



Editorial for Maritime Affairs

Summer 2013

The National Maritime Foundation (NMF) recently took note at one of its round tables that in the face of global warming, the winters seem to be getting more severe, and that it is still not clear whether one or the other, or both, are irreversible trends or whether these are a part of the larger cycle of change.

We rang in the New Year on a bilateral note by hosting Admiral Cecil D Haney, Commander Pacific Fleet, US Navy for an in depth discussion, analysis and review of the Indo-Pacific region. This was followed by another useful interaction with Vice Admiral Paul Maddison, Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy to discuss matters of maritime interest to the two nations.

The Foundation also participated in trilateral discussions with Royal United Services Institution (RUSI) and China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) on Maritime Security in New Delhi and Beijing. There was also a stimulating interaction with Professor Hasjim Djalal on the South China Sea, and an interesting discussion with Dr Satu Limaye, Director East-West Center, Washington on the importance of Asia for the US and India's interests, activities and role in East Asia.

The Foundation conducted its flagship Annual Maritime Power Seminar 2013 on “**Geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific in the Next Two Decades**” on 21-22 Feb 2013 in New Delhi. The Seminar aimed to share in depth perspectives on the maritime geopolitical concerns; asymmetric threats, piracy, private maritime security services, environmental and climate challenges, collaborative mechanisms in the maritime domain and their potential role in acting as strategic game changers in

the Indo-Pacific Region; security challenges in the littorals of the Indo-Pacific region (especially the South China Sea) and realignments and rebalancing through a keen interaction between the maritime community, strategists, naval professionals and their civilian counterparts from both India and abroad.

Accordingly, we shared perceptions about the developing seascape in the Indo-Pacific and also exchanged assessments on issues of collective interest. Altering dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region, the increasing assertiveness of China and its resultant effects in the South China Sea and the strategic pivot of the US towards Asia further guided the Annual Maritime Power Seminar.

In the current edition of *Maritime Affairs*, we have put together articles covering a varied gamut of issues such as ecology, global warming, military capacity building, bilateral relations, offshore legal overviews and three book reviews. In the first article of the journal titled 'Coastal Ecology: Development, Directions and Dimensions', Jai Singh brings out concerns for preservation and protection of coastal ecology and the marine environment. Weaving a delicate pattern of UNCLOS edicts and court verdicts, he underscores the importance of proper preservation, protection and promotion of coastal ecology and marine environment.

Kamlesh K Agnihotri in his article, 'Holistic Maritime Capacity Building: New 'Route' to China's Rise', brings out the nuances of maritime capacity building being a major contributory factor in achieving Comprehensive National Power by China. Investigating various multi-faceted developments in the larger maritime environment on the Chinese seaboard, he is of the opinion that Beijing has understood the 'Mantra' towards achieving great power status.

Sudershan Shrikhande, in his article, "A Fleet Under Review for a Century: An Essay on Dreadnought to Daring – 100 Years of Comment, Controversy and Debate in the Naval Review" offers insights into how officers of the Royal Navy contributed to improving their Navy through their candid views on a variety of issues through their journal the 'Naval Review'.

In his article on 'India-Australia Maritime Cooperation', OP Dahiya provides an overview of the India-Australia strategic relationship. He has focused his critique upon India's changing strategic outlook and Australia's shifting strategic priorities before looking at the possibilities of the two developing a strategic partnership in the Indo-Pacific region. BM Dimri, in his article, has taken the legal route to look at offshore platforms. He dwells upon the world wide surge in deep and ultra-deep

offshore activity and believes that it is leading to an increased risk for the marine environment. He then takes a look at the legal and regulatory aspects of these activities.

AP Golaya, in his article, 'Game Theory and Its Application to Anti-piracy, Maritime Terrorism and Low Intensity Maritime Operations', relates mathematical models of conflict and cooperation with rationality and connects the results to strategic equations and matters maritime. Following on, Ashok Sharma tracks the Indo-US relations in the context of 'US-India Defence Industry Collaboration: Trends, Challenges and Prospects'. He eloquently sets forth the premise that the current international security and threat perceptions, the defence industry trends and challenges, the convergence of geo-economic and geo-strategic interests between India and the US, have all strengthened the defence industry collaborations between the two countries.

Our Book Review section carries K Raja Menon's review of C Raja Mohan's latest offering 'Samudra Manthan', JS Shergill's appraisal of 'Restructuring India's Military: Out of Box Option' written by Rear Admiral (Retd) AP Revi, and Abhijit Singh's assessment of 'The Untold Story of a Coast' authored by John Jacob Puthur.

The current issue of *Maritime Affairs* has ventured to cover the imperatives of the present day world where concurrent multi-lateral exchanges have become de rigeur. It has tried to imbibe the hues of a flexi-nodal world and has put forth a blend of varied melange to cater for its diverse readership. The spectrum it covers hopes to provide something for everyone and I look forward to receiving feedback from our readers which would enable us to improve upon the journal and make it count for even more. This has become all the more important to us in the last couple of months as the membership of NMF has taken a large leap in members. We would also appreciate contributions from non-members in the form of research articles and book reviews.