

U D A

UNDERWATER DOMAIN AWARENESS

E-NEWSLETTER - 2025



3rd QUARTER AT A GLANCE

25+

UDA
Summer
Interns from
best colleges

380+

Social Media
postings
(across
platforms)

4

UDA
Webinars
conducted

20+

Important
Interactions and
Participations

5

Latest UDA
Digest
articles

maritimeresearchcenter.com

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

“As we bring you this quarter’s Newsletter, I am reminded of how important it is to see our oceans not as faraway spaces, but as essential to our growth, security, and well-being. The conversation around the Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA) Framework is steadily moving beyond research, it is now influencing policy, driving innovation, and encouraging regional cooperation. The updates we share this quarter highlight both our progress and our conviction that effective stewardship for UDA emerges when science, strategy, and society collaborate. I invite you to explore these pages and join us on our journey toward a secure and sustainable maritime future.”



Nishtha Vishwakarma

Head of Communication and Outreach,
Maritime Research Center

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(Click on the Content to Read)



01 UPDATES & INTERACTIONS



02 WEBINARS



03 UDA DIGEST ARTICLES



04 KNOWLEDGE CENTER



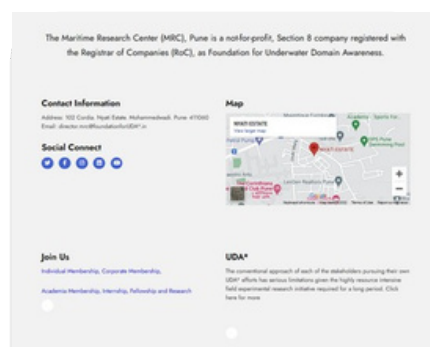
05 External Publications



06 MRC VIDEOS



07 INTERNSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS



08 GET IN TOUCH WITH US

Key highlights from our strategic visit to Tokyo, Japan

1



Our Founder & Director, Dr (Cdr.) Arnab Das participated in the 'Ocean Decade Fifth Foundations Dialogue' in Tokyo, Japan (3–5 Sept 2025). At a high-level roundtable, he emphasized Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA), community-driven action, and technology-enabled solutions as vital for sustainable ocean governance. The dialogue, hosted by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation in collaboration with UNESCO and its partners, brought together regional experts to advance collaboration.

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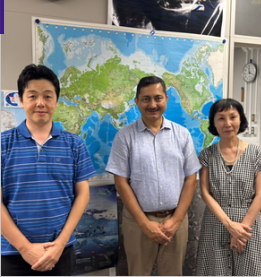
2



During his visit to Tokyo, Dr. Das engaged with JAMSTEC – Japan Agency for Marine–Earth Science and Technology, a global leader in ocean science. He explored pioneering technologies and discussed marine innovation and UDA with Dr. Dhugal Lindsay, Senior Staff Scientist. The interaction, joined by Mehul Sangekar and Leah Bergman, highlighted our commitment to international collaboration and sustainable maritime growth.

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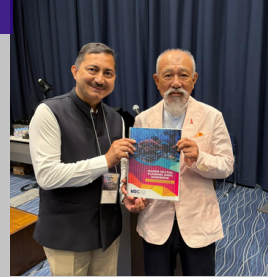
3



On 1 September 2025, Dr (Cdr.) Arnab Das visited the University of Tokyo and met with Ms. Harumi Sugimatsu and Mr. MAKI Toshihiro to discuss underwater platform systems and MRC's work on UDA. The engagement reinforced MRC's commitment to global collaboration and advancing underwater research.

[READ MORE](#)

4



At the 'Ocean Decade Fifth Foundations Dialogue' in Tokyo, Dr (Cdr.) Arnab Das met Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Honorary Chairman of SPF/Nippon Foundation, and shared MRC's Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Handbook. He also engaged with Mr. Vidar Helgesen, Executive Secretary of IOC-UNESCO, highlighting MRC's initiatives on Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA) and MSP for sustainable ocean governance.

[READ MORE](#)

5



On the sidelines of the 'Ocean Decade Fifth Foundations Dialogue' in Tokyo, Japan, Dr (Cdr.) Arnab Das met with Mr. Atsushi Sunami, President of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. They discussed sustainable ocean governance, capacity building, and advancing the UN Ocean Decade objectives, reinforcing MRC's commitment to science-driven, inclusive, and collaborative ocean management.

