



NATIONAL MARITIME FOUNDATION

NMF

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RAISON D'ETRE

The maritime environment is inherently contiguous in its global expanse and the rhythms of the oceans and seas are as old as they are abiding. This maritime domain encompasses and has complex linkages with most aspects of human endeavor and at a macro level, with the very well-being of the planet.

The history of the world is inextricably linked with the management of activities related to the oceans and these have been based on very tangible security, strategic and economic considerations. The three navigable oceans of the world have provided the critical routes for trade and commerce, conquest and empire and are now perceived to be the potential arena for global co-operation and the prudent husbanding of resources.

Apart from transportation, the maritime environment spans a wide range of activities including the exploitation of natural resources, conservation of the ocean, waste disposal, coastal engineering, recreation, and more. More importantly, these activities are interrelated and inter-twined in a complex maze, where each individual element bears upon a host of others. Therefore, worldwide, there has been a movement towards concepts like Integrated Maritime Management - a process that is unique, in being dynamic, continuous, consultative and iterative. The need for an organisation in India to undertake research and studies on contemporary issues across the maritime domain is therefore evident. It is against this backdrop that the National Maritime Foundation was conceived. It merits recall that 70 per cent of the planet constitutes water and, as is often noted, the reference to 'earth' may be misplaced.



The National Maritime Foundation (NMF) is a non-governmental maritime think tank registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. Inaugurated on 15 February 2005 in Delhi by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the Raksha Mantri, the Foundation has been set up to:

- Rise above sectoral and departmental legacies, and examine maritime issues in their entirety.
- Provide the much-needed interface between various stakeholders, like the government, public and private sector, academia, NGOs and civil society.
- Initiate debates and discussions in an independent and unbiased milieu so that the best possible suggestions and policies emerge.

VISION STATEMENT

The genesis of the National Maritime Foundation lies in a long-felt need to redress India's historic neglect of its maritime security domain and to fill an acute intellectual void, by providing a common platform for discourse between maritime related institutions, organizations and disciplines, country-wide.

It was also envisaged that the Foundation would provide an open forum for professional debate amongst the sea-going Services; whilst serving to heighten maritime awareness amongst India's policy-makers, intellectual elite and even the lay civil society.

To these ends, the National Maritime Foundation will:



Accord priority, as an autonomous Institution, to free dialogue and discussion on all issues with a bearing on maritime security and on the formulation of independent policy options to decision makers, in the Gol and the Navy.



Endeavour to mould public opinion and influence the national security elite on issues where India's vital maritime security interests are at stake.



Nurture and facilitate study, scholarship and discourse in respect of a broad spectrum of maritime issues, including marine resources, maritime law, maritime history, preservation of the maritime environment and disaster relief.



Seek to engage foreign institutions, having common interests and commitments, in our immediate neighbourhood and further afield, and undertake an exchange of ideas with a view to enhancing mutual understanding and cooperation in the maritime field.

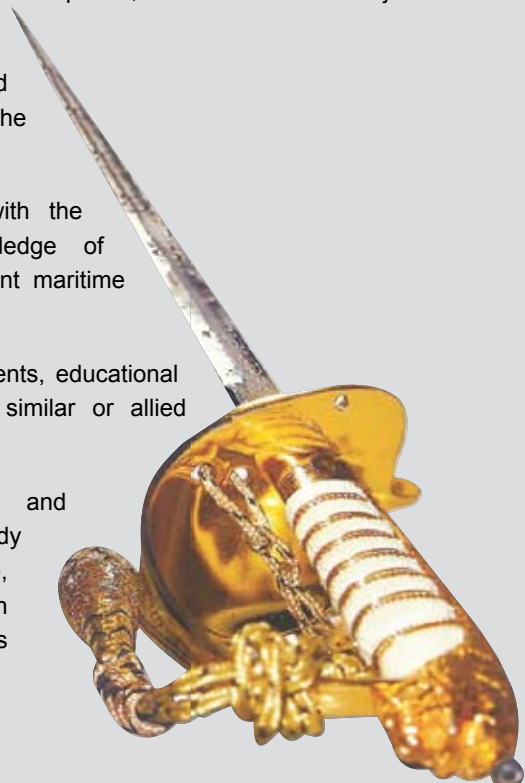
All activities of the NMF will be underpinned by the need to continuously sensitize our fellow citizens to the importance of maritime security, remind them of our maritime heritage and to reawaken maritime consciousness, especially amongst India's youth by using the instrumentality of our own resources, out-station chapters, as well as other institutions.



OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Foundation are to:

- Study and evaluate factors affecting Indian maritime security, focus on vulnerable areas, and suggest suitable options in the formulation of national security strategy.
- Provide constructive inputs for policy formulation.
- Carry out studies on international relations and geopolitical factors of strategic significance, with a view to suggest CBMs and enhance maritime cooperation among sea faring nations, as also to achieve a stable security environment in Southern Asia and the Indo-Pacific domain.
- Conduct studies and research in the area of maritime interests of India spanning across the entire spectrum of oceanic activity, maritime infrastructure, ship-building, merchant shipping, fishing, energy life-lines, offshore and sea-bed resources, environment and the laws of the sea.
- Initiate, undertake, organise and facilitate courses, conferences, seminars, lectures and research in matters relating to various aspects of global maritime affairs and to offer fellowships, prizes, scholarships and stipends, in furtherance of the objectives of the Foundation.
- Promote awareness and informed public debate on the importance of the maritime potential of India.
- Study India's maritime heritage with the objective of disseminating knowledge of such history and burnish our ancient maritime traditions.
- Associate with government departments, educational institutions and other bodies with similar or allied aims.
- Establish and maintain libraries and information services to facilitate study of maritime issues and undertake, facilitate and provide for the publication of newsletters, research papers, books and journals on maritime affairs.



STAKEHOLDERS

NMF constantly interacts with its stakeholders and keeps them aware of current developments. Our stakeholders who have been very supportive of our many ventures include:

- Ministries of Defence, External Affairs, Shipping, Home Affairs, Agriculture (Fisheries), Petroleum and Natural Gas
- Indian Navy and Coast Guard
- Public and Private Sector Shipyards
- Indian Ports Association; Major, Minor and Private Sector Ports
- Oil, Gas, Infrastructure, Insurance and other companies
- INSA and Shipowners
- D.G. Shipping
- Indian Register of Shipping
- State Maritime Boards
- Equipment Manufacturers and Suppliers
- Educational Institutions and Universities
- Chief Hydrographer to the Government of India
- National Disaster Management Authority



AREAS OF INTEREST

The Foundation, for its research activities, has identified areas of interest in the maritime domain as mentioned below. The list is however indicative. NMF is open to suggestions from stakeholders and others, on any other field that is appropriate for study and analyses.

1. Security Studies

- (a) Offshore Security
- (b) Nuclear Security
- (c) Energy Security
- (d) Area Studies
 - (i) Indian Ocean Region
 - (ii) South Asia
 - (iii) South East Asia
 - (iv) West Asia
 - (v) China
- (e) SLOC Security



2. Maritime Affairs

- (a) Maritime History
- (b) Maritime Law
- (c) Environmental Issues
 - (i) Climate Change
 - (ii) Marine Pollution
- (d) Maritime Trade
 - (i) Shipping
 - (ii) Ports & Infrastructure
 - (iii) Shipbuilding
 - (iv) Maritime Tourism
- (e) Oceanic Resources
 - (i) Fisheries
 - (ii) Seabed
 - (iii) Energy
- (f) Relief Operations
 - (i) Disaster Management
 - (ii) Search and Rescue
 - (iii) Maritime Salvage





ACTIVITIES

NMF's basket of activities covers a wide and diverse range. Salient activities are highlighted below:

Collaboration and Interactions

The Foundation collaborates with all organizations and institutions that have an interest in the maritime field, and remains open to suggestions and exchange of views. Such collaborative activities, including joint seminars, research studies etc. have already been undertaken or planned with:

- Indian Navy
- Indian Coast Guard
- Indian National Shipowners' Association
- Indian Ports Association
- Naval War College, Goa
- Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi
- Centre for Land Warfare Studies, New Delhi
- Centre for Air Power Studies, New Delhi
- Ministry of Defence, Government of India
- Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India
- Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, Dalhousie University, Canada
- School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- Department of Maritime History, Calicut University
- Panjab University, Chandigarh
- Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore
- Gulf Research Centre, Dubai
- Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies, Colombo
- Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA)
- United Service Institution of India (USI)
- Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS)
- Centre for Naval Analyses (CNA), USA
- Naval War College, USA



Seminars

The Foundation conducts frequent seminars on topical maritime issues so that these are debated at length and tangible policy options emerge as recommendations. The NMF conducts the Annual Maritime Sea Power Conference in February. Biennial international seminars are also conducted in collaboration with other think tanks.

