

Indian Naval Expansion and its Strategic Partnership with US in the Indian Ocean Region: Implications for Pakistan

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Abstract:

India's quest for extraordinary power status is submitted in changing its naval force into a blue water navy alongside cutting edge stages to secure the vital public interests in Indian Sea. There are wide range of naval operations that are supported by naval diplomatic exercises like Assured Second Strike Capability. These developments in conventional asymmetries among the regional navies indicate that a strategic imbalance is growing in Indian Ocean shifting the balance of power towards India. This paper explores the maritime strategies of India in various dimensions. This study also aims to find how India made alignment or alliances with USA in achieving its desired policies. It is also tried to cover implications for Pakistan in this regard. To achieve these objectives key indicators of realism are used in theoretical framework. An extensive literature available was synthesized as well. At the end a comprehensive analysis is made while suggesting key recommendations later.

Keywords: Indian maritime, hegemony, implications, second strike capability, regional navies

Introduction

India's quest for extraordinary power status is submitted in changing its naval force into a blue water navy alongside cutting edge stages to secure the vital public interests in Indian Sea. There are wide range of naval operations that are supported by naval diplomatic exercises like Assured Second Strike Capability. These developments in conventional asymmetries among the regional navies indicate that a strategic imbalance is growing in Indian Ocean shifting the balance of power towards India. The potential naval skirmishes shall entail instabilities causing conflict escalation between the rival states. India is aware of the strategic significance of Indian Ocean and wants to ensure hegemony over it. Its maritime power can be observed in expansion of strategic interests using naval modernization. To sustain its national interest, India is maintaining its maritime operations. In sustaining the power US has been a great maritime partner that has challenged China

in the region. The environment has been drastically transformed into competition as China is also pursuing its interests through Indian Ocean. China's rationale is based on increase in connectivity links using road routes and the Strait of Malacca. U.S and India have stretched out an essential handshake to contain China and empower India as stabilizer to act against China through mechanical handshake. The point of the participation is to address security difficulties of both the nations in IOR just as in South Asia. This terms paper centers on the forceful endeavors of India to keep up with its authority affirming Indo-US association. It likewise maps the historical backdrop of Indo-US relations under the public authority of Trump and Obama that has empowered India to increase its maritime muscles in IOR. Besides, alongside outlining the essential relations, the paper likewise center around the ramifications of this essential participation for Pakistan as there is a need to examine the undermining key condition in IOR¹

Theoretical Framework

Theoretical Framework is one of the important part of research that gives strength, consistency and order to various strands and manifestations of human thought process. Theory tends to explain a certain phenomenon, event and process through its variables. Thus, it strives to form a general pattern of thought and attempts to bring coherency in understanding the human society and its institutions. This is done by logical positivistic based empirical-analytical methodology.

We are drawing upon a range of theories, concepts and methods to provide a broader framework to this research. The tradition of Marxism is very useful to provide base to the ideas that we are exploring, such ideology, power and hegemony.

However, the theory of Realism is the most relevant in the context of this research paper. According to Realism decision makers are the rational actors in the sense that rational decision-making leads to the pursuit of the national interest. Applied to international politics, realism sees a conflict-ridden world of states concerned preeminently with their security, struggling for advantage, sometimes seeking dominance, and therefore pursuing power as the means to assure these. One of the most prominent dimension of realism is use of military power to attain and maintain hegemony. This is true in the context that India is expanding its naval power to create its hegemony in the region of South Asia. This is exactly why America is supporting India; to maintain its ascendancy in Pacific Ocean to counter China. Although India and USA are giving this strategic alliance a cover of liberalism but they truly have realistic motives.

¹ David Brewster, "An Indian Sphere of Influence in the Indian Ocean?", Security Challenges 6, no.3 (2010): 1-20.