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6



During the 'Ocean Decade Fifth Foundation Dialogue' in Tokyo, Dr. (Cdr) Arnab Das met Ms. Antonella Vassallo, Managing Director of the International Ocean Institute (IOI), to discuss strategic narratives related to the UDA. They also joined the UNESCO Ocean 'Ocean Dialogue meeting' to shape plans for the next five years of the UN Decade of Ocean Science, reinforcing MRC's commitment to sustainable and inclusive global ocean governance.

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Key updates and interactions



We have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Ratan Tata Maharashtra State Skills University** to formally launch India's first-ever skilling program in **Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA)**. The MoU was signed in the esteemed presence of **Dr. Apoorva Palkar**, Founding Vice Chancellor of RTMSSU, and **Dr (Cdr) Arnab Das**, Founder and Director of MRC. This is a significant step forward for India's maritime and underwater skill development.

[READ MORE](#)

On July 24, 2025, **Dr (Cdr) Arnab Das** met with **Dr Ajay Kumar**, Honourable Chairperson of the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**, Government of India (GoI), in New Delhi. The UPSC Chairperson was particularly interested in our current initiatives in **Marine Spatial Planning**, and we were thrilled to share that talented students from the world's most prestigious colleges have joined us to spearhead this vital research.

[READ MORE](#)

On July 24, 2025, **Dr (Cdr) Arnab Das** and our esteemed **Adviser on Blue Economy, Shri Pratul Talera** had the distinct honour of meeting with **Shri Amitabh Kumar, IRS**, the **Former Director General of Shipping, Government of India**. It was a privilege to apprise Shri Kumar about the technological innovations being pioneered by the teams at **MRC** and **Nirdhwani Technology Private Limited.**, particularly our significant advancements in the **UDA** sector.

[READ MORE](#)

On August 13, 2025, **Dr (Cdr) Arnab Das** had the privilege of meeting **Vice Admiral Gurcharan Singh**, **Commandant of the National Defence Academy (NDA)**. Dr Das shared insights on the collaborative work being undertaken by our team under the **UDA Framework**. The discussion spanned key focus areas, including **maritime security**. During the interaction, Dr Das also presented a book containing a chapter authored by him to the **Commandant**.

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Key updates and interactions

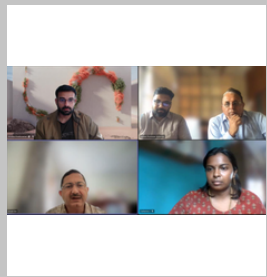


On August 19, 2025, Dr (Cdr) Arnab Das held a significant interaction with Rear Admiral V. Ganapathy, Commandant of the Military Institute of Technology (MILIT), Pune. Dr Das engaged in a constructive discussion with the Commandant on deepening the collaboration between MRC and MILIT. We have already signed an MoU with MILIT for its capacity-building initiative and have provided specialized training for armed forces officers.

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The MRC team, led by Dr Das, held a meeting with Mr. Koderu Jiro, Counsellor (Economy and Development), and Mr. Sasaki Kie, Coast Guard Attaché (Political Affairs) at the Embassy of Japan in India, New Delhi, in July 2025.

During this interaction, our team shared the ongoing efforts and strategic research initiatives undertaken by our team in areas critical to the Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

[READ MORE](#)


Our team interacted with representatives from Saintgits College of Engineering as part of our ongoing efforts to expand academic and research partnerships. We are grateful to Mr. Punnoose George, Executive Chairman at Saintgits Group of Professional Institutions, and Mr Naveen John Punnoose, Chief Digital Officer at Saintgits College of Engineering, for acknowledging the vital role MRC plays in enhancing global awareness around UDA and fostering meaningful impact through science, technology, and policy.

[READ MORE](#)


Our team hosted Mr. Vishal Thakkar and Mr. Rahul Jain from Pune Angels, along with Mr. Roshan Talera, Executive Director of Dynamic Logistics, at the MRC's UDA Center in Pune. Led by our Founder & Director, Dr. (Cdr) Arnab Das, our on-ground research engineers showcased some of the cutting-edge technology we're developing under the UDA framework.

