

Significance of Historical Maritime Linkages in Human History

K.R. NAUTIYAL¹ AND A.S. CHAUHAN²

¹*Research Scholar, Department of Anthropology, Indira Gandhi National Open University, Delhi*

²*Postgraduate in Nautical Science, Cochin University*

Abstract: Since the great exodus of Hominids from Africa, which began around one million years ago, our ancestors chose to settle along the coastal habitats. They saw the coastlines and seaway not as barriers but as gateways to human movement and establishing contact. From early hominid disposal to the rise of great coastal and riverine civilisations, the sea has played an extremely important role in shaping the history of mankind from a caveman to the position of a king, to the rise of emperors and democratic heads of today's modern world. The evolution of primitive canoe (a kind of small boat) to the 21st century modern sophisticated ships and settlements of more than 60% of world population on coastlines indicates how maritime linkage has nurtured the civilisations and cultures in every age. This paper elucidates the changing dynamics of evolution of humans and their civilisations from pre-historic times till emergence of the modern world from the prism of sea and oceans.

Key words: Migration, Civilisation, Maritime, Sea Voyage, Coastal Routes, Naval Engagements, Maritime Trade