The Maritime Strategy of India

To start, India's oceanic procedure record, named "Guaranteeing Secure Oceans: Indian Sea Security Technique," spreads out the essential objectives and goals of the nation's bluewater investigation. India's oceanic targets are focused on its basic geostrategic area and the development of Indian civilization as cosmopolitan, as per the arrangement record. Besides, India's marine extension is roused by the Indian Sea climate, which is attached to the nation's financial, military, and innovative turn of events. Moreover, the climate permits India to justify its cooperation with its companions and accomplices in the Indian Sea, permitting her to continuously extend her public safety goals and political destinations past the IOR. The Indian maritime policy is based on the country's desire to improve its standing in the international community. India confers great power status in order to maintain economic progress, address perceived security-related problems, and gain great power status. Diplomacy, increased trade, and the development of strong strategic connections are the major methods for achieving these goals. During peacetime, the Indian Navy is relied upon to attempt these obligations, from battle preparation to maritime discretion. The Indian Navy tries to secure 'blue water' abilities to satisfy its conventional jobs, for example, guaranteeing the country's beach front guard, and giving ocean based atomic discouragement (counting guaranteed second-strike capacity), extending the country's delicate power past its shores, and amplifying the effective reach in the district. A few regular components have situated India in an ideal situation to profit by its gigantic geostrategic importance. India can rehearse sway there due to its space between the Center East, Focal Asia, and Southeast Asia. Since the Indian landmass adventures significant into the ocean, India manages the Bedouin Ocean and the Straight of Bengal. India also has a huge port association, involving 12 major and 187 minor ports, which handle around 90% of the country's new trade through sea. Moreover, the country's 7,516.6-kilometer-long shoreline shields it from possible business issues in case of a cataclysmic event. To exploit these components, India's administration has become progressively dedicated to working on the country's maritime abilities. It is supposed that it intends to fabricate a 200 transport armada in the following ten years. The Navy has been given a 16 percent piece of the safeguard financial plan for 2015-16. These factors, when joined with a thoroughly examined sea system, set up the

way for India's entrance into the Indian Ocean Rim and the acknowledgment of its domineering plans in the locale.²

Naval Modernization's Motivating Factors

Multiple variables that influence the navy's perceived function during war and peace are driving the efforts behind Indian naval modernization plans, according to a review of concepts outlined in various official papers. The key motivating force behind naval modernization is India's desire to expand the reach of its fleet. The South China Sea and the East Pacific Region are both primary and secondary areas of interest for India's "Act East" policy, according to the Maritime Strategy document (2007). This approach is a political undertaking pointed toward reinforcing monetary, international, and social binds with the enormous Asia-Pacific region at many levels. India is relied upon to self-assuredly utilize its atomic assault submarines and plane carrying warships to practice more ocean control and deny China expanded impact around here. The two planned atomic foes in India's close to region, especially Pakistan's supposed non-adherence to the "No First Use" (NFU) strategy and vague atomic edge, concern India immensely. This requires the production of an ocean based ASSC. Besides, in this day and age, when a couple of armadas have blue ocean abilities, an advanced maritime power outfitted with state of the art innovation is regularly seen as an indication of public status. Clearly Indian maritime power pioneers believe these types of progress to be a display of public pride and power. India has supported its sea nuclear update by ensuring that it will give a trustworthy secondstrike capacity. Up to twelve K-15 Submarine Dispatched Long Range Rockets can be presented on the INS Arihant submarine (SLBMs). India has conveyed further SLMB assortments with longer ranges, similar to the K-5 and K 6. In like manner, India has cultivated a sea-based variety of the Nirbhay venture rocket and is wanting to send the Dhanush rocket. Also, the INS Arihant has performed obstacle watches, and India has conveyed its atomic submarines following the Pulwama occurrence in 2019. These new advancements highlight India's desires to develop an ASSC dependent on its atomic skilled maritime powers.³

² Tanguy De Swielande, "China and the South China Sea: A New Security Dilemma?", *Studia Diplomatica* 64, no 3 (2011): 7-20.