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Our webinar report on 'India-Japan Regional Dialogue on Maritime Cooperation,' which was hosted to commemorate World Oceans Day 2025, was featured on the Sasakawa Peace Foundation's (Japan) homepage. This event brought together global thought leaders to explore critical issues in the maritime domain, with a focus on regional cooperation, sustainable ocean governance, and cutting-edge maritime technologies.

[READ MORE](#)


Our team presented on "Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA)-driven Port Management in Tropical Waters of the Indian Ocean" at the South African High Commission, New Delhi, on September 5, 2025. The delegation from the Government of South Africa engaged with us on key developments in ports and harbours across India and the wider IOR. This exchange offered a valuable opportunity to strengthen India-South Africa maritime collaboration and advance sustainable, technology-driven port management across the IOR.

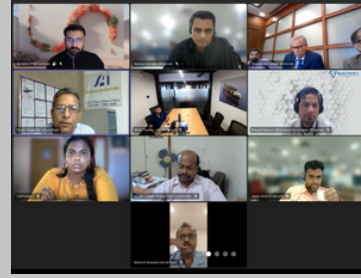
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Important participations



MRC participated in the 'Indian Coastal Alliance Conference' on "Priorities and Challenges in the Indian Coastal Region: Environmental, Economic and Geopolitical Perspectives" held on August 21–22, 2025, in Kochi, Kerala.

This conference was organized by the Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR) and The Asia Foundation. We participated in the Session 5 panel discussion on 'Advancing Maritime Domain Awareness, Port Infrastructure, Blue Economy, Energy, and Coastal Security.'

[READ MORE](#)


We participated in the inaugural 'Shipbuilding Committee Meeting' convened by the DG Shipping, GoI, on July 25, 2025. This committee has been established under the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) GloNoise Project to address URN mitigation in the commercial shipping sector. The meeting reinforced the importance of active engagement in the Experience Building Phase, marking a key step toward positioning India as a global leader in sustainable maritime practices.

[READ MORE](#)


We participated in the Brainstorming Workshop on 'Blue Economy Investments,' organised by the Ministry of Earth Sciences on July 25, 2025, in New Delhi.

Our team shared MRC's research insights on the importance of Marine Spatial Planning and the need for innovative financial instruments such as blue bonds, debt-for-nature swaps, and blended finance to support sustainable ocean development.

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Our team participated virtually in a Round Table Discussion hosted by the All-India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) on "Coastal Disasters with a Focus on Extreme Heat: Perspectives on South Asia." Our team made an insightful presentation on 'UDA Framework – a comprehensive and inclusive approach to climate change collaboration.' Cathrine also highlighted ongoing research initiatives led by our team.

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We participated in the 'National Workshop on Strengthening the Science–Management Interface: Embedding Evidence and Technology in Marine Fisheries Governance,' held in Chennai on September 9–10, 2025. Dr (Cdr) Arnab Das contributed to Session 4: Emerging Concepts and Technologies in Fisheries, where he delivered a presentation on "Underwater Domain Awareness: Opportunities for Fisheries." His talk focused on how UDA can bridge critical knowledge gaps, strengthen decision-making, and provide innovative.

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Our team participated in the 7th International Conference on Ocean Engineering (ICOE 2025), hosted by the Department of Ocean Engineering, IIT Madras, from September 14–18, 2025. At the conference, our team presented MRC's research on: "APY Analysis – A Physical and Chemical Parameters-driven Framework designed to enhance aquaculture productivity with a focus on shrimp and seaweed farming."

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Charting Progress: Mid-Internship insights from UDA Summer Interns from IITs- [PART 2]

July 12, 2025

**MARITIME
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FOUNDATION FOR UNDERWATER DOMAIN AWARENESS

12th July 2025, from 4:00 PM IST

**NIR
TECHNOLOGIES
DHWANI**

Charting Progress: Mid-Internship insights from UDA Summer Interns from IITs- [PART 2]

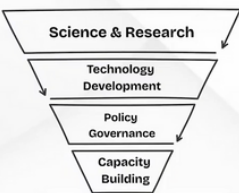
INTERNS- GROUP 1	INTERNS - GROUP 2		INTERNS- GROUP 3
 Mohd. Nasar Siddiqui IIT Kanpur	 Atul Mangal IIT Delhi	 Ashwani Kumar Singh IIT Kanpur	 Deepak Chaurasia IIT Kanpur
 Harshit Jain IIT Delhi	 Adi Amrutha IIT Kanpur	 Atharva Agarwal IIT Delhi	 Harshit Logre IIT Kanpur

