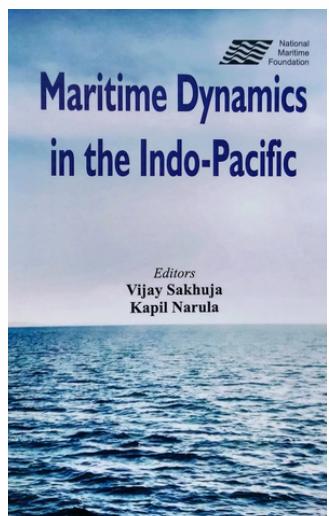
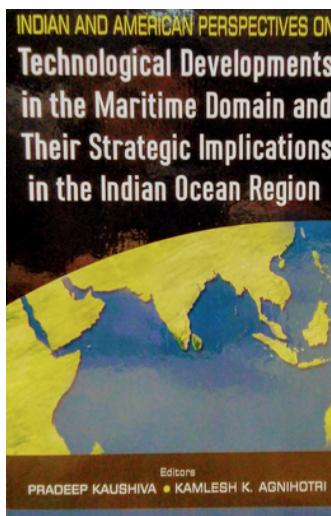
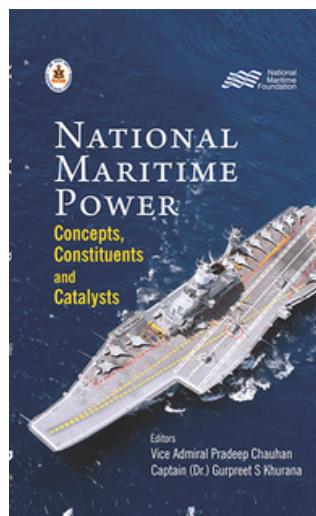
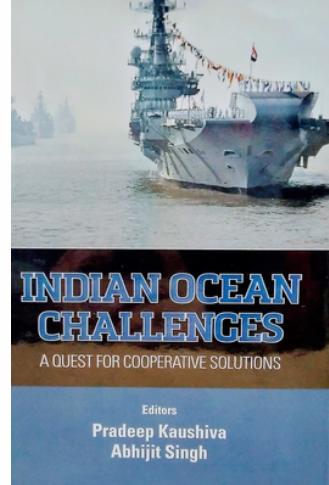
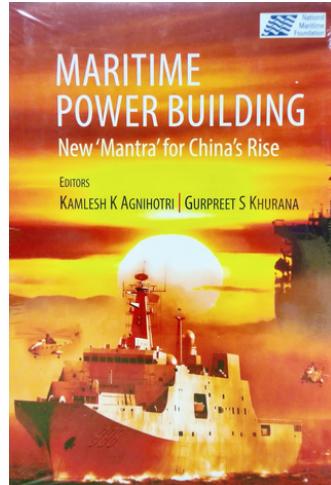
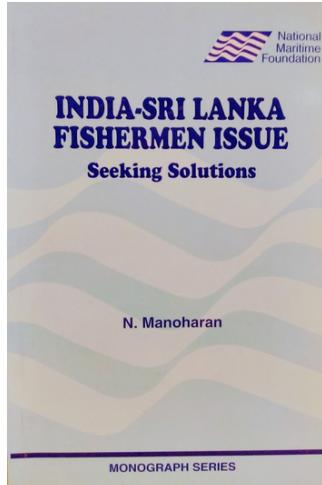
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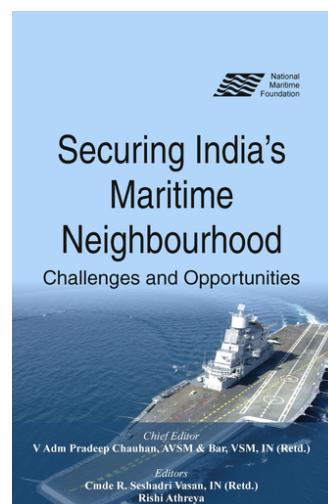
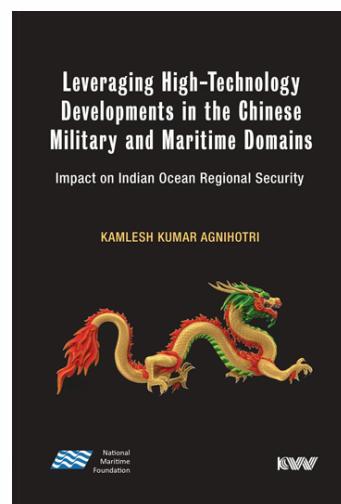
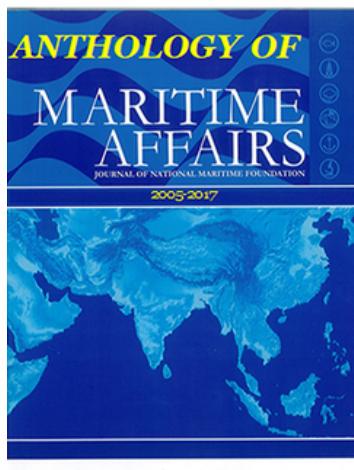
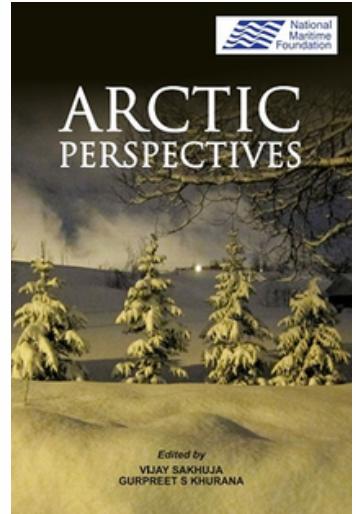
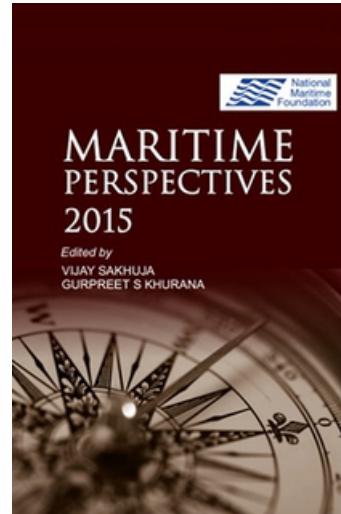
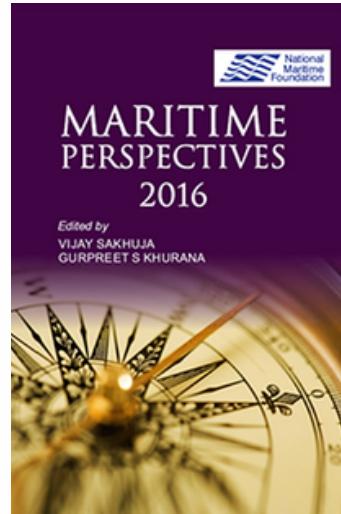
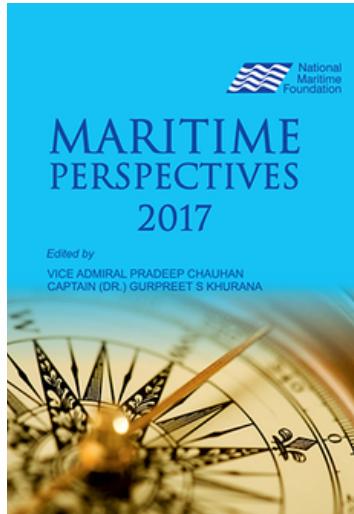
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