



## **The Great Game in the Indian Ocean**

**Dr. Ravin Kumar Sehrawat**

Ex Student, M.D.U., Rohtak, Haryana, India

### **Abstract**

The core argument this article makes is that China is playing a great game in Indian Ocean by encircling India through Shrilanka and Pakistan and Pakistan-Nuclear Relationship. For the study of present topic the investigator used the analytical methods for this article by reviewing relevant publications, primarily based on the online journals available on Internet, Wikipedia, Elsevier and Journal of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses and other related literature.

**Keywords:** Great Game in the Indian Ocean, environmental integrity

### **Introduction**

The strategic importance of the Indian Ocean has come to be recognized increasingly in recent times. This recognition has been accompanied by growing militarization throughout the area which has included naval build-ups, both by the littoral states and the great powers. There are three aspects to great power interest in the region: the strategic location of the ocean basin, the existence of natural resources, especially oil and gas; and local rivalries. Oil is particularly concentrated around the Arabian Gulf which is separated from most industrialized states by the long shipping route round the Cape. The concentration of oil resources and the extended sea routes make supplies from the area extremely vulnerable. This has led to a permanent great power naval deployment in the Indian Ocean.

There are numerous sources of conflict in the region and these tend to spur on local naval expansion. Disputes over boundaries and/or resources often interact with historic rivalries. The great power naval presence and frequent involvement by the great powers in local conflicts are regarded as potentially threatening by local states and can lead to requests for protection as well as self-defense measures. While the ocean basin is the object of numerous disputes, the major conflicts in the area have been predominantly land-based. These include the various stages of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the conflict between India and Pakistan, the US invasion of Afghanistan and the war within Iraq. The escalating great power naval presence in the Indian Ocean should therefore be seen as a result of the growing East-West polarization of the littoral states rather than as a cause of it. Naval confrontation in the Indian Ocean has rightly been regarded as probable if some major destabilizing event should occur. Australian Defence Minister Stephen Smith says the critical and growing strategic importance of the Indian Ocean continues to be under-appreciated. Smith noted in a speech to the Lowy Institute in Sydney that the Indo-Pacific will be home to three of the world's superpowers - the United States, China and India - and is now home to four of the world's largest militaries - the US, Russia, China and North Korea.

The critical strategic importance of the Indian Ocean continues to be substantially under-appreciated," Smith said. "The countries of the Indian Ocean Rim are home to more than 2.6 billion people, almost 40 percent of the world's population. The Indian Ocean already ranks among the busiest routes for global trade. It will become a crucial global trading thoroughfare in the future. "The proportion of world energy supplies passing through Crucial trading routes, the presence of large and growing naval capabilities, as well as transnational security issues such as piracy, will drive Australia to ultimately put the Indian Ocean alongside the Pacific Ocean at the heart of our maritime strategic and defence planning,"

The Indo-Pacific is also home to the world's largest navies, including the navies of the United States, China, India and Russia. The implications of this historic shift continue to unfold. Nazeri Khalids of the Maritime Institute of Malaysia, argues that, as the importance of maritime trade and strategic interests increase, the Indian Ocean will continue to be at the forefront of attention of trading nations and the world's great powers. This will exert plenty of challenges to this ocean in areas such as navigational safety, environmental integrity, sovereignty and security, and enhance focus on the impacts they will have on social, trade and economic development in the region.

### **References**

1. Fellingharm G.W, Roundy E.S, Fisher A.G, and Bryce G.R. Caloric cost of walking an running *Med Sci.ss Sports* 1978; 19(2):132-136.
2. 'India Blacklists ST Kinetics. 5 Other Arms Firms', *Asia One*, 6 March 2012, available at <http://news.asiaone.com/News/AsiaOne+News/Asia/Story/A1Story20120306-331775.html>, accessed on 19 January 2018.
3. 'Cambodia Country Summary'. *Oxfam International*, available at [http:// www.oxfam.org/en/cambodia](http://www.oxfam.org/en/cambodia), accessed on 19 January 2018.

4. 'India-Cambodia Relations'. Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, available at [http://mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/Cambodian\\_Bilateral\\_Relations\\_-MEA\\_Website.pdf](http://mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/Cambodian_Bilateral_Relations_-MEA_Website.pdf), accessed on 19 January 2018.
5. Mann G, Garrett H, Farhi A, Murray H, and Billings F. Exercise to prevent coronary heart disease, *AM J Med* 1969; 46:12-27.
6. Pollock M, Cureton T, and Greninger L. Effects of frequency of training on working capacity, cardiovascular function, and body composition of adult men, *Med Sci. Sports* 1969; 1(2):70-74.
7. Vinod Anand. 'India's Defence Cooperation with South East Asian Countries', *Land Forces*, 2013, 3. at <http://www.spslandforces.com/story.asp?id=258>, accessed on 19 January 2018. 28. 'Russia's Missile Sale to Indonesia Upsets DRDO', *The Indian Express*, 19 July 2006, available at <http://archive.indianexpress.com/news/russia-smissile-sale-to-indonesia-upsets-drdo/8846/>, accessed on 15 January 2018.
8. Mann G, Garrett H, Farhi A, Murray H, and Billings F. Exercise to prevent coronary heart disease *AM J Med*. 1969; 46:12-27.
9. Pollock M, Cureton T, and Greninger L. Effects of frequency of training on working capacity, cardiovascular function, and body composition of adult men, *Med Sci. Sports*. 1969; 1(2):70-74.