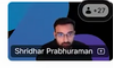
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 **via webex**

Strategic Pillars of Innovation




Shridhar Prabhakaran

[FULL VIDEO](#)

Charting Progress: Mid-Internship Insights from UDA Summer Interns with Liberal Arts Background

JULY 29, 2025




29th July 2025, from 4:00 PM IST

Charting Progress: Mid-Internship Insights from UDA Summer Interns with Liberal Arts Background

Hosts


Dr. (Cdr) Arnab Das
Founder and Director, MRC, Pune



Mr. Praful Talera
MRC's Adviser on Blue Economy



Cathrine J
Head of Research and Publications, MRC



Nishtha Vishwakarma
Head of Communication, MRC

Esteemed Speakers


Mr. Punnoose George
Executive Chairman at Saintgits Group of Professional Institutions



Ms. Vandana Chavan
Former Mayor of Pune & Member of Parliament



Tomo Kawane
Independent Consultant and Former Senior Researcher at Keio University, Japan

INTERNS- Group 1

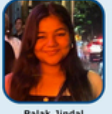

Prathna Anand
(Studying BA in Public Policy and Leadership from the University of Virginia, USA)



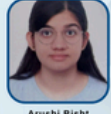
Tejaswini Kaktikar
(Studying BSc: Anthropology from University College London (UCL), UK)

INTERNS- Group 2


Rajalakshmi Waikhom
(Studying International Relations at Symbiosis School of Liberal Arts)



Palak Jindal
(Studying International Relations at Symbiosis School of Liberal Arts)



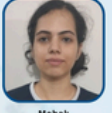
Arushi Bisht
(Studying International Relations at Symbiosis School of Liberal Arts)



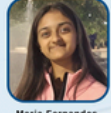
Vidya Sreeram
(Studying English Literature at Symbiosis School of Liberal Arts)

INTERNS- Group 3


Diya Rao
(Studying History at St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi)



Mehak
(Studying English at St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi)



Maria Fernandes
(Studying English at St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi)



Varsha Mathew
(Studying Economics at St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi)





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POLICY INTERVENTIONS BY MRC:

Shaping Ocean & River Governance

martresearchcenter.com

martresearchcenter.com is sharing your screen

Full Video

Startup Opportunities in the New Global Order – A New Perspective based on the Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA) Framework

Aug 16, 2025



MRC MARITIME
RESEARCH
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FOUNDATION FOR UNDERWATER DOMAIN AWARENESS

16 Aug 2025 at 1600 hrs



Startup Opportunities in the New Global Order – A New Perspective based on the Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA) Framework

Hosts	Presenters	Esteemed Speakers		
 Dr. (Cdr.) Arnab Das Founder and Director, MRC, Pune	 Shridhar Prabhuraman Deputy Director, MRC	 Shri Amitabh Kumar (IRS) Former Director General of Shipping, Government of India	 Rear Admiral Monty Khanna, AVSM, NM (Retd.) Member, National Security Advisory Board	 Prof Balaji Ramakrishnan Director, National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai
 Mr. Praful Talera MRC's Adviser on Blue Economy	 Cathrine J Head Research & Publication, MRC	 Cdr. P K Srivastava Scientist G, Senior Bureaucrat, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India	 Mr PV Krishna Founder iTrade Analytics, Former Managing Director (MD), Goldman Sachs	 Mr. Amit Kumar Partner at Ernst & Young Global Limited (EY)
 Romit Kaware MRC Research Fellow				


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Comprehensive Perspective of the UDA Framework

**UDA Framework for Safe, Secure, Sustainable
Growth for all in the New Global Order**

Dr. (Cdr.) Arnab Das, Founder & Director, MRC Pune

FULL VIDEO

Celebrating 'World Maritime Day 2025'

Marine Spatial Planning and the UDA Framework: Navigating the future for Safe, Secure and Sustainable Growth in the IOR

