



Editorial

As the curtain falls on 2018, a look at some prominent events reveals much that has happened, and spin offs of which will influence the coming year. 2018 started off with North Korea accepting a South Korean invitation for talks. There were a couple of discussions between both nations, which were considered by most analysts, as being *on track*. Parallely, the US also engaged North Korea in a summit meeting in June 2018, the first ever attended by a sitting US President. This positive start could bring some modicum of stability to East Asia, if the talks continue.

The year also witnessed continued *symptoms of withdrawal*. With Brexit looming as a shadow over the future of Europe, June 2018 saw the British parliament passing the *EU Withdrawal act*, with the date of exit as 29 March 2019. This date, as one would recall, was decided in 2017. The British Prime Minister, Theresa May, is trying to put together an exit deal, which would be acceptable to the domestic constituency. The exit process is not without any bumps and although many European researchers, whom NMF interacted with, stated that Brexit will affect neither European security nor stability of the EU, the effect on regional and global economics is yet to be felt. The year also saw an increase in EU interaction with the Indian establishment and think tanks, an indication of EU seeking an entry into the IOR, and further into the Indo-Pacific. One outcome of this was the July 2018 Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement, which has created the largest world's largest free trade-bloc, covering 30 percent of global trade

The US main menu of withdrawals consisted of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHCR), the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces treaty (INF), the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, Syria and Afghanistan, and possibly the World Trade Organisation. Predating the INF withdrawal was Putin's proclamation, in March 2018, of a new arsenal of weapons, including an intercontinental nuclear cruise missile. This proclamation fans the embers of a simmering cold war. Amongst these aspects, revival of the Cold War, the US withdrawal from the Iran deal and Afghanistan will have implications for India, and need to be debated by the Indian strategic community. The continuing US-China trade war saw some thaw with Donald Trump and Xi Jinping meeting on the side-lines of the November 2018 G20 Summit in Buenos Aires and agreeing to further talks.

Closer home, the Indo-Pacific debate gained traction and NMF held the first Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) in February 2018. The 2018 summer issue of the NMF journal, *Maritime Affairs*, was subsequently published as the IPRD Special Issue. To add flavour to the recipe of IPRD papers published earlier this year, we decided to spread the ambit for this issue to include geopolitics, technology, maritime security and law. This issue consists of 11 papers, which should stimulate your intellect and, we hope, will induce you to write for us.

The paper by Vice Admiral Hari Kumar titled *Mission Success and Safety – Striking the Right Balance*, examines the concepts of safety and military missions, and balances the requirements via the application of Operational Risk Management (ORM), Efficiency Thoroughness Trade-Off (ETTO), bold leadership, novelty and innovation, and technology management.

India-US maritime cooperation has come a long way since the first Malabar Exercise in 1992 and escorting of high-value US ships by the Indian Navy in 2002. The distancing from Pakistan by the US and rise of China have been viewed by many analysts as important

catalysts, which have strengthened the cooperative matrix. Dr Vivek Mishra in his article, *India-US Maritime Cooperation: Crossing the Rubicon*, attempts to justify the hypothesis that maritime cooperation between the US and India is one of the primary mainstays of their bilateral cooperation, and will only get stronger as both nations continue to cooperate.

Stern Flaps: A Cost-effective Technological Option for the Indian Shipping Industry, by a serving Indian Naval Officer, Lieutenant Commander Y Hemanth Kumar and a former Indian Naval Officer, Cdr (Dr) R Vijayakumar, covers an interesting aspect of ship design. Stern flaps not only increase operational efficiency by reducing drag and fuel consumption but also increases operational availability of a ship by reducing the time between refuelling.

Relations between India and Indonesia can be traced back by two millennia. This relationship which has evolved owes its existence to the maritime medium and the fact that both nations consider each other as maritime neighbours. It is a relationship which is important for the region and has ample scope to grow further. The article, *India's Growing Maritime Opportunities with Indonesia: Room for Development in Diplomacy and Capability Building*, a joint effort by Japish Gill and Ryan Mitra, addresses how the relationship can grow and in what manner.

In the normative mode, green follows blue in the spectrum of colours. The same is being seen in the blue maritime domain. The article "Green Cables" – *Development, Opportunities and Legal Challenges*, the first of a two-part paper by Commander (Dr) Nitin Agarwala, examines the importance of green cables for scientific data collection, with special emphasis on the legal considerations arising from such dual-purpose cables.

Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) is an all-pervasive element of a nation's desire to ensure peace, security and stability in its areas of maritime interest. Automatic Identification System (AIS) for Tracking Vessels at Sea is an integral element of MDA, the exploitation of which will strengthen any nation's MDA. Commodore Arun Golaya and Dr Nithyanandam Yogeswaran, in their paper 'AIS 2.0: Technological Changes, Implications and Policy Recommendations', examine the various facets of AIS as an aid to enhancing MDA.

Commodore Rajinder Bhandari in his paper, *Principles of Modern Corporate Warfare: Integrating Sun Tzu's Art of War, Military Principles of War and Concepts of Marketing Warfare*, attempts to define ten 'Principles of Corporate Warfare' by interweaving the thought process of Sun Tzu and the well-established principles of war in the boardrooms of the corporate world.

The India-Sri Lanka fishing dispute has been an ongoing affair and has seen emergent differences between the centre and the state of Tamil Nadu. In this process the Sri Lankan point of view has often been overlooked. The article by Dr Muttukrishna Sarvananthan, *Envisioning a Smart Resolution to Fishing Disputes between India and Sri Lanka*, highlights this pertinent aspect and also examines scientific or technical solutions to this long-running dispute.

26/11 was a sad but defining moment for India's maritime security agencies and architecture. A decade is a relatively good time to look back and view the path trodden as well as take stock of the changes brought about in the maritime security governance structures. Commander Himadri Das in his article *India's Maritime Security Governance Challenges: A Decade after '26/11'*, has attempted to do so and also identifies some grey areas, which need attention.

Maritime law in India is a much-neglected area, requiring a lot more attention and focus. Of the many maritime law strands, one pertains to protection of citizens and diaspora. India's diaspora is spread over much of the globe, resulting from forced movement during the period of colonisation to voluntary migration post-independence. The *legalese* surrounding their protection or rescue by the Indian state is a complex web. Although India has carried out successful Non-combatant Evacuation Operations in the past, it was fortunate to have the support of the

host states. Himanil Raina in his article *The Forcible Protection of Nationals and Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations* examines the aspects relating to the protection or rescue of its nationals by India.

The Quad has been under severe scrutiny since the term re-emerged. There is a visible divide between researchers regarding the nature of the Quad, with most viewing it as a security-related merger of sorts. Commodore Ashok Rai in his article, *Quadrilateral Security Dialogue 2 (Quad 2.0) — A Credible Strategic Construct or mere 'Foam in the Ocean'*, examines the possible path the grouping is likely to follow against the backdrop of globalisation wherein economic interdependent dictates national interests.

We hope that you enjoy this mixed grill of articles and look forward to your feedback.

As the New Year dawns, NMF wishes one and all a wonderful 2019. As all eyes focus on the 2019 elections in India, we at NMF look forward to more interaction with other think-tanks and engaging in discussions that can strengthen global and regional maritime security and stability. So do keep the interactions, thoughts and ink flowing.

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