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The maritime strategy in international relations

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Abstract

The increasing support and agreement with regard to limiting climate change issues and opening up gateways for renewable energy and development in technological knowhow along with channelizing the sources of power generation and creating a mechanism to withstand any sudden threat posed by Belt and Road Initiatives augur well for peace and prosperity of all the member countries. The 2019 Japan-EU deal was an effort in this direction. There has always been a series of extremely good relationships between India and the EU with the trade share having crossed a decent landmark during the last half a decade. During the last few years or so there has been a closer tie with Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands being the biggest importers from India. There has been contiguity with regard to nuclear energy and sustainable development concerning environmental issues. Further negotiation may lead to the creation of a strategic mechanism to provide a shield against terrorism, international crime, drug dealing, smuggling, and cyber threat unleashed by non-state actors. These are changing times and many changes have occurred in international relations recently. Sharing and working on a common strategic vision and a combined approach to ensure mutual economic prosperity and approaching through a multi-layered and multilateral strategy if the situation demands are going to dominate the world order in the coming days. What is required is to develop a fresh perspective for a more mature reliance on international cooperation between nations to enunciate a new strategy of retaliation, threatening a severe response to any attempt to destabilising the order. There is a strong need to generate development funds related to integrated education, medicines, science, and technology and huge aggrandizement concerning research in the field of biotechnology among various nations across the globe. Never before, the water (Sea Politics) has held such an important place in world politics ever since the World War II as the philosophical discourse of offensive realism has never been as relevant as it is today. In such a scenario the same old strategic principle of famous Alfred Thayer Mahan that the one who dominates the waves(sea) dominates the world appears to have come back as the major principle of new international politics new normal focusing on to the same old strategy to evolve and enhance economic and commercial cooperation and to ensure strategic surveillance and security of water ways making ocean strategic area as the new cornerstone in building up close cooperation through multiple projects and providing high quality medicines for health, commercial and economic humanitarian relief assistance and joint patrolling. The article is an attempt to examine the changing nature of international politics with reference to maritime strategic and economic affairs.

Keywords: Climate change, renewable energy, international relations, maritime strategy, strategic cooperation, economic prosperity

Introduction

The celebration of 'Indian Maritime Week 2025' is an attempt to humbly project the emerging prowess of India not only as the master of blue economy but also its leading role as a world maritime strategic and economic affairs. The very fact that more than 10 thousand participants from over 80 countries participated during this week speaks the volume about its success. Besides, the theme of the week "Uniting Oceans, One Maritime Vision" showcases how gradually India is uniting the world for single Ocean vision and nothing can stop it from emerging the most potent naval power across the globe. During the last few years or so there has been a mushrooming of a number of clichés in International politics such as Bandwagon, strategic autonomy plurilateral and the emergence of epistemic community along with 1990s two contradictory concepts like End of History and Clashes of Civilization which caught the fancy of Political scientists across the globe. Undoubtedly the world politics has undergone sea change and there has been a constant period of flux wherein the relevance of myriad concepts or doctrines face new challenges as change becomes the

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changeable law of life inexorably immutable. The global politics has witnessed the emergence of a strong bond and extremely good contiguity between the most beautiful and the largest and two most democratic countries of the world: India and the US. Whereas most of regions of the global politics is still marred by conflict or tensions such as West Asia, Ukraine-Russia conflict compelling to find a perfect strategic mechanism to withstand pressure and save national interest. In such an alarming situation there has been tremendous concern about finding a strategy to generate prudence and find solid web of protection apparatus. The philosophical discourse of offensive realism has never been as relevant as it is today. In such a scenario the same old strategic principle of famous Alfred Thayer Mahan that the one who dominates the waves (sea) dominates the world appears to have come back as the major principle of new international politics new normal focusing on to the same old strategy to evolve and enhance economic and commercial cooperation and to ensure strategic surveillance and security of water ways making ocean strategic area as the new cornerstone in building up close cooperation through multiple projects and providing high quality medicines for health, commercial and economic humanitarian relief assistance and joint patrolling. This also fulfils main thrust of IFP's popular principle: "Neighbourhood First Policy" and multiple needs in health, security and economic areas. The Indo-Mauritius coordination in recent years has been a step forward in this direction. India's new strategic vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in Region) becomes all the more important seeing the recent misdeeds of our neighbour. Besides, it also brings an important fact to the light that India and neighbouring countries need to diversify their strategies to counter the challenges. While world is still grappling with the deadly spikes of war and terror, the issue of sea security is taking the forefront of global politics. The Leading expert and Professor of Political Science (focusing on international Politics specifically focusing on Realism (Offensive Realism) Prof. (Dr.) John Mearsheimer once conceded that states always seek to maximize their power and prowess to achieve security. Realism also contends that states prioritize maintaining their security and status quo power over aggressive expansion, focusing on balancing against threats rather than seeking dominance. It provides a theoretical rational for comprehending the complex rigmarole in the fluid power equations and how the changing dynamics of Asia particularly around IOA shapes India's defence strategies. There is an increasing tendency of actors in International relations to cluster around the powerful one in the system. China's expansionist mission has vindicated Raymond Aron observation correct. Aron once conceded that "The two most typical models are called multipolar and bipolar: either the chief actors, whose forces are not to unequal, are relatively numerous, or, on the contrary, two actors dominate their rivals to such a degree that both become the centre of a coalition and the secondary actors are obliged to situate themselves in relation to the two "blocs," thus joining one or another, unless they have the opportunity to abstain. Intermediary models are possible, depending on the number of chief actors and the degree of equality or inequality of forces among the chief actors". These are changing times and many changes have occurred in International relations recently. Sharing and working on a common strategic vision and a combined approach to ensure