³ "Ensuring Secure Seas: Indian Maritime Security Strategy" (New Delhi: Indian Navy, 2018)

India as a major defence partner of US and its diplomatic initiatives

In IOR, India is a significant protection accomplice of the US. Following China's quick monetary and military advancement, the US sees India as a critical accomplice nearby and immovably upholds its oceanic development. In the field of IOR, the US and India share a great deal for all intents and purpose. The two nations comprehend the essential meaning of IOR, which has assumed an imperative part in their individual nations. With about portion of the world's 90,000 business boats and 66% of worldwide oil traffic passing through its sea paths, the Indian Sea District is at the intersection of worldwide exchange and business. The region is home to a fourth of the total populace and has a portion of the world's quickest developing economies. While the region gives unparalleled possibilities, it additionally faces a large number of safety dangers, including illegal intimidation, transnational wrongdoing, illegal exploitation, and unlawful substances. To resolve these issues, the US is searching for ways of developing and improve collusions with India, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Bangladesh, and Nepal to address normal local challenges. The US's advantages in the Indian Sea region mirror its longing to limit China by assisting India with logical, military, and financial help. In the Indian Sea, India and the US have a wide scope of normal interests, moving them nearer together. However, the two nations regularly place a more noteworthy accentuation on transnational issues like theft and psychological warfare; in any case, among these variables, the China factor has all the earmarks of being the most remarkable, prodding further reciprocal joint effort. The US solidly upholds India's tactical development in the Indian Sea, considering it to be an authentic challenger to China. During the 1980s, notwithstanding, the US was more distracted with the Soviet Association than with China. Therefore, China was consigned to an optional position. As per Indian investigators, the two countries' guard union has now become significant. The establishment stone of the Indo-US key association was worked under the Bramble organization, and the collaboration reaches out back to the Clinton organization, yet it got steam when the US consented to move atomic innovation to India in 2005. During President Barack Obama's administration, this association was fortified significantly more. The key and mechanical handshake between the US and India helped the planned exertion with achieving key targets. Indo-US security trade has reached \$ 18 billion from \$ 1 billion as it blossomed during President Obama's standard. The two countries dispatched the Guard Innovation and Exchange Drive (DTTI) in 2012. Seven joint working social events were set up under DTTI to explore adventures and ventures to augment agreeable work. Also, the two

countries similarly stamped two science and development project plans worth \$ 2 billion. In June 2016, the US allocated India as a "Huge Safeguard Accomplice." The status is novel to India as it tries to "lift the US watch association with India to a level comparative with that of the US storeroom accomplices and assistants." The status was given in the landscape of design supported by then US Secretary Debris Carter and past

Indian Guard Priest Manohar Parrikar for US-India security relationship in June 2015. The Calculated Trade Notice of Arrangement (LEMOA) among India and the US was supported in 2016. The two nations agreed to interface close military errands under LEMOA. The two countries will approach "demonstrated workplaces on either side for refueling and re-energizing," similarly as "port calls, joint exercises, getting ready, supportive aide, and disaster easing," according to the settlement. The three-layered MALABAR oceanic drill in the Cove of Bengal in 2015 tended to a mix of interests under President Obama and State leader Modi. China had fought the global maritime tasks in the area in 2007, yet Prime Minister Modi felt free to incorporate Japan. The maritime drill was intended to work on multilateral joint effort, and India was accountable for the whole activity. Safeguard associations with India are expanding at a dramatic rate under President Trump's organization. The two nations are on a street to reinforce their protection union in manners that previous organizations have not seen. The two nations have consented to lead land, ocean, and air drills to reinforce their protection relations. Notwithstanding, obviously the Trump organization is adhering to the arrangements set up by Presidents Bush and Obama. The two presidents "tried to move nearer to India decisively and accomplished generously in regions like arms deals," as indicated by the White House. All of the past organizations' endeavors have brought about an expansion in US weaponry commodities to India. Somewhere in the range of 2013 and 2017, the offer of firearms developed by up to 557 percent. Indeed, "American arms deals to India are as of now at \$18 billion and might ascend with the acknowledgment of an agreement to permit India to get \$1 billion worth of maritime weapons and ammo," as indicated by the Associated Press. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, as indicated by the New York Times. In July 2018, the US House of Representatives established a \$621.5 billion guard spending bundle that expects to support safeguard collaboration with India. The House supported a change to the National Defense Authorization Act-2018 (NDAA) that orders the Secretary of Defense to draft an arrangement for upgrading safeguard participation between the US and India as a team with the Secretary of State. The Senate passed the National Defense Authorization Act. In July 2018,