Roundtables and Discussions

Roundtables with renowned academicians, domain specialists and high-ranking officials form a crucial part of the Foundation's activities. The Foundation frequently arranges such events in the NMF Conference Hall. Details of forthcoming Roundtables are notified on the NMF website from time to time. Attendance is largely by invitation, but interested individuals are accommodated on a case-to-case basis. Views are exchanged in a free and frank atmosphere. In addition, discussions at short notice with eminent personalities are also held as and when opportunities arise.



AWARDS

Maritime Achievement and Maritime Excellence Awards

A Maritime Achievement Award has been instituted by NMF to be given to a person with a significant contribution in any maritime field. Likewise, a Maritime Excellence award has been instituted to recognise demonstrated and sustained excellence in any one of the key research area of the NMF.

Admiral A K Chatterji Fellowship

With the aim to encourage original research on issues that further nation's maritime interests and to inculcate awareness about maritime issues in youth, 'Admiral AK Chatterji Fellowship' has been instituted. The Fellowship will be offered to serving naval officers/young academics. Details are available on NMF website.



MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Foundation is open to all individuals or organizations with an interest in the maritime and security fields. Only Indian citizens are eligible for membership. The admission of members is entrusted to the Committee who shall have an absolute discretion as to admission of members and as to the manner in which selection is carried out. The number of members and fees and subscriptions payable in each class will be such as may be determined by the Council from time to time. The Classes of members and their respective qualifying stipulations are as under:-

Associate Members : All serving and retired personnel belonging to the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, and the Indian mercantile marine service desirous of becoming members may be granted Associate Membership by the Committee on payment of Annual membership fees, which are to be fixed by the Foundation from time to time. In addition, Army and Air Force officers, officers from police and para-military forces, academics, diplomats, bureaucrats, members of the shipping industry and any other person with maritime background or interest in maritime security and desirous of becoming a member may be granted Associate Membership on payment of the Annual membership fee in advance. The Membership will lapse if the Annual fees are not paid at the commencement of the following year. Associate Membership shall be granted initially only for a period of one year and subsequently may be renewed, on request, for a period of three to five years, at the sole discretion of the Committee. Associate Membership may also be granted to NRIs and foreign nationals on case to case basis. The Associate Members will not have voting rights, but will receive the NMF journal and intimation about major NMF functions by Fastest Available Means (FAM).

Members : All resident Indian citizens, who have been Associate Members of the Foundation continuously for three years, have shown proven aptitude for scholarship in the field of maritime security and have contributed to the objectives of the NMF, could be granted membership of the NMF, at the sole discretion of the Committee on payment of an Annual fee which will be approved by the Council. In addition, all members of the EC may be offered membership. The membership will be restricted to resident Indian nationals only. The members will have voting rights and will receive NMF journal and intimation about major NMF functions by Fastest Available Means (FAM). The strength of members will be restricted to 100.

Life Members : All resident Indian nationals, who have been members for ten years may be granted Life Membership at the discretion of the Committee on payment of a one time fee as decided by the Foundation from time to time. In addition, all members of the Council will be offered Life Membership of the Foundation. Life Members will forfeit such status, if they renounce Indian citizenship. All persons who took an active interest or part in the establishment of the Foundation and were enrolled as Founding Members at the initial constitution of the Society as mentioned in the Memorandum of Association (MoA) of the Foundation will be treated as Life Members for all practical purposes. Life Members will have voting rights and will receive NMF journals and intimation about all activities of the Foundation.

Institutional Members: Indian corporate houses or institutions, including defence units, having an interest in maritime affairs or security studies could become Institutional Members of the Foundation at the discretion of the Committee on payment of appropriate fee for a specified period. The membership will entitle them to NMF publications and intimation about NMF activities. It will also entitle them to use NMF library and nominate up to two members for NMF activities. They will not have voting rights.

PUBLICATIONS



Maritime Affairs

The biannual flagship journal of the Foundation contains articles on current maritime issues contributed by experts from around the world. The journal (including back issues) can be ordered from the publisher by sending an e-mail to: customerservice@taylorandfrancis.com

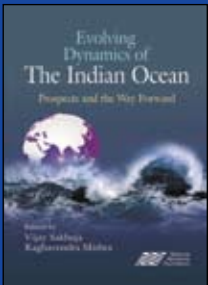
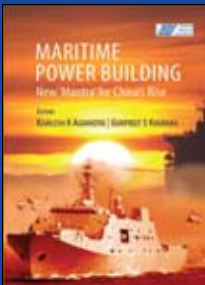


