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Baramati

India's Security in 21st Century Strategies and Challenges

# India's Security in 21st Century Strategies and Challenges



**Prof. Dr. C. B. Bhange**  
**Dr. V. M. Suneela Shyam**

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# **PREFACE**

We are delighted to present you the book entitled “India’s Security in 21st Century: Strategies and Challenges”. There has been a lot of discussion on India’s National Security so far and much remains to be done. The goal of this book is to inform the people about the various aspects of India’s National Security. This book will be very useful for students and researchers studying India’s national security scenario and various aspects related to the same. A notable feature of this book is that researchers have set out in their chapters on current developments and historical views on India’s National Security Scenario.

India's security landscape in the 21st century is characterized by a complex interplay of traditional and non-traditional security challenges. The country faces a range of strategic and operational considerations in maintaining its security, both domestically and regionally. India's security in the 21st century relies on a combination of diplomatic engagement, military capabilities, economic strength, and social development. The country's ability to effectively address these strategies and challenges will determine its capacity to maintain stability, safeguard its sovereignty, and contribute to regional and global security. India's security scenario is multi-faceted and complex, requiring a combination of diplomatic engagement, military preparedness, intelligence capabilities, and socio-economic development to effectively address the challenges it faces. In which consideration of the following points becomes orderly. Territorial and Border Issues in which India faces longstanding territorial disputes with both China and Pakistan. The border regions, especially the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China and the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan, have been sources of tension and occasional clashes. Diplomatic efforts are ongoing to manage these disputes and prevent escalations. Terrorism and Insurgency In which Cross-border terrorism from Pakistan has been a major concern, with groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed targeting Indian interests. Additionally, internal challenges include left-wing extremism (Naxalism) in certain



regions and separatist movements in areas like Jammu and Kashmir's past insurgency. Is becoming major concern for India's national Interests. For a better understanding of India's Security Scenario, we decided to compile the book "India's Security in 21st Century: Strategies and Challenges". Then we invited research articles related to Indian Security for the book. After reviewing the research, we selected suitable articles for the book and included those papers in the book. We feel that this book will be useful for researchers and practitioners to understand Indian Security Scenario.

We are grateful to the authors who contributed to making the book a success. We are grateful to all those who directly and indirectly helped us in making the book a success.

We also express our thanks and gratitude to all who helped in completing the book. Finally, I would like to thank the Publisher whole heartedly who helped in presenting the book in such a short time. We hope that efforts and hard work made by researchers will get your support and appreciation. Suggestive cooperation and constructive criticism will always be welcomed wholeheartedly.

**Prof. Dr. C. B. Bhange**  
**Prof. Dr. Shikha Srivastava**  
**Dr. V. M. Suneela Shyam**  
**Dr. Devidas Vijay Bhosale**



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**CHINAS STRING OF PEARLS POLICY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS ON  
INDIA'S MARITIME SECURITY**

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**1. Introduction:** India is endowed with a long, broad coastline that spans 6100 kilometers in total. The distance together with Andaman and Lakshadweep islands becomes 7517 kilometers. India gains access to three seas through this and bordered to the east by the Bay of Bengal, west by the Arabian Sea, and south by the Indian Ocean. The Indian Ocean, the third-largest ocean in the world, has a special strategic significance. Nearly 80% of all the globe's trade and oil transportation travels across the Indian Ocean, keeping its marine routes constantly busy. Therefore, major world powers constantly work to increase their influence in these regions. Due to this, the environment in this region is constantly tight and competitive. India's position in this region as a regional power is obviously significant. India has been concerned for a while now about China's expanding influence in the Indian Ocean regions. The articles that are being presented will go over several significant points about how China's String of Pearls program would affect the maritime security of India.

**1.1 String of Pearls:** The phrase was originally used in 2005 by the American defense consultant Booz Allen Hamilton in a study that focused on China's expanding geopolitical and economic interests in the area. The phrase "String of Pearls" alludes to China's geopolitical strategy of building a network of naval facilities, commercial ports, and infrastructure along important shipping lanes in the Indian Ocean. These facilities and ports are frequently found in nations that border India, producing a "string" that encircles the country like "pearls" on a necklace. The numerous ports and facilities are symbolized by the "pearls," while the marine links and routes connecting them are represented by the "string."

