



'DILLI SERIES' SEA POWER SEMINAR - 2024
AMPLIFYING INFORMATION



1. The '*Dilli Series*' Sea Power Seminar - 2024 will be held on 15-16 Oct 2024. This is the eleventh edition of the '*Dilli Series*' and the theme of this edition is '**Harnessing Sea Power for National Security**'.
2. The primary purpose of the '*Dilli Series*' of Sea Power Seminar is to expose cadets at Indian Naval Academy to the various facets of 'Sea Power' from an academic perspective. Over the period of time, the '*Dilli Series*' Seminar has grown in scope and stature. Today, it occupies a prestigious place in the academic calendar of the Indian Navy and is broadcast live on various platforms. Catering for its extended audience reach and also to harness the best possible expertise, the seminar is conducted in hybrid format over two days. Accordingly, the intellectual depth and nature of topics for this edition have been curated from elementary to complex level progressively in four sub-themes, considering the takeaway for cadets and other attendees.
3. Papers are invited on the topics arranged in the sub-themes as mentioned below. Considering that the seminar is primarily for the benefit of cadets at INA, it is expected that the papers apart from being intellectually stimulating, thought-provoking and rich in academic rigour, would also cater for the envisaged learning outcome for the cadets as mentioned against each topic.

SUB-THEME I

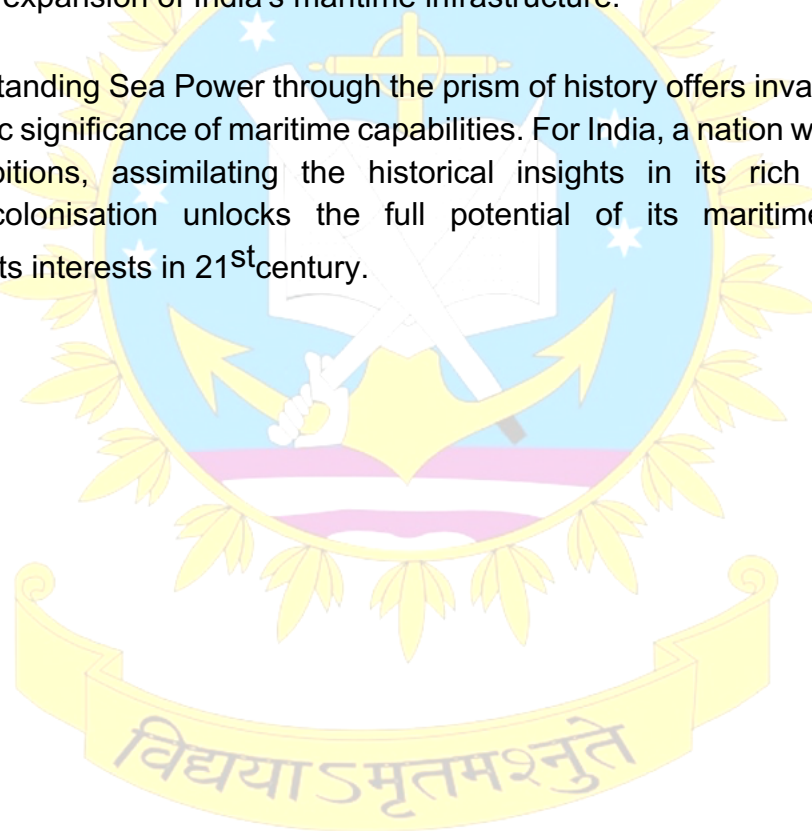
UNDERSTANDING SEA POWER THROUGH PRISM OF HISTORY

4. Sea power has played a pivotal role throughout history, shaping the fate of nations, facilitating trade, projecting influence and securing strategic interests. The importance of sea power can be traced back to antiquity, with civilisations such as the Phoenicians, Greeks and Romans harnessing the seas for commerce and conquest.
5. Throughout history, India's maritime heritage serves as a source of inspiration and a reminder of its intrinsic connection to the seas and has been a hub of maritime trade and cultural exchange, with ancient ports like Lothal and Dholavira serving as centres of commerce. Later, the Chola dynasty's naval empire in medieval times

highlights India's historical significance in the maritime domain. Indian ports, such as Calicut, Surat and Mumbai flourished as centres of trade, attracting merchants from diverse cultures and fostering economic prosperity along India's coastlines. Thus, the Indian Ocean region has been a historical hotspot for maritime trade, cultural exchange and strategic competition with obvious implications for security and well-being of India.

6. From the Age of Exploration, European powers, including Portugal, Netherlands, France and Britain ventured into the Indian Ocean to establish colonies and trading outposts. The colonisation of key ports and territories along the Indian Ocean rim facilitated the exploitation of maritime resources and the extraction of wealth from indigenous populations. The British Royal Navy's control of significant sea lanes and naval bases in the Indian Ocean region served as the lynchpin of British economic interests and national security strategy, securing trade routes, protecting colonies and projecting power across vast maritime domains. Subsequently, during the colonial era, India's maritime trade became intertwined with British imperial interests and it also witnessed the expansion of India's maritime infrastructure.