President Donald Trump's organization gave India an extraordinary status known as Strategic Trade Authorization (STA-1). Just NATO partners, like Japan, South Korea, and Australia, have recently been agreed the status. The order permits India to import innovative protection hardware from the United States. These merchandise would help India's protection (and assault) against Pakistan and China, its unpleasant opponents. Without a transaction-specific license, the high-tech objects will be shipped to India. India's acquisition of defense technologies and ready-made items from US defense businesses will be facilitated by the special status. The Trump administration's strategic connections with India are highlighted by the first-ever 2+2 conversation. The discussion is an endeavor to elevate the strategic cooperation between the two countries. The two sides also resolved to establish secure contact between the Indian Minister of External Affairs and the US Secretary of State, as well as between the Indian Minister of Defense and the US Secretary of Defense, according to a joint statement made following the meeting. Both nations agreed to take efforts to further deepen defense ties and improve defense and security coordination and cooperation. In September 2018, the 2+2 conversation process brought about two significant arrangements: the Correspondence Similarity and Security Arrangement (COMCASA) and the Fundamental Trade and Collaboration Understanding for Geo-Spatial Participation (BECA). Besides, the discussion cycle supports Indo-US watch cooperation in the Indian Sea, with the two players consenting to begin exchanges between the Indian Naval force and the US Maritime Powers Headquarters (NAVCENT). This will bring the two nations closer together and advance marine joint exertion in the western Indian Sea. COMCASA will help India in getting best in class security things from the US, which will help the nation's locale, ocean, and flight based military. Interoperability between the US and Indian militaries will be guaranteed through the import of cutting edge watch degrees of progress from the US and enlistment to the security correspondence affiliation. BECA would in like way permit India to get geospatial information from the US for both typical and military livelihoods. On April 8, 2019, one more draft bill was presented in the US Place of Delegates. Joe Wilson, a senior individual from the US Council on International concerns, is the ally. Three leftists (Brad Sherman, Tulsi Gabbard, and Ami Bera) and two conservatives are among the bill's co-maintains (George Holding and Ted Yoho). Both Mr Bera and Ms. Gabbard are of Indian fall. The Indian social gathering is co-driven by Mr Sherman, Ms. Gabbard, Mr Yoho, and Mr Holding. The law desires to help Indo-US key and watchman worked with effort while comparably discarding road obstructions to the association's supporting. India's

significance as a colossal gatekeeper embellishment seems to have been seen and reaffirmed in the draft law. The bill's text features the US's confirmation to work together by and by with India on two-sided security exchange. NATO, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Israel, and New Zealand are among the nations to which it sells. The bill moreover proposes the production of an organizing structure for reviewing progress on the different plans imparted as of now. India's Political Drives in the Indian Sea Area The relationship of Top state leader Narendra Modi is sufficiently associating with littoral states. It has arranged the enunciation "Security and Development for All in the Locale" to depict its Indian Sea outreach project (SAGAR). This enables India to interface successfully with comparable assemblies close by while moreover countering China's creating relationship with littoral states. The Modi government is zeroing in on invigorating marine ties with Seychelles, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka. A few models consolidate the foundation of observation radars, the trading of watch boats and planes, and settlements on establishment and hypothesis improvement, likewise India's dynamic interest in the Indian Ocean Region Association (IORA) and the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium.⁴

Implications on the Region's Strategic Stability

The consolidated tensions from India's regular and offbeat military development will cause vital shakiness nearby. As the imbalances grow before long, Pakistan, specifically, would be much more helpless because of the Indian naval force's ordinary predominance. Pakistan has as of now framed the Naval Strategic Force Command, notwithstanding the way that it currently needs stages and conveyance frameworks. Only assuming the two atomic adversaries have guaranteed second-strike capacity and the instruments to carry out it can ocean based hindrance add to prevention security. In the event that one of the nations in question, India, overwhelms the other in any of these spaces, there would be an essential awkwardness, which will prompt unsteadiness. The presentation of SLBMs by India has presented one more perspective that compromises the delicate key security among India and Pakistan, as it goes against India's "moderate position," since the SLBMs conveyed by the four arranged SSBMs are equipped for conveying a couple dozen warheads of differed yields. One of the reasons Pakistan keeps on restricting the conversations on the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty is on the grounds that India's atomic fissile material reserve of

⁴ Sufian Ullah, "India's Naval Nuclearization: Repercussions For Crisis Stability," South Asian Voices, June 27, 2018, <https://southasianvoices.org/indias-naval-nuclearization-repercussions-stability/>.

profoundly advanced Uranium has been distributed for maritime impetus plans (FMCT). In case of a future showdown, India's interest in helicopter landing decks, alongside air help from plane carrying warships, will empower India to build up another front by attacking Pakistan's waterfront locale thus decreasing the edge.