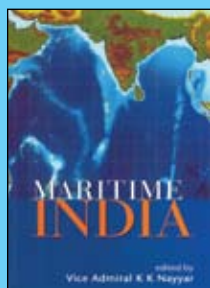
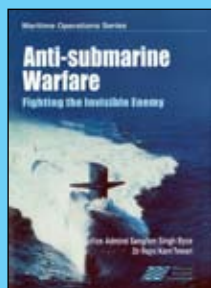
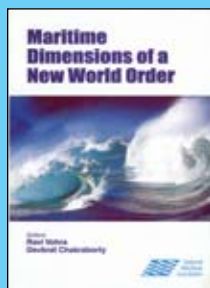
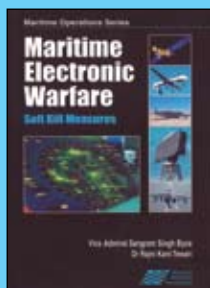
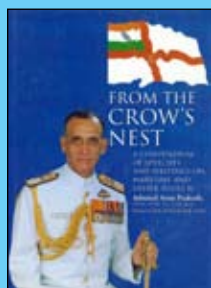
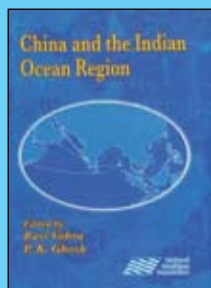
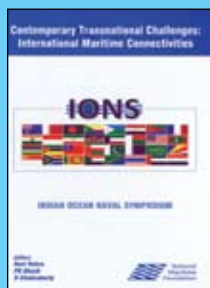
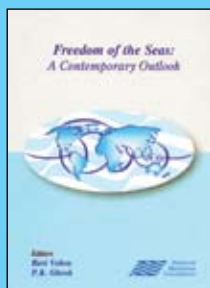
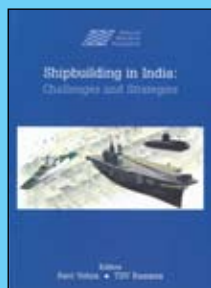
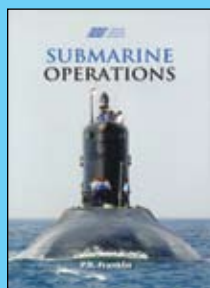
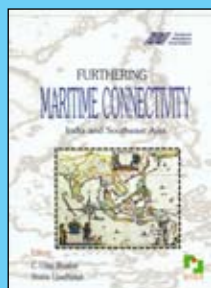
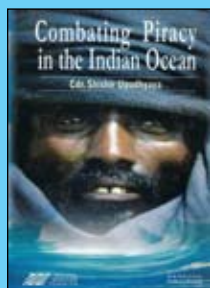
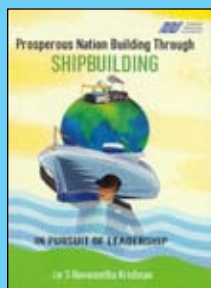
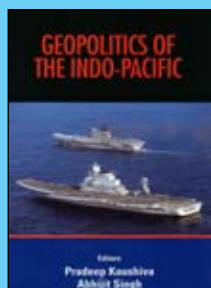
Monographs and Policy Briefs

The Foundation also undertakes focused studies with a view to provide decision makers with policy options on specific maritime issues. These take the form of Monographs and Policy Briefs and are forwarded to all concerned from time to time.

Books

NMF published its first book, Maritime India in February 2005. Several other books have since been published, or are under publication, as shown. Details are available on NMF's website.







REGIONAL CHAPTERS

The NMF has launched regional chapters in Visakhapatnam and Chennai. These Chapters seek to further the aims and objectives of the NMF by harnessing local expertise and talent.

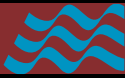
WEBSITE

The NMF website (www.maritimeindia.org) has been made more informative and interactive, so that one of the Foundation's primary aims of disseminating information is better served. Details of events, activities, publications and membership are available on the website. Downloads like issues of NMF's fortnightly news e-brief, membership form, job application form, etc. can be accessed.

NMF LOGO



The ocean is unbound, constantly in motion and ever changing. The logo of the National Maritime Foundation encapsulated this dynamic energy. The representation of the rhythmic waves is unlimited by a border as they flow eternally. The many layers of waves represent the diverse and munificent recourses of the ocean. A slice of the ocean is captured in an unbound parallelogram to connote the window of opportunity for the Foundation to harness, explore, research and monitor the many dimensions of the ocean. The slated form emphasizes the progressive and dynamic approach of the Foundation.



NATIONAL MARITIME FOUNDATION

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