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नौसेनाध्यक्ष
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PVSM, AVSM, ADC
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MESSAGE

The 21st century is truly the 'Century of the Seas'. With the global and economic centre of gravity shifting to Asia, it is emerging as the 'Century of Asia'. The Indian Ocean has emerged as the prime facilitator of global economic growth and interconnectivity. The region's rich hydrocarbon reserves fuel the global economy, and the shipping and energy lanes transiting the Indian Ocean are some of the most important arteries of global trade.

India's economic resurgence is directly linked to overseas trade and energy needs, most of which is transported by sea. The ability to build ships for commercial or military purposes has been synonymous with a nation's well-being throughout history. Commercial shipbuilding capacity confers the option to refine designs and build vessels that make the national merchant fleet globally competitive. Similarly, warship building capacity enables integration of new warfighting technologies directly into the production process and thus leverages combat capabilities manifold. A robust and competitive shipbuilding industry is an important contributor to a nation's Comprehensive National Power.

The Indian Navy, recognising the long term need for indigenous warship building, has always championed the cause of being a 'Builders Navy'. The blueprint for the future Navy is firmly anchored on indigenisation and self-reliance, in line with our "Make in India" Policy. However, there is a need for the shipbuilding industry in India to be globally competitive to meet the twin objectives of increasing capacity and imbibing modern technologies in ship construction.

I am confident that the 2nd edition of the International Conference cum Exhibition: Maritime Nation India 2017, will highlight opportunities for enhancing indigenisation and provide a fillip to construction of ships and equipment for the merchant marine and the Indian Navy.

On behalf of the Indian Navy, I wish the second edition of Maritime Nation India, success. I am sanguine that this event would provide an ideal platform for participants to demonstrate their expertise and explore business opportunities in the Indian Maritime Sector, including Defence Shipbuilding.

(Sunil Lanba)
Admiral
Chief of the Naval Staff