

THE CHALLENGES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED IN ACHIEVING
STRATEGIC MARITIME PARTNERSHIPS
(EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)

We live in an integrated world that survives on trade and commerce, especially supply of oil. Thus protection of SLOCs is vital for all states. The main objective is to ensure “Freedom of Navigation” coupled with “Safety and Security at Sea”. However, conflicting national interests may lead to disruption of SLOCs for which Strategic Maritime partnerships are primarily required. There are other non-military challenges as well for maintenance of good order at sea, such as piracy, smuggling, human trafficking, terrorism and HDRA. These challenges require cooperation and collaborative efforts.

Foremost, requirement in this regard is respect and adherence to the UNCLOS; which is the legal framework for the Maritime Cooperation. Secondly, it is imperative to have greater transparency through dialogue and sharing of information. Thirdly, develop common doctrines for interoperability; against common threats / challenges. Fourthly in case of a conflict, exercise maximum restraint and concurrently start negotiations to resolve the issues.

Therefore Strategic Maritime Partnerships may focus on the following objectives:

- Confidence Building Measures in Maritime Domain
- Bilateral / Multilateral Cooperation for Security of SLOCs and maintenance of Good Order at Sea
- Development of Maritime Sector
- Contribute fully in Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance

The First step in this direction is Dialogue; and that is what we are engaged in.