



THREE DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR
ON
MARITIME SECURITY OF INDIA: CHALLENGES AND POLICY
OPTIONS

Organised by

V K Krishna Menon Study Centre for International Relations
Department of Political Science
University of Kerala
Thiruvananthapuram

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at
Conference Hall, Department of Political Science, Kariavattom Campus,
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Concept Note

Maritime security is one of the latest additions to the field of international security. The concept has received growing attention especially due to the intensification of concerns over maritime terrorism since 2000. The rise of modern piracy, maritime crimes such as human trafficking, and the increasing importance of the 'blue economy' and issues relating to freedom of navigation, maritime environmental protection and resource management have resulted in increased significance of maritime security studies. A significant number of states and other international actors have placed maritime security high in their security agenda. This priority is reflected in several governmental and intergovernmental strategies for maritime security. In addition to that the regional grouping in the Indian Ocean and Indo – Pacific, such as ASEAN, BIMSTEC, IORA, and IONS have placed maritime security issues high in their agenda.

In the modern period especially in the era of globalization oceans have become very important in international trade. Again the potential resource availability from the oceans also enhances its significance. Moreover, the threat to the security of the nation posed by both the state as well as non-state actors can be effectively addressed only through a foolproof security mechanism along the coastal area. Thus the significance of maritime security has enhanced manifold in the 21st century.

In this context it is very important to look into the latest maritime doctrine brought out by the Indian Navy, which is being mandated with the coastal and maritime security of India. The document discuss in detail about the maritime security objectives strategies and measures taken towards the coastal and maritime security of India. The approach of the Indian Navy in ensuring an infallible maritime and coastal security also acknowledged the emergence of non-traditional threat to the security of India and the role of coastal community in the maritime security matrix.

It appears that the coastal security is an important aspect of national security, especially for India with a vast coastline of 7516 Kms and also due to the strategic and economic significance of the coastal region. Again the blurred boundary exists between national security on the one hand and human security on the other emphasis the significance of coastal security. Any investment in terms of coastal area development is an investment not only in human security but also in national security. The infrastructure development along the coastal area also enhances the national security. It is observed that 25 percent of India's population lives within the 50 kms of the coastal area. In this context the Sagarmala project and coastal area development assumes great significance.

Coastal security being one of the major constituent of maritime security, assumes great significance in the national security of India. However, the multifarious agencies operating at the Union and State/Union Territory level complicate the coordinated planning and implementation of various programme towards coastal security. This has been reflected in the setting up of coastal police also. A uniform pattern of security planning and execution is needed. Under the existing bureaucratic delay and ineffectiveness in planning as well as implementation the task become more difficult. Instead of creation of new institutional mechanism the need for more coordinated activities by the security agencies as well as other agencies such as fishing and port is needed. The information sharing among these agencies is also important. The need for social audit of various coastal security scheme implementations

is inevitable to assess the progress achieved in different aspects of coastal security scheme. Similarly the involvement of coastal community in planning as well as implementation is sine quo non for the development of the coastal area and also the assign the role of coastal community to act as the 'eyes' and 'ears' of coastal security matrix. All these demand a thorough understanding of the basic features of the coastal terrain and the coastal community. The three day National Seminar is an attempt to deliberate on traditional and non-traditional security issues related to maritime security of India in holistic perspective.

The sub themes of the Three Day National Seminar are:-

- i. Maritime Security of India: Perspective of Security Agencies (Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, & Coastal Police)**
- ii. Maritime Security Issues – Traditional and Nontraditional**
- iii. Coastal Security Scheme**
- iv. Coastal Community in India – Basic Issues**
- v. Blue Economy, Global Commons and Maritime Security – Indian Ocean Region & Indo –Pacific**
- vi. Sagarmala Project and Coastal area development**

Important dates

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E mail - vkmscir@gmail.com

Full Paper

- 22/01/2019