Sep 25, 2025


MARITIME RESEARCH CENTER
FOUNDATION FOR UNDERWATER DOMAIN AWARENESS


25 September 2025, at 1630 hrs


NIR TECHNOLOGIES DHWANI

"Celebrating World Maritime Day 2025"

Marine Spatial Planning and the UDA Framework: Navigating the Future of Safe, Secure, and Sustainable Growth in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

Hosts	Presenters	Key Speakers
 Dr. (Cdr.) Arnab Das Founder and Director, MRC, India	 Shridhar Prabhuraman Deputy Director, MRC	 Amb. Anup Kumar Mudgal Former Indian Diplomat and Member of the Blue Economy Task Force at FICCI, India
 Nishtha Vishwakarma Head of Communication and Outreach, MRC	 Cathrine J Head of Research & Publication, MRC	 Dr. Saif Mohammed Al Ghais Chairman, UNESCO IOC INDIO Sub Commission, UAE.
		 Dr. Dhugal Lindsay Senior Research Scientist at Japan Agency for Marine- Earth Sciences and Technology (JAMSTEC), Tokyo, Japan
		 Dr. Mehul Sangekar Senior Research Fellow, Japan Agency for Marine- Earth Sciences and Technology (JAMSTEC), Tokyo, Japan
		 Dr. Deepak Samuel V Sc. E, National Center for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India


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FULL VIDEO

Read the latest UDA Digest commentary on
China's Underwater Expansion: Implications for Indo-Pacific Maritime Security



Authored by



Cristee Arora
 Research Intern at Indo-Pacific Strategic Center.

China's Underwater Expansion: Implications for the Indo-Pacific Maritime Security

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Read the latest UDA Digest article on
Reimagining River Security: The Brahmaputra's Future Between Dams, Diplomacy, and Data



Authored by



Tejaswini Kakhtikar
 Studies BSc Anthropology at University College London (UCL), United Kingdom (UK)

Reimagining River Security: the Brahmaputra's Future Between Dams, Diplomacy, and Data

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Read the latest UDA Digest article on
Uplifting Coastal Communities in the Philippines: Harnessing Underwater Technology and Innovations



Authored by

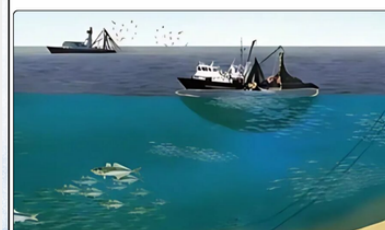


Joan Andrea Toledo
 Board Director, Indo-Pacific Alliance, Philippines

Uplifting Coastal Communities in the Philippines: Harnessing Underwater Technology and Innovations

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Read the latest UDA Digest article on
Harnessing Ocean Data for Smarter Fishing



Authored by

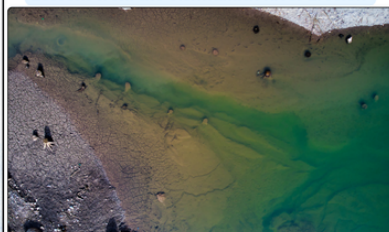


Thummalapelli Jeevan Kumar
 Former MRC Intern, IIT Kharagpur

Harnessing Ocean Data for Smarter Fishing

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Read the latest UDA Digest article on
Understanding Local Sediment Transport- Lessons from the Vishwamitri River Erosion



Authored by



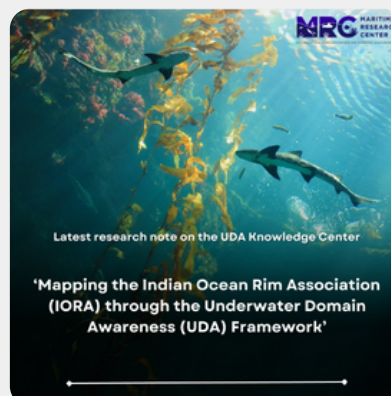
Mehak
 Former MRC Intern, St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi

Understanding Local Sediment Transport- Lessons from the Vishwamitri River Erosion

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Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) as a Public Policy Instrument in the new Global Order

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Mapping the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) through the Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA) Framework

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Digital Transformation and APY Tool Field Validation Report

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MRC's Report on "UDA Skilling Ecosystem' 2024-2025"

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ICWA Special Publication

A Joint ICWA-MRC Special Publication on **TEN YEARS OF SAGAR VISION & ITS REALISATION**