China considers India's maritime technique to be a threat to its urgent marine business courses through the Malacca Strait, which may be one reason for the previous' weighty interest in the One Belt One Road exertion across Asia. The Indian naval force has the capacity to disturb exchange paths going through the Strait of Malacca, through where China gets 80% of its oil. Through the CPEC project, the Gwadar harbor will assume a basic part in protecting China's energy life saver. The Indian naval force is considered as a balancing out impact nearby by the US and its western and Asian partners, as seen by the past banter. Dependability is a relative idea; the thought of strength is directed by the interests of a state, thus vacillates. India's solid maritime stance, as indicated by adjoining legislatures, is undermining the entire district.⁵

Pakistan's Implications

- **India as a Net Security Provider:** In the so-called Indo-Pacific area, the US appears to have franchised its position to India. India has likewise adopted the Western narrative that it is the region's Net Security Provider. This might be due to the US's restricted capacity to engage on numerous fronts at the same time. Such designations, on the other hand, continue to fuel India's feeling of grandeur, emboldening it to adopt belligerent methods against its neighbors, particularly Pakistan.
- **Waiver of Strategic Export Controls:** The waiver of key commodity controls allowed to India has brought the two countries closer together. This will help India's native safeguard organizations in understanding its administration's 'Make in India' vision. This would impact the current uneven characters among India and Pakistan, India's local chief adversary. To reinforce the drive innovation of its interceptor rockets, India is building a two-layered long range rocket guard framework. STA-1 will help India in working on ballistic, voyage, and submarine-dispatched long range rocket drive (SLBMs). India is looking for an ASSC with energy. It will be a transcendent maritime power in IOR with atomic weapons assuming it obtains an ASSC, given it has various atomic able SLBMs that have been tried. STA-1 is a possibly awful improvement

⁵ Zach Montague, "U.S.-Indian Defence Ties Grow Closer as Shared Concerns in Asia Loom," The New York Times, 20 Nov 2019.

for Pakistan. Most of Indian maritime improvements in the Indian Ocean are fixated on Pakistan. The STA-1 status will help India in obtaining and moving innovation from the West to completely obliterate Pakistan and forestall Chinese invasion into the Indian Ocean.

- **Rocket Defense Cooperation:** The United States and India have a long history of rocket protection participation. During the 1960s, US researchers helped Indian researchers in building a rocket drive innovation, which assisted India with making its space dispatch vehicles. The points of Indo-US rocket safeguard cooperation are laid out in the Trump organization's 2019 Missile Defense Review, which expresses that "the dangers introduced by hostile rocket capacities are not generally confined to a couple of spots across the world." various South Asian nations are presently constructing a refined and wide range of ballistic and voyage rocket abilities. In such manner, the US and India have thought about conceivable rocket guard participation. This is a sensible outgrowth of India's job as a Major Defense Partner and an imperative part of the United States' Indo-Pacific Strategy." Pakistan was not explicitly referenced as a threat to India in the Missile Defense Review paper. It didn't, notwithstanding, preclude its chance being the sole country in South Asia with rocket limit. The two nations are, beyond question, occupied with a rocket weapons race. The Trump organization's accentuation on talking about potential rocket protection participation with India to counter rocket dangers from unpleasant states proposes that the US might help India in battling Pakistan's rockets.⁶

The Indo-US Cooperation Draft Bill's Potential Outcomes

The reason for this law is to stress the potential for Indo-US protection participation. This law doesn't remain solitary; it upholds prior STA-1 advances to fortify Indo-US protection participation under the National Defense Authorization Act (2018). This action reaffirms the United States' assignment of India as a key protection partner. . This bill lifts IndoAmerican relations to another level. It eliminates a huge number of legitimate and political barricades to their future cooperation. India would now be able to acquire safeguard innovation from the United States without Presidential endorsement. Indian weaponry imports are relied upon to fourfold in the following quite a long while, which is unfriendly for the South Asian area's essential soundness.