**China's String of Pearls strategy has the following primary goals:**

**1.1.1. Energy Security:** As China's economy expands, the need for energy has increased significantly. A key component of this approach is securing access to essential energy resources in the Middle East and Africa.

**1.1.2. Trade Routes:** One of the busiest maritime trade routes in the world is the Indian Ocean. China wants to improve its marine trade and connectivity with other areas by developing a network of ports along this route.

**1.1.3. Geopolitical Influence:** China can now exert influence over the nations where these ports are located according to its strategic infrastructure investments, which also give it a stronger regional presence.

**1.1.4. Naval Expansion:** Due to their dual-use possibilities, some of the ports in the String of Pearls might be used by China to expand the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN)'s maritime capabilities and defend its interests.

Concern and attention have been drawn to the emergence of the String of Pearls on a national and worldwide scale. The current geopolitical order in the region may be threatened, according to some neighboring nations, who see it as a means for China to expand its military presence and influence in the Indian Ocean. It's important to note that China has stated that these programs are not meant to be utilized for military objectives and that their main focus is on economic and commercial cooperation. However, the fact that some of these facilities have a dual purpose has led to mistrust and argument among observers and other countries.

## **1.2 India's Maritime Security Interests:**

**1.2.1 Secure Maritime region:** India's maritime domain contains an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of 2.02 million square kilometers, a coastline of 7517 km, and more than 1200 islands in total. Protection of this area is the main objective of Indian maritime security.

**1.2.2 Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs):** The international shipping lanes (SLOCs) in the Indian Ocean region are significant for India's maritime security considerations in addition to the preservation of the aforementioned maritime territories because India's 95% trade is passes through these sea lanes.

**1.2.3 Maritime Economy:** In terms of fish production, India comes in second place globally. Numerous polymetallic nodules that are a valuable source of numerous minerals are found in large quantities in the Indian Ocean. In order to strengthen its economy, India must maintain the safety of its maritime industry in this region.

**1.2.4 Maritime transport:** More than 70% of India's international trade by value and nearly 95% of Malaya is transported by sea. Hence, any foreign interference in this sector can seriously affect India's maritime transport.

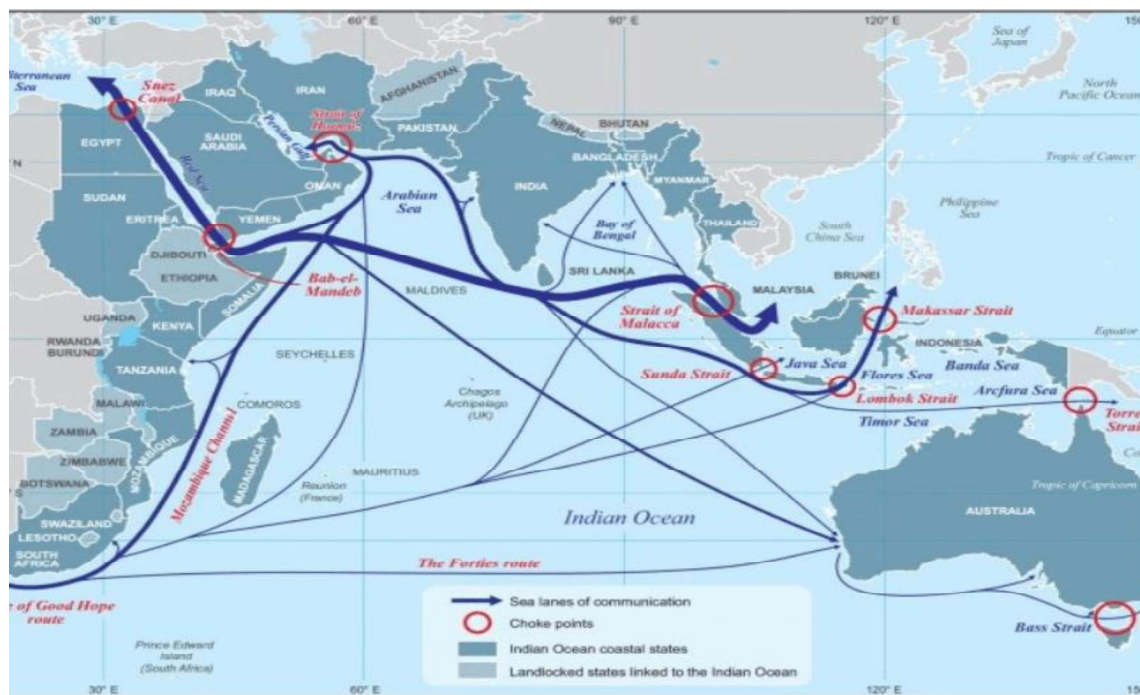


**1.2.5 Maritime investment:** India's investment and economic involvement in India's neighboring countries such as Sri Lanka and the Maldives is a key objective of India's maritime strategy to protect. At present, India is operating the “Maitri” and “Bharti” research stations in Antarctica.

