

# DEFENCE & SECURITY ALERT



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## NAVAL SPECIAL INDIAN MARITIME SECURITY



Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi  
Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS)  
PVSM AVSM NM



**DSA**  
15 YEARS OF  
STRATEGIC SAGA



# The power of a King lies in his mighty arms...

Security of the citizens at peace time is very important because state is the only savior of the men and women who get affected only because of the negligence of the state.



*Chanakya*



# EDITOR'S NOTE



**Manvendra Singh**  
Editor-in-Chief

The writer is the Founding Editor of Defence and Security Alert (DSA) magazine. He is a well known defence journalist and columnist. He was a member of Indian Parliament from 2004-2009 from one of the largest constituencies in Rajasthan.

## DSA IS AS MUCH YOURS, AS IT IS OURS!

It's been a long time coming and so it was a pleasant surprise to see the optimistic tone and tenor of the annual press conducted by the Chief of Naval Staff on the eve of Navy Day. It isn't that the previous have been overly pessimistic or negative or even dark and somber affairs. Not at all, for they have all been realistic and to the point without creating hype or concealing the regional security environment from the citizens of India. As the smallest of the three services and the one which operates furthest from focus, Navy loses out.

It has been losing out on budgetary allocations for the longest period, and it has also been losing out on public attention, for obvious reasons. As the largest and most engaged in daily counter-insurgency operations, the Army naturally gets the lion's share of attention and consequently financial allocations. As next in line, but disproportionately active in the media, the Air Force gets its fair share of affection and budgetary support. So, in a real sense, it isn't surprising that the Navy follows at a distant third, especially given India's security focus remains land bound, what with recalcitrant neighbours both sides.

The reality, however, is that the Navy actually influences the largest share of India's borders, across a lot more maritime space than the Army and Air Force influence over land. The Navy operates across the oceanic horizon, over many more times zones, touching several additional countries and having a direct impact on two continents, Asia and Africa. In addition, it has reciprocal training, exercises and manoeuvre agreements with European and North American countries that are on friendly terms. It is a global player, or at least has the potential to become one if fully operationalised.

Which is actually what the CNS press conference was about, realising the fullest potential of this oceanic power that has the skills and leadership to take India's presence over far more lands than is imaginable. And so, it was heartening to learn that a total of 62 warships of various types are under construction in the country. Since it takes a long lead time to design, construct, commission and then finally induct a ship into service; decisions have to be taken with that in mind. Budgetary constraints of today cannot decide the quality and quantity of combat vessels ultimately needed.

Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi was reassuring when he disclosed India's indigenous nuclear attack submarine is expected to be commissioned by 2036-37. It will be the first of its kind designed and constructed in India, and the second should be inducted couple of years later. This is the most vital of India's nuclear assets and needs to be ordered in adequate numbers to take care of training as well as operational aspects. Which means sufficient numbers are needed for manpower to be prepared for handling the ultimate responsibilities. The same applies for aircraft carriers, which remain the most important flag carriers.



**Pawan Agrawal**  
Chief Executive Officer

The writer is the Publisher and CEO of Defence and Security Alert (DSA) magazine, with extensive experience in publishing and media.

A handwritten signature in white ink on a dark teal background, appearing to read 'Pawan'.

## MARITIME SECURITY

Are the oceans now so important for every country that all are competing to control as much as possible? Giants like China have consistently sought to expand their maritime influence, often disregarding international boundaries. A prominent example is the South China Sea conflict, where China claims nearly 90 per cent of the area, in violation of international rulings such as the 2016 verdict by the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which invalidated its expansive claims. Additionally, Beijing has heightened tensions with Taiwan and other Southeast Asian nations through aggressive naval exercises and island-building campaigns.

The advent of advanced oceanographic technologies has revealed abundant undersea resources, including polymetallic nodules, hydrocarbons, and rare earth elements. These discoveries have intensified global competition, with an estimated 84 per cent of the world's undiscovered oil and gas lying beneath the oceans. The South China Sea alone accounts for an estimated 11 billion barrels of oil and 190 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, making it a focal point of geopolitical rivalries.

India, bordered by the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal, and the Indian Ocean, has emerged as a key maritime player. The Indian Ocean holds immense strategic importance, serving as a vital conduit for critical sea lines of communication (SLOCs) through which nearly 95 per cent of India's trade by volume and 70 per cent by value is conducted. Additionally, the ocean is rich in resources, with India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) covering 2.37 million square kilometres, offering vast potential for energy security and economic development.

India's maritime strategy focuses on two critical objectives:

1. **Securing Water Borders:** In the aftermath of the 2008 Mumbai attacks, where terrorists exploited the sea route to infiltrate and wreak havoc, India has significantly enhanced its maritime surveillance and security measures. The establishment of the Coastal Surveillance Network (CSN), equipped with radars and sensors, has strengthened monitoring capabilities. Furthermore, joint exercises such as MALABAR (involving the US, Japan and Australia) bolster India's readiness to counter maritime threats.



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2. **Preserving Oceanic Resources:** India has been exploring offshore resources, with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) spearheading efforts to harness hydrocarbon reserves. In 2023-24, India extracted approximately 35.68 million metric tonnes of crude oil, much of it from offshore fields. These resources are vital for reducing import dependency and achieving energy self-reliance.

India's maritime forces, consisting of the Indian Navy and Coast Guard, play a crucial role in safeguarding these interests. The Navy operates a fleet of over 150 ships and submarines, while the Coast Guard has a fleet of over 150 vessels and 70 aircraft. Their collective efforts ensure 24/7 surveillance of India's maritime domain, focusing on countering infiltration, piracy and illegal fishing activities.

As India celebrates Naval Day on 4th December, commemorating the successful attack on Karachi harbour during the 1971 Indo-Pak War, we honour the valour and dedication of the "Men and Women in White." This edition shines a spotlight on their contributions to maritime security, featuring insights from leading experts.

Team DSA extends its heartfelt congratulations and salutes our naval forces for their steadfast commitment to safeguarding our maritime borders and resources.

Jai Hind!

Pawan Agrawal  
CEO - DSA

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# DSA MAGAZINE

**Overview:** *DSA* was initially established with an onus on the Indian defence, security and international affairs. However, due to rapid global threats and challenges in these domains, *DSA* expanded its horizons internationally. The magazine has consistently published insightful articles by renowned subject experts from India and abroad, exploring the challenges, threats and potential solutions for creating a safe, secure and peaceful world.

**Vision:** After the Mumbai attack (2008) intrigue us to envision Defence and Security Alert (*DSA*) magazine to be a trusted and leading platform in defence, security and international affairs, providing expert analysis and insights that shape strategic thinking and decision-making. *DSA* is committed to address evolving global threats and challenges, fostering awareness and promoting a safe, secure and peaceful world.

**Mission:** Our mission is to publish insightful and strategic perspectives from subject matter experts to raise awareness among decision and policymakers. We also strive to highlight emerging and cutting-edge technologies in the domain, to achieve the vision of *DSA*.

**15 YEARS OF  
STRATEGIC  
SAGA**



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