

New Delhi is seeking to attain a sea-denial capability in the Indian Ocean. There is no evidence, from policy statements or in the make-up of the developing naval force, that India has ambitions further afield or that it is seeking a sea-control capability.

Nevertheless, India's naval expansion is out of place in an era when economic strength has largely supplanted military power as a means by which to measure the strength of nations. No matter what government is in power in New Delhi, India will continue to strive to be recognized as a legitimate regional, and ultimately, global power. Although there are no indications that India has aggressive intentions towards the Indian Ocean region, interested parties should be alert to developments in India's naval capability.