



Editorial

The first half of 2010 has been a productively busy period for the National Maritime Foundation (NMF) with several conferences, seminars and roundtable discussions punctuating the calendar. The first major event of the year was the NMF's International Maritime Power Conference in February titled "Aircraft Carriers in the Early 21st Century: Doctrinal, Operational and Technological Challenges". The conference saw participation by a majority of the carrier operating navies of the world and the defence industry which included M/s BAE and M/s Cochin Shipyard Limited.

A number of bilateral interactions with think-tanks from abroad were conducted including those from the USA and France, while senior officials, academics and maritime experts from the USA, Japan, China and Australia were received at the Foundation. Professor Arogyaswami Paulraj, a former naval officer and, currently, emeritus Professor at the Stanford University, USA was a special guest at the NMF in this period.

As always, in this issue we present to you a wide spectrum of well researched and thought provoking articles on issues of national security and maritime import. The lead article is drawn from the NMF Eminent Person's lecture delivered by Shyam Saran, former Foreign Secretary and Special Envoy to the Prime Minister of India, in April. In his perceptive lecture, Saran provides an astute assessment of the geopolitical consequences of the late 2008 global financial and economic crisis. The second article by Alok Bansal examines the evolving maritime threat scenario in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and its implication for India's national security in the near- to mid-term.

An international law perspective on the long outstanding Indo-Bangladesh maritime border dispute is presented by Sunil Kumar Agarwal in the third article. Agarwal places in context the central issues to the dispute, which is now with the Permanent Court

of Arbitration at the Hague. The following research paper by Anushree Bhattacharyya examines the rising Chinese influence in South East Asia through the various transnational infrastructure projects, underway in the region. The next article by K.K. Agnihotri discusses the evolving PLA Navy strategy and compares the PLA Navy with the Indian Navy. He infers that the PLA Navy appears to be working towards a permanent presence in the Indian Ocean and concludes with policy options for India in the long run.

Yogesh Athawale in his insightful essay attempts to outline a practical model for the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium initiative that can be effective in achieving its envisioned objective of regional security cooperation in the maritime domain. The following piece by Neil Gadihoke deals with climate change. Neil looks at the maritime security aspect of climate change against the backdrop of the prevailing security environment of the IOR and discusses its implications for the Indian Navy.

A commentary on the significance of shipping by Manav Sehgal highlights the benefits and hazards which need to be addressed by the maritime community against the backdrop of globalisation. Trinanjan Radhakrishnan, in his commentary on piracy in the Gulf of Aden critiques the rationale for naval deployments in deterring piracy and the belief that piracy as a phenomenon can be dealt with at sea alone. He proposes an alternative framework of a mediated state as a new form of state-building in Somalia. The last section in this issue includes two book reviews. The first is on the International Law of the Sea and its relevance for India, while the second one looks at the 1999 Kargil War.

Overall, this issue puts together a collection of contemporary and thought provoking articles that contribute to the ongoing debates on national security and maritime concerns. I hope it will interest a wide cross-section of our readers. As always, the NMF editorial team welcomes your suggestions and comments to improve the quality of this journal.

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C. Uday Bhaskar