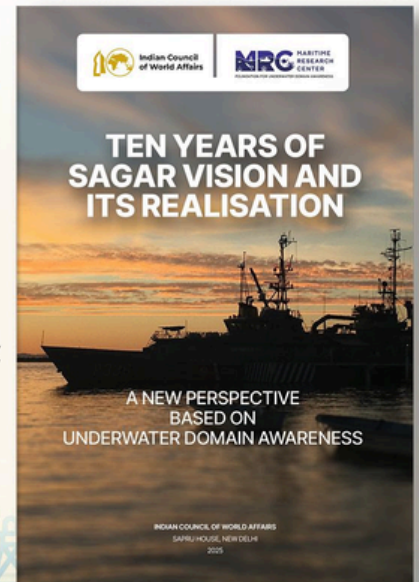
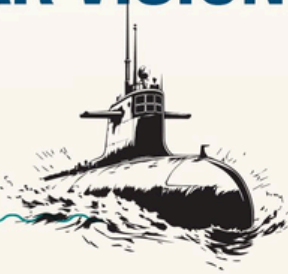
**A New Perspective based on
Underwater Domain Awareness**

by

Dr. (Cdr.) Arnab Das
Amb. Anup K. Mudgal
Prof. P.V. Rao
Ms. Jayseelan Cathrine

Mr. Akash Prasad
Mr. Shridhar Prabhuraman
Mr. Shlok Nemani
Mr. Romit Rajendra Kaware

Ms. Pradnya Kumbhare
Dr. Radhika Seshan
Ms. Nishtha Vishwakarma



We are proud to share that the Indian Council of World Affairs, in collaboration with the Maritime Research Center, has released a Special Publication titled “Ten Years of the SAGAR Vision and its Realization – A New Perspective based on Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA).”

This compendium of eleven chapters integrates the UDA Framework into the SAGAR doctrine, highlighting its role in:

- 1. Maritime Security**
- 2. Blue Economy**
- 3. Climate Resilience and Resource Management**
- 4. Regional Diplomacy**
- 5. Community Empowerment through initiatives like ‘100 Warriors.’**

This publication is more than a retrospective; it is a forward-looking roadmap for India’s maritime future, blending strategy, sustainability, and innovation to shape the MAHASAGAR outlook in the decades ahead.

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[Full Publication](#)



IJMS Paper on 'Transforming Sri Lanka's Maritime Future with UDA Framework'

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IJMS paper on 'Physical parameters-driven model for predicting shrimp growth in aquaculture'

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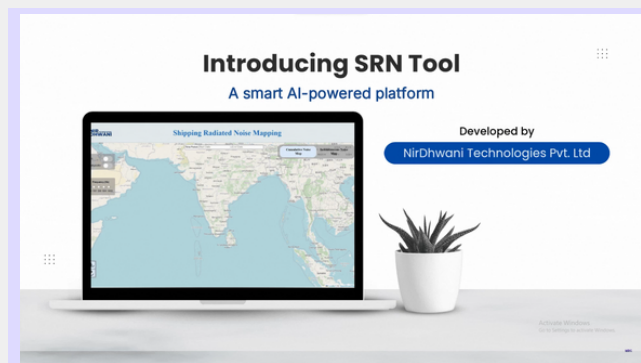
AIDMI Research Paper on 'Extreme Weather Events in the Tropical Waters'

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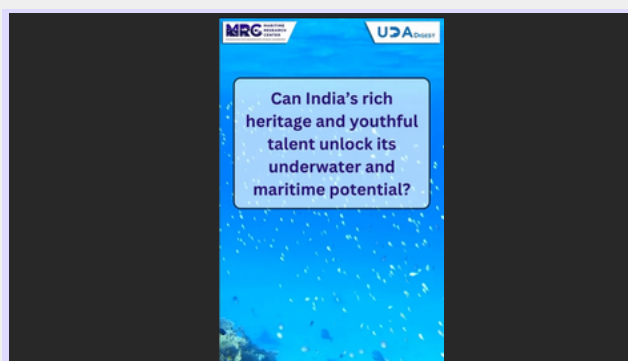
**Introducing our Shipping Radiated Noise (SRN) Tool |
July 2025**

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**Digital Transformation through APY Tool | Fishing and Aquaculture Sector |
July 2025**

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How is the UDA Framework redefining Coastal Management in the IOR?