mutual economic prosperity and approaching through a multi-layered and multilateral strategy if situation demands is going to dominate the world order in the coming days. What is required is to develop a fresh perspective for a more matured reliance on international cooperation between nations to enunciate a new strategy of retaliation, threatening a severe response to any attempt of destabilizing the order. Traditionally, maritime security has been perceived as a domain of strategic rivalry among major maritime nations. The leading maritime powers have largely drawn inspiration from Mahan's theory of Sea Power. According to Mahan, the supremacy of the sea and the control over maritime trade routes are what ultimately define a littoral state's national power. This implies that maritime powers prioritize the safeguarding of national interests, including shipping routes and maritime resources, against threats from other nations. The military dimension of sea power has been the primary focus for these countries. Over time, new security challenges such as piracy, armed robbery, terrorist acts, illicit arms trafficking, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, drug and human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing have surfaced. These threats, combined with the challenges posed by climate change, are commonly referred to as non-traditional threats. All littoral nations of the ocean confront these challenges. Consequently, nations are compelled to choose cooperation as a means to address these security threats. Thus, Maritime Security also encompasses initiatives aimed at mitigating risks and vulnerabilities through collaboration and coordination. The traditional aspects of Maritime Security remain pertinent in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). India and China are currently engaged in strategic competition to safeguard their respective maritime and national interests in this area. The Indian Ocean is a strategically vital waterway that links Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Control over the Indian Ocean confers a considerable advantage in terms of trade, security, and geopolitical influence. The nations that dominate the Indian Ocean will be positioned to influence global affairs (Pant H. V., 2014). Both India and China regard themselves as significant Maritime Powers and are intent on expanding their influence in the IOR. Geographically, both nations occupy critical strategic locations that provide them with direct or indirect access to the ocean. In this direction In order to counter the increasing tentacles of Chinese aggressiveness endangering India's Maritime Security through Belt and Road initiative (BRI), deployment of Naval bases in the IOC areas, Naval base in Djibouti, construction of Gwadar Port to help Pakistan, its policy of Strings of Pearls through which China is encircling India by enhancing strategic partnerships with IOR countries India has reached out to its neighboring countries such as Sri-Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Seychelles and Mauritius and had a defence strategies of developing coastal Radar System between these countries. Besides, it has already started a Fusion system with regard to providing information related to security of Indian Ocean Region. The recent procurement of an India-Russia Joint Venture BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile for India Navy and aero-engine for MIG-29 Jets for Indian Air Force are major initiatives enhance India's defence capabilities. India has also developed a Necklace of Diamonds Strategy under which there was a vision of establishing a Changi naval service Base in Singapore, Chabahar Port in Iran, ports in

Myanmar and Oman .India is moving ahead with its Act East Policy to enhance economic and trade cooperation among east Asian neighbors in addition to this started with an extensive web of ports and Coastal Surveillance Radar (CSR) building systems .India's recent strategy has set out a clear way forward by getting fully involved in new techniques and developing challenging strategies to meet the need of all the partners. The issue that remains vital is to bring so many neighboring countries to a negotiating table of working out a strategy of maritime security and protecting economic interest. The increasing support and agreement with regard to limiting climate change issues and opening up gateways for renewable energy and development in technological knowhow along with channelizing the sources of power generation and creating a mechanism to withstand any sudden threat posed by BRI (Belt and Road Initiatives) augur well for peace and prosperity of all the member countries. There has always been a series of extremely good relationship between India and the its neighboring countries with regard to trade share having crossed a decent landmark during last half a decade which was way more than expected. The recent efforts by India to protect IOA's security through cooperation with neighboring countries would further boost and cement their ties and create a genuine environment for stabilizing economic growth (along with ensuring free flow of goods and services) strategic security, prosperity, stability and combating sudden challenges arising due to climate change and maritime and border threat. Further, the panel discussion focusing on "The Quad Squad: Power and Purpose of the Polygon," during early 2023 provided another step towards solving the expansionist plans. The member countries showed their commitment to support Pacific Island countries with regional institutions through cooperation in several areas along with the terror such as climate change, resilient infrastructure, and maritime security to strengthen the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). The role of India's leadership in finalizing the IORA in India-Pacific areas was greatly appreciated and getting even more important due to its impeccable reputation. Further negotiation may lead to creation of a strategic mechanism to provide a shield against maritime security, piracy, drug trafficking, armed robbery, terrorism, international crime, smuggling and cyber threat unleashed by any non-state actor as well. This may also accelerate maritime friendly ties and bolster up security around Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific areas which have lately become areas of concern. Hence, a collaborative partnership among the nations around Indian Ocean Area through equity and access to those who are in need at the time of unprecedented crisis may show the level of insight in empowering and motivating people across the board towards extending helping hand and saving lives. Besides, the pursuit towards promotion of their well beings would lead to tremendous effort towards enhancement of overall development scenario in India and neighboring countries. The sum and substance of the idea is to ensure that the New structural Thinking and orientation changes through a fresh perspective and a framework for key demands while maintaining a synergy among various stakeholders to negotiate even on the issues of different perspectives.

Since then, cooperation among Quad Group countries has set a new road map through diplomatic endeavour towards building a new apparatus for the management of terrorism.

Foreign relations are operated through an efficient diplomacy and diplomacy is all about right gestures and cooperation and coordination at the time of crisis. India is indeed a leading partner in this regard. India is a mature democracy and its leaders are capable of cashing in on any opportunity and strategy that's a combination of tactful strength and resilience.

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