7. Understanding Sea Power through the prism of history offers invaluable lessons on the strategic significance of maritime capabilities. For India, a nation with burgeoning maritime ambitions, assimilating the historical insights in its rich heritage and subsequent colonisation unlocks the full potential of its maritime power and safeguarding its interests in 21st century.



Topics and Learning Outcomes

8. Papers are invited on the following topics: -

<u>Ser</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Learning Outcomes for Cadets</u>
(a)	Indian Maritime Power Through the Ages	<p>(i) Familiarisation with major indigenous naval powers.</p> <p>(ii) Exposure to major maritime activities, battles, expeditions and conquests by indigenous rulers.</p> <p>(iii) Factors that triggered the decline of Indian maritime power and its implications for the subcontinent.</p>
(b)	Colonisation of the Indian Ocean Region	<p>(i) Factors that compelled the Europeans to find a direct sea route to India.</p> <p>(ii) Exposure to the major advancements in the field of navigation, weaponry and shipbuilding techniques in the medieval era that enable colonisation of India.</p> <p>(iii) Understanding the major sea battles in the IOR and the trajectory of colonisation of the region.</p>

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SUB-THEME II
MILITARY APPLICATION OF SEA POWER

9. Military application of sea power has multiple dimensions. These range across a very wide canvas of roles and activities of the maritime forces – from peace to an intense existential contest between nations and now increasingly with non-state actors. However, in essence, sea power emanates from the ability to subjugate the will of an adversary through application of violent force. In other words, the ultimate military application of sea power is to ‘fight and win’ at sea. ‘Tactics’ is the last piece in a long line of stratagems that ultimately enables the wielders of sea power to deliver that violent blow. Therefore, in many ways, tactics is the most fundamental building block of professional learning for those who use Sea Power for military application.

10. Fleet tactics has evolved from the age of fighting sails to incorporate the changing character of war. During this process, tactics has sailed past the triumph of the ‘Big Gun’ and torpedo in WW I; revolution in weaponry, sensors and emergence of Aircraft Carrier as the principal platform of naval war in WW II; age of missile warfare under the overhang of nuclear deterrence during the Cold War; littoral warfare and air-land-sea battle concepts at the turn of the last century; and influence of the revolution in information and unmanned vehicles for war at sea, in the 21st century.

11. Two facts are universally recognized: that continual advances in technology keep weapons in a state of change, and that tactics must be designed to fit the capabilities of contemporary weapons.¹ Therefore, technology is renowned for the way in which it prompts changes in tactics. The spectre of recent conflicts at sea, give the impression that cheap and replaceable shore based unmanned systems made from commercial technology are apparently trumping the expensive naval hardware at sea. Has this fundamentally altered the equation between tactics and technology? A study in trends and constants of the evolution of tactics with technology alongside lessons from recent conflicts at sea would be instructive to determine, if technology is upending tactics. This is important because tactics are not studies, but techniques – not an art or a science, but the very action of warriors in battle.

¹ Capt Wayne P Hughes Jr. and RAdm Robert P. Girrier, “Fleet Tactics and Naval Operations” Naval Institute Press, 2018, p.23

² Ibid, p.2

Topics and Learning Outcomes

12. Papers are invited on the following topics: -

<u>Ser</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Learning Outcomes for Cadets</u>
(a)	Evolution of tactics with technology – trends and constants	(i) Familiarise with trajectory of evolution of tactics with changing character of war at sea. (ii) Understand the relationship between tactics and technology. (iii) Trends and Constants in the evolution of tactics in relation to the changing technology and character of war.
(b)	Lessons from conflicts at sea in 21st century – is technology upending tactics?	(i) Familiarise with tactical lessons from conflicts at sea in the 21 st century. (ii) Understand the change in trends and constants of tactics under the influence of revolution in information on warfare. (iii) Likely course of technology and its relation with tactics in future.



SUB-THEME III
IMPACT OF SEA POWER ON GEO-ECONOMICS

13. The complex interplay of global affairs and influence of sea power extends far beyond military might as it blends into the realms of economics, trade and geopolitics. Sea Power helps in enhancing the ability of nations to control maritime resources and trade routes with a profound impact on international relations.

14. History is replete with examples of nations and empires creating motifs of control and access for sea routes to gain economic prosperity. Pax-Britannica is one such example that demonstrates the impact of sea power on the global geo-economics. During this period of relative peace between the great powers, British Empire, riding on the Industrial Revolution and new ideas of free market and free trade became the global hegemon. Thus, an unprecedented economic growth and financial dominance was achieved by projecting sea power.

15. Many visionary thinkers have explained the relation between sea power and geo-economics through theoretical constructs. Mahan defines sea power as a 'chain' made up of three lengths – production, naval-merchant shipping and forward bases-markets. Corbett postulates that the force that could be projected from the sea has the capabilities to protect or destroy commerce. Panikkar, on the other hand, through an appreciation of India's maritime history, unambiguously demonstrates that whoever controls the Indian Ocean has India at their mercy. In respect of India, he states, "no industrial development, no commercial growth, no stable political structure is possible for her unless Indian Ocean is free and her own shores are fully protected". Mahan and Corbett, essentially, establish a theoretical framework for the interdependence between sea power and geo-economics in general. Panikkar draws an irrefutable and indelible link between dominant sea power in Indian Ocean and economic well-being of India.