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MRC RESEARCH FELLOWS

**PROF. MIMI FABE**

National Police College,
Philippines

**MS. JOAN ANDREA TOLEDO**

Indo-Pacific Alliance,
Philippines

**TEJASWINI KAKTIKAR**

BSc. Anthropology at University College
London (UCL), United Kingdom (UK)

[Watch Presentation](#)

INTERNS FROM IITS

**ARYAN ANIL PAWAR**

IIT Bombay

[Watch Presentation](#)**SUCHIR MAMIDALA**

IIT Madras

[Watch Presentation](#)**R JOHN FINNY**

IIT Madras

[Watch Presentation](#)**ARKADIPTA SAHA**

IIT Kharagpur

[Watch Presentation](#)**DEEPAK KUMAR**

IIT Kharagpur

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IIT Delhi

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IIT Kanpur

[Watch Presentation](#)**HARSHIT LOGRE**

IIT Kanpur

[Watch Presentation](#)**DEEPAK CHAURASIA**

IIT Kanpur

[Watch Presentation](#)**MOHD NASAR SIDDIQUI**

IIT Kanpur

[Watch Presentation](#)**ASHWANI KUMAR SINGH**

IIT Kanpur

[Watch Presentation](#)

INTERN FROM UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, USA

**MS. PRATHNA ANAND**

B.A. in Public Policy and Leadership
University of Virginia, USA

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INTERNS FROM ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

**DIYA RAO**

History

[Watch Presentation](#)**MARIA**

English

[Watch Presentation](#)**MEHAK**

English

[Watch Presentation](#)**VARSHA MATHEW**

Economics

[Watch Presentation](#)

INTERNS FROM SYMBIOSIS SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS, PUNE



RAJLAKSHMI WAIKHOM

Major- International Relations

[Watch Presentation](#)



ARUSHI BISHT

Major- International Relations

[Watch Presentation](#)



PALAK JINDAL

Major- International Relations

[Watch Presentation](#)

IMPORTANT DAYS

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE
WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**
AUGUST 9

We recognise the importance of
Traditional Knowledge among coastal
communities



**International Day of the World's
Indigenous Peoples! | 9th August 2025**

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*Happy
Independence
Day*

15TH AUGUST

"Honoring Independence Day by strengthening India's
vision beneath the waves"



**Celebrating the Spirit of
Independence | 15th August 2025**

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**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF THE
MANGROVE
ECOSYSTEM**



**international day of mangrove
conservation | 26th July 2025**

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WORLD RIVERS DAY 2025

Healthy Rivers, Resilient Oceans, Sustainable Future



On this World Rivers Day 2025, the Maritime Research Center
(MRC) reaffirms its commitment to understanding and
protecting aquatic ecosystems through the lens of
Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA).

Let us remember Every drop flows into the ocean and our actions

**World Rivers Day | 28th September
2025**

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Contact Information

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Bhima, Pune, Maharashtra – 412216

Email: director@maritimeresearchcenter.com

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Maritime Research Center – UDA

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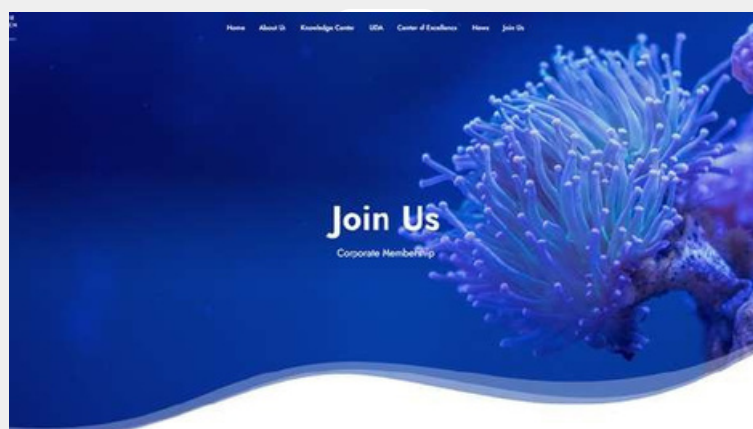
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