**1.2.6 Indian Diaspora:** India exchanges goods with many nations in the Indian Ocean region and maintains cultural ties with these nations. An important component of India's maritime security framework is the defense and security of the Indian diaspora living there.

**1.2.7 Historical Cultural and Trade Relations of India in the IOR:** Due to its important location in the Indian Ocean, India has historically been a center of trade and cultural exchange in the region. Connectivity between India and the regional countries like Malaysia, Mauritius, Cambodia, and Indonesia are important.

**1.2.8 Energy security:** Import of energy is very important for Indian economy. 80% of the domestic requirement of offshore oil and gas production is imported by sea. Therefore, safe maritime transport in this area is important for India's energy security.



Source: <https://www.clearias.com/maritime-security-challenges/>

**2. Key implications of China's String of Pearls strategy on India:** India is concerned about the policy since it has a big impact on its marine security. Here are some significant ramifications:

**2.1 Increased Chinese presence:** Chinese influence can be expanded and a persistent military and commercial presence in the region is maintained thanks to the String of Pearls policy, which strengthens China's naval presence in the Indian Ocean. Indian security establishment is concerned about the rising Chinese presence so close to India's maritime borders.

**2.2 Strategic Encirclement:** India views the String of Pearls as a strategic encirclement since it places Chinese assets and infrastructure in nations that are close to it. This would restrict India's freedom of navigation in international waters and complicate its naval operations.

**2.3 Chokepoints and Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs):** The Indian Ocean has important SLOCs and chokepoints through which a substantial amount of world trade passes. In addition to possibly disrupting India's trade and energy supply, the presence of Chinese infrastructure along these routes could allow China to assert control over SLOCs. This will have severe implications for India's maritime security.

**2.4 Naval Balance:** The construction of major Chinese infrastructure and naval stations in the Indian Ocean might shift the regional naval balance in China's favor, allowing it to project power more successfully and possibly pose a threat to India's naval superiority.

**2.5 Economic and Diplomatic Leverage:** Increasing China's strategic and commercial ties with Indian Ocean nations can reduce India's regional importance and allow China to build its political hegemony over these countries.

**2.6 Maritime Rivalry:** The String of Pearls heightens India and China's rivalry in the maritime sphere, which could result in more frequent naval patrols, surveillance operations, and military posturing in the area. Due to the increased competitiveness, there may be a greater chance of error or unintentional escalation.

**2.7 Regional Stability:** The closeness of several naval powers might lead to hostility and instability in the area. Any miscommunications, disputes, or other events involving Chinese naval forces close to India's maritime borders could worsen and affect regional stability.

**2.8 Response and Alliances:** India can try to thwart the String of Pearls by enhancing alliances, forging closer marine links with other like-minded nations, and improving its own naval prowess. New strategic alliances could develop as a result in the area.



**3. Conclusion:** Indian maritime movements and access to crucial resources may be restricted if Chinese naval capabilities are located close to important Indian Ocean chokepoints. To counterbalance China's expanding influence, India may work to deepen its ties with other regional nations as well as with allies beyond the area. To combat shared security issues like piracy and other non-traditional security concerns, India and other Indian Ocean littoral states may need to improve collaboration and coordination. India is combating China's String of Pearls Strategy with a multifaceted approach. The plan calls for the construction of ports, the installation of sophisticated Coastal Surveillance Radar (CSR) systems to monitor Chinese warships and submarines, the importation of cutting-edge surveillance aircraft that can locate Chinese submarines, the operation of an airport in the neighboring country to monitor the Chinese port, the strengthening of defense ties, the expansion of bilateral ties with South Asian nations, island nations in the Indian Ocean region, Southeast Asian nations, and the performance of regular. India has been actively building its own marine infrastructure, enhancing its naval capabilities, engaging in regional cooperative initiatives, and using diplomacy to address these consequences in order to protect its maritime interests and uphold stability in the Indian Ocean region.

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