Non-NATO Ally Status

The actually proposed laws set up by people from the US Congress would assemble India US watch cooperation and, eventually, award India the circumstance with a Non-NATO accomplice.

⁶ Ibid

The United States has as of late allocated India as a critical security accessory in South Asia and the Indo-Pacific region. This will allow India and the United States to support their rocket monitor cooperation in South Asia.⁷

Pakistan: Recommendations

Pakistan is occupying in a space where immense nations' tendencies unite and parcel. Pakistan has made its significant seaport Gwadar available as an entrance to the ChinaPakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The drive hopes to additionally foster Pakistan's⁷ K.V. Kesavan, "India's 'Act East' policy and regional cooperation," Observer Research Foundation, February 14, 2020, <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/indias-act-east-policy-and-regionalcooperation61375/#:~:text=India's%20'Act%20East'%20policy%20is,Pacific%20region%20at%20different%20levels.&text=When%20India%20launched%20the%20Look,what%20they%20are%20at%20present.>

Financial joint effort and infrastructural improvement. It is furthermore a critical endeavor of China's Belt-Road Initiative (BRI) to decide the Strait of Malacca crisis. Furthermore, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was set up considering the United States' Asia Rebalance Policy, which envisioned India as a fundamental assistant in containing China's trip. Pakistan, without a doubt, transformed into a part in the space's global development. Characterizing proposition for Pakistan while living through and participating in this worldwide aggravation is an irksome task; yet, considering the revelations of this audit, coming up next are some crucial ideas: • Pakistan's relationship in CPEC should be more proactive, and it should loosen up the endeavor's approaches to connecting nations

- . • Consequently, Pakistan should communicate its global technique focuses to clear its circumstance on common interest and reduction the likelihood of conflict close by.
- Pakistan and India ought to participate to build a sea based nuclear limitation framework, with a particular focus at work of SLBMs in the Indian Ocean; and Indian and Pakistani fleets should make a hotline to avoid sea based customary fight in peacetime.
- India, Pakistan, China, and the United States should figure out a quadrilateral working social event at the ministerial level to examine sea based nuclear CBMs.⁷

⁷ Gazala Yasmin, "India's Development of Sea-based Nuclear Capabilities: Implications for Pakistan," Strategic Studies 38, no.1 (2018):34-47

Conclusion

In the degree that it views IOR as an expansion of India, India's public safety points are self-evident. The growing Chinese presence in IOR is presenting huge dangers to China's oceanic incomparability and authority. The Chinese issue in the Strait of Malacca has fortified China's local availability objectives, which remember risky ramifications for India for the Indian Ocean region and South Asia. Subsequently, apparently the main answer for the two countries to limit China is to make Indo-US safeguard participation. Thus, the Indo-US protection coordinated effort has brought about an extensive military update for Indian soldiers, just as maritime development in the Indian Ocean. The Indo-US safeguard coordinated effort will impressively help India's naval force development and modernization. The maritime drills among India and the United States are the initial move toward framing a bigger alliance and coordinated effort in the Indian Ocean to challenge China specifically and to encourage long haul collaboration to help India's guard area overall. By adding to existing lopsided characteristics, Indo-US coordinated effort has introduced a significant danger to vital security in the Indian Ocean locale and South Asia. The creating vital relationship dynamic would empower India to seek after combative and forceful measures against its most outstanding opponent, bringing about an endless weapons race in the Indian Ocean locale and key lopsided characteristics between fighting powers. Pakistan is a significant entertainer in South Asia, yet the United States' more extensive financial interests are attached to India, which is relied upon to advance combinations between the two nations and fortify their respective guard collaboration on a drawn out premise.⁹

⁹ Sufian Ullah, "India's Naval Nuclearization: Repercussions For Crisis Stability," South Asian Voices, June 27, 2018, <https://southasianvoices.org/indias-naval-nuclearization-repercussions-stability/>.

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