

## **Books**

### **Net Security Provider:**

India's Out of Area Contingency Operations, Military Affairs Centre, IDSA

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Economic growth and prosperity of a Nation are mainly shaped by its volume of trade beyond its territorial boundaries. Increased growth requires a proportionate boost in the requirement of energy sources. In the prevailing scenario oil and natural gas are the major sources of energy, and the disturbing fact is that India has to import more than three quarters of its requirement.

A sizeable number of Indian Diaspora has migrated to friendly countries in search of better jobs and improved quality of life. They are also a cognizable source of remittances to their kith and kin and in the bargain the state benefits in terms of foreign currency. The need to protect trade and Indian Diaspora is the genesis of, "Out Of Area Contingency Operations" (OOACO). The Indian Defence Forces have been called upon to take part in a large number of United Nations Peace Keeping Operations (UNPKO) e.g., Indian Peace Keeping Operations (IPKF) in Sri Lanka, anti piracy operations off the coast of Somalia and Maldives. In view of its capabilities and role the Defence Forces have earned the title of, 'Net Security Provider', in the region. Although operations under UN flag do not classically fall under OOACO the experience gained can be used for planning, build up and execution of actual OOACO's. In fact OOACO are military missions conducted beyond India's borders and include but are not restricted to humanitarian assistance and military assistance, either sought by friendly nations or offered by India in combating security related issues and disaster relief. Naturally protection of national interests and Diaspora get included.

According to General J. J. Singh, former Chief of Army Staff, "Our participation in peacekeeping operations need not solely be governed by considerations of national interests. India needs to perform the role that is in consonance with its growing stature as an emerging power". Military Affairs Centre, Institute of Defence Studies & Analyses (IDSA) has compiled the experiences of various defence and allied services officers and thereafter the same have been analyzed by strategists and military analysts at the centre to put in print in this enlightening booklet.

The booklet covers current capabilities, trends, and policy recommendations. It also enumerates the methodology of implementing the same, not only for the Defence Forces but in the MoD, MEA, National Security Council and Cabinet Secretariat. What's missing is a study of China's OOACO capability and linking the trends to its expansionist policies in South Asia and its rapidly growing presence in the Indian ocean, considering China is the fastest growing economy on the globe and several times larger than India, and not to forget, a permanent member of the UN Security Council with the power of a Veto. For India there is a pertinent and urgent need to study and prepare for eventualities in the foreseeable future. Maybe that is the reason this report aims at soliciting a debate among the Indian strategic community.

The booklet is a, 'MUST READ' for all uniformed officers and those holding Government office and dealing with OOACO. Recommended to be added to all libraries where access is available to civil and military retired officers for they will have the experience to enrich & add views for the betterment of the Nation.

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