16. As a rising hegemon, China has envisioned a Belt and Road Initiative with significant role of sea power to create a modern motif of control and access. The BRI, at least in principle, seems to be intending to achieve the same goals as Pax Britannica. It may be instructive to study points of convergence and departure between Pax-Britannica and BRI. Towards that, postulations of the Great Masters would be useful in disentangling the congruence and divergence between the two, thus helping us cast a gaze on the impact of dominant sea power in Indian Ocean on India's economic development.

Topics and Learning Outcomes

17. Papers are invited on the following topics: -

Ser	Topic	Learning Outcomes for Cadets
(a)	Great Masters of Sea Power – relevance to India’s economic development	(i) Comprehend the tenets of Sea Power by Alfred Thayer Mahan, Julian Corbett and KM Panikkar. (ii) Understand the interdependence between sea power and geo-economics. (iii) From the tenets of these theories, extrapolate the role of dominant sea power in Indian Ocean on India’s economic development.
(b)	Pax Britannica – a concept of economic security – Is China’s BRI replicating history?	(i) Understand the role of sea power in Pax Britannica. (ii) Familiarise with the contours of China’s BRI and learn the role and implications of sea power in it. (iii) Conclude the likely impact on growth of China’s sea power in IOR because of BRI and its implications for geo-economics of the region.



SUB-THEME IV
STRATEGIC DYNAMICS OF SEA POWER

18. As maritime competition intensifies and threats evolve, nations continue to invest in naval capabilities and maritime domain awareness to assert their interests and navigate the complexities of global waters. In the realm of international relations, sea power holds a paramount position in influencing geopolitical dynamics. The ability to project force across maritime domains and secure maritime interests has historically been central to the security and prosperity of nations.

19. Sea power, historically and contemporarily, relies on three key tenets: cooperation, collaboration and coercion. While cooperation and collaboration foster stability and prosperity, coercion serves as a deterrent against threats to maritime security and sovereignty. These principles shape the strategic use of naval forces and maritime resources in achieving national objectives and maintaining influence in global affairs. By embracing these principles and leveraging the collective capabilities of naval forces, maritime nations can enhance maritime security, promote stability and safeguard their interests in an increasingly complex and contested maritime environment.

20. India's maritime strategy is undergoing significant transformation in response to the changing global order, evolving security challenges and the country's growing maritime interests and capabilities. As a maritime nation with an extensive coastline, strategic location and vital maritime interests, India recognises the importance of a robust maritime strategy in promoting national security, economic development and regional stability.

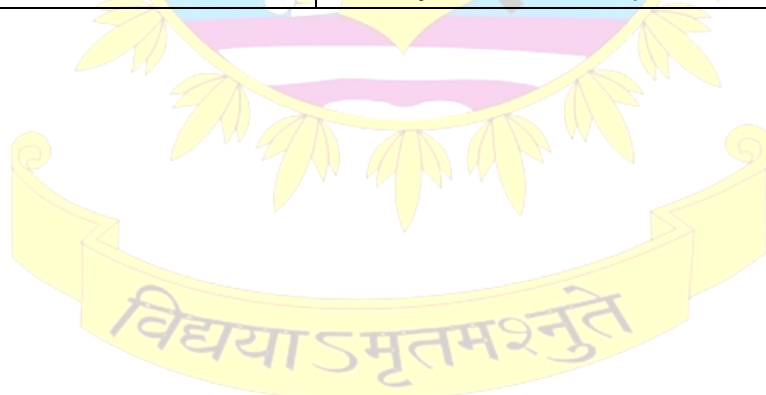
21. The dynamism of India's maritime strategy has geo-strategic-political-economic dimensions driven by national as well as regional and global motivations. An understanding of all these aspects and factors is essential in comprehending the full implication on the key tenets of sea power – cooperation, collaboration and coercion. It would, therefore, be instructive to trace the evolution of India's maritime strategy and examine it in relation with the current imperatives to understand the likely course and various implications of application of sea power.

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Topics and Learning Outcomes

22. Papers are invited on the following topics: -

<u>Ser</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Learning Outcomes for Cadets</u>
(a)	Co-operation, Collaboration and Coercion – Tenants of Sea Power	<p>(i) Learn the concepts of co-operation, collaboration and coercion.</p> <p>(ii) Understand the interdependence between these tenants of sea power.</p> <p>(iii) Comprehend the strategic use and tactical implications of these key tenants in application of sea power.</p>
(b)	India's Maritime Strategy in changing Global Order	<p>(i) Understand the basics of Indian Maritime Doctrine and Indian Maritime Security Strategy.</p> <p>(ii) Role of the Indian Navy as net security provider in the IOR. India's maritime engagement with QUAD, ASEAN and foreign naval powers, including Milan naval exercises.</p> <p>(iii) Comprehend the likely trajectory of India's maritime strategy in changing Global Order and its implications on the application of the key tenants of sea power.</p>



XIth Edition

