



ANALYZING PAKISTAN'S NATIONAL MARITIME POLICY IN BOLSTERING MARITIME SECURITY: CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD

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SETTING THE STAGE: OCEANS' SIGNIFICANCE

- Ocean- A Multi-Purpose Resource:

- Oceans contribute significantly to economies, geography, and strategic interests worldwide
- Vital for mining minerals, exploiting marine resources, and exploring energy reserves (oil and gas)
- Nations utilize seas for cementing their military strength due to strategic advantages in warfare (Sea Power)
- Facilitates over 90% of global trade, making it the 7th largest economy
- Over 40% of global population resides near coasts, with coastal cities being economic powerhouses
- Valued at USD 24 trillion, oceans' economic impact is expected to double by 2030, creating millions of jobs
- Essential to protect against traditional and non-traditional threats that could disrupt global economic activities

SIGNIFICANCE OF INDIAN OCEAN

- 3rd Largest Ocean Globally; Connects three Continents; Holds approximately 20% of the world's water resources
- SLOC providing shortest and economical routes between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Facilitates around 90,000 commercial vessels annually, transporting about 9.84 billion tons of goods
- Hosts 2/3 of global oil reserves, making it vital for energy security. Attracts global powers competing for influence and control due to its strategic and commercial value
- Faces multiple security threats including piracy, maritime terrorism, and conflicts (Indo-Pak, China-US rivalry, Gulf States instability). High maritime traffic increases vulnerability and requires security measures to prevent incidents
- Influenced by geopolitical tensions and power struggles between different stakeholders. Often referred to as the “Sea of Troubles” and “Sea of Uncertainty”, and “Strategic Arena” due to its complex geopolitical landscape

PAKISTAN'S MARITIME POTENTIAL

- Positioned at the heart of the Indian Ocean, the country enjoys crucial geostrategic importance
- Its coastline spans 1,001 km, divided into the Sindh Coast (266.5 km) and the Makran Coast (734.5 km)
- **Maritime Potential and Resources:**
 - Controls approximately 290,058 sq. km of sea waters, ranking it as a significant littoral state
 - Coast-area ratio of 1:36, highlighting its substantial maritime presence among coastal nations
- **Economic Impact and Trade:**
 - Estimated annual maritime potential valued at USD 7.5 billion, indicating substantial economic opportunities
 - Key transit point for about 36,000 trade ships annually, with 40% of international ships trespassing its waters
- **Strategic Importance:**
 - Strategic proximity to the vital Strait of Hormuz enhances its role in global maritime trade routes
 - Crucial for regional stability and energy security due to its reliance on Gulf oil imports
 - China's One Belt One Road – CPEC – Development of Gwadar Port known as Game-Changer Projects
- **Maritime Security and Development:**
 - Emphasizes the need for a safe and secure maritime environment to fully leverage its maritime potential
 - Opportunity to catalyze a “blue revolution” to enhance economic growth and regional influence

SIGNIFICANCE OF MARITIME SECURITY FOR PAKISTAN

- **Multi-dimensional Challenges:**

- Includes narcotics and human trafficking, smuggling, poaching by foreign vessels, maritime piracy, terrorism, unsettled maritime boundary disputes, cyber intrusion, and marine pollution, etc. (Rao, 2023)

- **National Maritime Policy (NMP):**

- Initiated by the Pakistan Navy in 2002 to address maritime security issues
 - Policy revision aimed at comprehensive reforms and increased provincial autonomy, pending approval

- **Importance of Maritime Security:**

- Crucial amidst evolving maritime scenarios and increased geopolitical activity related to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Gwadar Port development further emphasize the need for enhanced maritime security

THEMATIC ANALYSIS

- *Theme 1: Existing NMP Framework of Pakistan*
- *Theme 2: The policy actors and policy cycle of NMP in Pakistan*
- *Theme 3: Underlying issues and challenges of NMP in Pakistan*
- *Theme 4: Contextual definitions of piracy, armed robbery and maritime terrorism*
- *Theme 5: Need for a holistic NMP for Pakistan*

CONCLUSION

- **Policy Gaps in NMP (2002):**

- Lack of consideration for contemporary maritime security concerns
- Disparity in defining roles and responsibilities for NMP formulation
- Need for active involvement of multiple ministries beyond naval forces in policy formulation

- **Importance of Maritime Security Policy:**

- Essential to complement maritime policy for comprehensive national strategy
- Requires integration of security dimensions alongside economic imperatives
- Calls for clear definitions and strategic alignment with global frameworks (e.g., UNCLOS, IMO)

- **Institutional and Capacity Challenges:**

- Identified bottlenecks include sea blindness, poor coordination, and role ambiguity
- Historical lack of strategic planning in Pakistan's maritime sector since the 1970s
- Urgent need for enhanced capacity through training, policy learning, and tech-based modernization

CONCLUSION (CONT.)

- **Legal Framework and Definitions:**

- Lack of consensus on piracy definitions between UNCLOS and IMO
- Urgency for contextualized legislation to effectively combat maritime crimes
- Emerging challenge of maritime terrorism and need for specific definitions and countermeasures

- **Integrated Approach:**

- Advocacy for an integrated NMP addressing security, economic, and environmental dimensions
- Importance of strategic connections between security, economy, environment, and political stability
- Role of MoMA in bridging coordination gaps among policy actors and stakeholders

- **Global Recognition and Support:**

- Despite efforts, limited global recognition necessitates international acknowledgment and support
- Encouragement for Pakistan's dedicated strides in maintaining maritime security

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- **Holistic NMP for Blue Economy Transition:**

- Envision a comprehensive NMP integrating maritime security and blue economy goals
- Align policy with sustainable development principles for maritime sectors

- **Active Role of Parliamentary Forums:**

- Utilize platforms like the Parliamentary Committee on Maritime Affairs (PCMA) for agenda setting and deliberation
- Ensure political leadership engagement to resolve maritime security issues effectively; timely policy adoption

- **Enhanced Funding for Naval Force:**

- Allocate sufficient funds and resources to further modernize the naval force
- For upcoming Financial Year 2024-25, a total of 2.12 trillion rupees budget allocated for armed forces (Naval share is 10.8% only)
- Enhance regional maritime security (CTF 150 & 151, Aman Exercises) and maintain national defense readiness

- **Cooperative Federalism Model:**

- Implement a cooperative federalism approach post-18th amendment to the 1973 Constitution
- Strengthen provincial and federal collaboration in maritime governance and security



Thank you!