

Maritime Security and Safety

Slide 1

Maritime security: Concept and Rationale

- **Oceans have been the sources of fortune and disaster to human society throughout history. World's greatest civilisations – Roman, Egyptian, Indus and Sumarian – originated and prospered around the ocean spheres. Two thirds of planet earth is covered by the three oceans and countries/people belonging to the one third of territorial planet are heavily influenced by seas. World's greatest civilisations – Roman, Egyptian, Indus and Sumarian – originated and prospered around the ocean spheres.**
- **Countries located adjacent or remote from the ocean areas were regularly threatened by seaborne attackers. Pursuit of power and prosperity led states and sailors to wage wars on other maritime countries.**
- **Vasco de Gama, the first European to wage seaborne attack against India in 1498 was lured by the wealth of India, the spice country. Search for gold was the primary reason for the Spanish wars against the South American states. and there are many such cases.**

2. Nature of Maritime Threats

- **Broadly there are two types threats to maritime states: traditional and non-traditional. Traditional threats are the**

usual naval campaigns carried by ambitious and powerful states against other states.

- Imperial powers of Asia and Europe are known for their chronic naval military attacks targeting neighbouring or distant states. Warships, naval fleets, submarines, aircraft carriers and currently sea-based missiles are the powerful instruments of naval wars.
- Non-traditional threats or non-state actors are the second category of maritime threats today. Today most attacks on both coastal and non-coastal states are waged by these forces which are violent, ubiquitous, cross-border and trans-regional in scope and mobility. Jihadi terrorist groups like *Al Queda*, pirates, smugglers, drug traffickers and illegal migrants are in fact the frequent and major threats to the maritime security of a country.

3. Security of Marine Properties and Resources

* Modern coastal states have been giving importance to leverage marine wealth for national progress. The race to increase GDP rate, enhance overseas trade and involve foreign corporates in national production systems has propelled coastal attention toward the seas. Simply globalization and economic liberalization are the driving forces of coastal states' growing interest in the maritime areas around their coasts.

* In accordance with their increased interest and exploration of marine resources, coastal areas have been undergoing their nature and profiles. Today's onshore and offshore coastal zones are located with modernized ports, port-land connectivities, fishing harbours,

industrial zones, special economic zones and oil/gas production infrastructure.

*** Protection of these marine assets from seaborne disasters, oil spills and floods is also the responsibility of maritime security forces of every coastal state in the world.**

*** Indian Navy (IN) and ICG have the above additional responsibilities. The 1978 Indian Coast Guard Act authorizes the coast guard to enforce policing, surveillance, patrolling the 7,683 kilometres of coastline and over two million square kilometres of sea within national jurisdiction.**