**PRIMARY SOURCES -**

The study depends on both the primary and secondary sources of data, information and literature. The primary sources of research will be the speeches, interviews of and discussions with the strategic experts in this field, government documents and various reports (governmental and non-governmental), analysis of details pertaining to defence budgets, naval acquisitions and modernization and various combined exercises held in the Indian Ocean region.

The Secondary source includes books, newspaper clippings, national and international research articles, commentaries, journals, websites and the research published by several leading think-tanks. There are a plethora of books, articles and documents available but the study examines only the relevant literature. The relevant reports, documents, books, articles will be harnessed to develop a better hypothesis.

**Interviews:**

Interview schedules will be the primary research techniques employed in this field-study. Interview schedules will be open-ended and unstructured to ensure maximum transfer of information. Interview with the eminent scholars, government officials, security and defense officials and experts will be usual but in-depth interviews will be conducted where the informants spoke about certain issues at great length.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY- The research will employ a qualitative research methodology. It will examine in detail the various empirical evidences as to the driving causal factors of India’s maritime strategy. It will focus on examining the various regional threats before India’s Maritime forces, the presence of major players and the politics in action in the Indian Ocean Region.

To understand the economics of Indian ocean, the research will also empirically examine maritime trade which will include exports and imports of India, merchant shipping transiting through the Indian Ocean, and will analyze the importance of energy security for India, the littoral states in the Indian ocean region and China.

The research will also focus on the influence of domestic politics influencing maritime strategy of India and will also take into account the various challenges posed due to climate change.

**Research Questions**

Q1) How has the foreign policy of India shaped its twenty-first century maritime security strategy?

Q2) Is the new Indian maritime strategy a result of potential security threat from People’s Republic of China (PRC).

Q3) What is the role of Globalization behind India’s maritime security strategy ?

Q4) What are the strategic maritime threats and challenges faced by India from the evolving

security environment in the Indian Ocean region?

Q5) What is the basis for India’s ambitions to emerge as the “net security provider” for the Indian Ocean region, enunciated in the latest maritime strategy titled *Ensuring* *Secure Seas: Indian Maritime Security Strategy* of 2015?

Q6) What is the role of maritime security cooperation in the developing twenty-first century

security order in the Indian Ocean region? How can maritime security cooperation be assessed

analytically?

Q7) What is the efficacy of India’s bilateral maritime security cooperation initiatives with the

Indian Ocean regional states? Can India’s security ties undermine Chinese economic and political

influence in the region in the long term?

Q8) What is the context of India’s relations with extra-regional powers in the Indian Ocean?

Q9) What has been India’s role in multilateral maritime security cooperation in the Indian Ocean region? How can India strengthen multilateral maritime security cooperation in the region?

Q10) What are the prospects for maritime cooperation between Indian and China in the Indian Ocean region?

Scope-

This proposed study is an attempt to examine the India’s maritime security policy and whether it can tackle the various challenges of 21st century. India’s new maritime strategy will significantly change maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region. The merchant shipping routes of the Indian Ocean include over eighty percent of the global seaborne oil trade, supporting Asia’s economic health and marking it one of the most strategically important maritime routes in the world. Managing the security and stability of the IOR is a key requirement for India and in the formulation of its maritime strategy. Maritime Strategic thought has not been considered a great strength of this emerging economic and military power. This forces Indian leadership to be largely reactive to its regional and international security environment and thereby provides an air of strategic ambiguity to the global community. The strategic ambiguity often lead to conflict, especially in a region as sensitive as South and Southeast Asia where a convergence of strategic spheres of influence of the United States, India, and China reside. India’s continued naval expansion will inevitably affect U.S., Chinese and Pakistani decision making in the future. Gaining a better understanding of the critical components of Indian maritime strategy is a step toward reducing strategic uncertainty and thereby contributes toward greater security and stability. The study will provide a new outlook to Indian policy makers regarding the security concerns of maritime borders in the Indian Ocean region. The study will also be significantly useful for the researchers, academician, students those are particularly interested in the studies of Indian’s maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.