

## Editorial: *Maritime Affairs* Summer 2016 Edition

Two significant maritime events held in India recently merit attention – the International Fleet Review (IFR) 2016, anchored on diplomacy, and “Maritime India Summit 2016”, fostering business. These were an unparalleled success, clearly showcasing India’s growing maritime power and exhibiting its intent of building a strong maritime sector to contribute to the economic growth of the country.

The National Maritime Foundation’s flagship journal *Maritime Affairs* continues to contribute to maritime discourse both at the national and international levels. The current issue has four papers related to China which signify its growing influence in the maritime domain. China’s maritime power is growing which impacts on the “power balance” in the Indo-Pacific region. In the light of Chinese maritime initiatives such as the Maritime Silk Road and the US “rebalance strategy”, India is closely following these developments, keeping in mind its national interests. There appear to be dilemmas for India, and Ollapally views this through the lens of the India–US–China maritime triangle, suggesting that there are both opportunities and challenges which demand “fine-grained” policymaking by New Delhi. In the second paper, Khurana undertakes a comprehensive assessment of China’s rise as a potential Indian Ocean power, highlighting its economic, strategic and geopolitical objectives and the implications of China’s maritime rise for the region, including India.

In the third paper on China, Ghosal Singh explores China’s soft power and its charm offensive, especially in the context of its evolving relationship with the United States, and tracks the implications of these developments for India. The fourth paper, by XU, focusses on the challenges, opportunities and future growth trajectory of China’s cruise industry which is rapidly emerging as a major growth area.

Turning to the naval component, Koh examines the viability and potential of sea-launched land-attack cruise missiles in light of the Russian Navy’s use of small warships and conventional submarines. In late 2015, it launched strikes against Islamic State (Daesh) targets in Syria, which demonstrated that while there are attendant challenges, expeditionary force projection may potentially spark off an interest amongst smaller navies to bolster their deterrent capabilities.

Smith-Godfrey examines the concept of “Blue Economy” and attempts to give a working definition. The author identifies various activities associated with the oceans that contribute to the growth of the Blue Economy. Narula in his paper highlights the importance of strengthening ocean governance and examines various issues related to the conservation of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. The paper outlines the existing framework, analyses the gaps and limitations, and explores the nature of future agreements. Senaratne, in her paper, emphasises the importance of formulating a common maritime policy for the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), and argues that public diplomacy is a useful tool to influence governments and the general public to help formulate common policies and strategies in the IOR.

This edition carries two book reviews; Srivastava reviews Deborah Sanders’ book *Maritime Power in the Black Sea* and Sheriff reviews David Brewster’s book *India’s Ocean: India’s Bid for Regional Leadership*.

The National Maritime Foundation (NMF) was at the forefront of activities and academic exchanges and successfully hosted an international maritime conference titled “Partnering together for a secure maritime future”, held at Vishakhapatnam in February 2016. NMF also jointly organised conferences on other maritime issues, with Pondicherry University on “Good Order at Sea”; with the M.L. Sondhi Institute for Asia Pacific Affairs on “South China Sea”; with International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on “Contemporary Challenges in Maritime Security and International Humanitarian Law”; and the second meeting of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) working group on “Harmonisation of Aeronautical and Maritime Search And Rescue (SAR)”. NMF’s bilateral engagements were also strengthened, and the chairman of the NMF led a delegation to the Regional Institute of Indian Ocean Economics (RIIO) at Kunming, China, and to the Academy of World Watch at Beijing and Shanghai.

The NMF has strengthened maritime discourse in the country, and is spreading maritime awareness and thought through its academic outreach activities. I invite researchers and practitioners to be partners with NMF in our journey and contribute to this journal. Wishing you the very best for the remainder of the year 2016.

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