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MINISTRY OF
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RASHTRIYA RAKSHA UNIVERSITY

An Institution of National Importance
Pioneering National Security and Police University of India
Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

SCHOOL OF INTEGRATED COASTAL AND MARITIME SECURITY STUDIES

RRU Centre for Indian Ocean Legal Studies (RCIOLS)

Mahasagar Academy

Theme: **Eight Dimensions of Maritime Security Law**

20 April to 24 April, 2026



We have taken the SAGAR vision forward for the stability and prosperity of this entire region. Today, taking it forward, I would like to say that our vision for the Global South will be, beyond SAGAR (it will be)

“Vision Mahasagar”

‘Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions’

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi

(Mauritius visit, March 2025).

In a joint statement, Dr. Jaishankar and his counterparts from United States, Japan and Australia reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen regional maritime, economic and technological security in the Indo-pacific region. Furthermore, promoting reliable and resilient supply chains and enhancing cooperation.

Minister of external affairs, Dr. S Jaishankar

(Quad Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, January 2025).



About the Rashtriya Raksha University



The University aims to become an academic-research-training ecosystem for security and police. Its endeavors focus on highly professional security, police education, research, and training through its qualified civilian and security faculty, committed human resources, motivated participants and students, intellectually stimulating and professionally disciplined environment, and worldwide network, sharing, and exchange. It aims at providing security and strategic education in contemporary and futuristic security and strategic studies and interdisciplinary areas.

The University contributes to the vision of India of Peace, Prosperous and Stable World in alliance with grand strategic cooperation between like-minded nations and promoting greater understanding between senior security, police officers, diplomats, civil servants and civilians to promote the cause of the Nation. It adopts a two-tier approach, at the national and international levels, in its education, research and training, and extension in order to achieve capabilities to respond to the needs, expectations, and aspirations of the security and strategic institutions and forces as well as law-making, governance, judiciary, economy (agriculture-manufacturing-service sectors) and the civil society organizations.



About the School of Integrated Coastal and Maritime Security Studies



India occupies a dominant position in the IOR. With a vast coastline stretching to 11,098 km, distributed amongst nine coastal states and four Union Territories. India is exposed to multiple integrated coastal and maritime security challenges pursuant to its long coastline in the strategic theatre internationally.

The School of Integrated Coastal and Maritime Security Studies (SICMSS) seeks to explore and assess the trajectory of law, policy and governance systems affecting this strategic space at national, regional and international level. SICMSS with its resources and experiences seeks to provide excellent academic, research, training and capacity building support to national coastal and maritime security agencies and other stakeholders.

About RRU Centre for Indian Ocean Legal Studies

In pursuant, to the vision of Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) established its Centre for Indian Ocean Legal Studies (RCIOLS), School of Integrated Coastal and Maritime Security Studies (SICMSS) during the Colombo Security Conclave – Second Maritime Law Workshop (2023). **The Centre is dedicated to carry out education, training, extension, research and consultancy on various critical maritime security threats outlined in United Nations Secretary-General's Report A/63/174 and Corr.1 (2008).**

The center serving as a premier think-tank carries out an annual review, addressing core maritime security concerns, including but not limited to: Threats to maritime navigation and shipping lanes; Piracy and armed robbery at sea; Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; Maritime terrorism and transnational organized crime; Environmental degradation and maritime pollution; Proliferation of weapons and illicit trafficking; Maritime boundary disputes and sovereignty claims; and Climate change impact on maritime governance.

Furthermore, analyzing the regulatory systems, governance of ocean property regime (Paleri 2002) comprising ocean advantage, ocean resources, ocean environment and oceanic islands of nations, integrated coastal and maritime security, applicability of maritime law comprising international and domestic laws (students, LL.M (CMSL&G) RRU 2023) for the inclusive benefit of all concerned in the IOR.

The Centre remains committed to engaging with government agencies, legal practitioners, maritime experts, and scholars to produce evidence-based research and recommendations, ensuring a focused and actionable approach. By emphasizing regulatory frameworks, governance mechanisms, and enforcement strategies, RCIOLS aims to contribute substantively to the advancement of maritime law and security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).



About RRU Mahasagar Academy

Recognizing the significance of maritime security, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** chaired a high-level open debate on **"Enhancing Maritime Security: A Case for International Cooperation"** during **India's UNSC Presidency in August 2021**.

For the first time, a presidential statement focusing on maritime security was made, emphasizing that:

"The ocean is our joint heritage. Our sea routes are the lifeline of international trade... But today our shared maritime heritage is facing many challenges. Sea routes are being misused for piracy and terrorism. There are maritime disputes between many countries. And climate change and natural disasters are also maritime domain related issues. In this broad context, we must make a framework of mutual understanding and cooperation for the preservation and use of our common maritime heritage."

The presidential address underscored the primacy of international law, particularly UNCLOS, as legal framework for all.

In pursuant, RRU Centre for Indian Ocean Legal Studies lays the foundations of the RRU International Coastal and Maritime Security Academy (RICMSA), to be officially known as "MAHASAGAR Academy", under the wider vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India - MAHASAGAR 'Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions' introduced during his Mauritius visit (March 2025). Piloting its first course on 'Eight Dimensions of Maritime Security Law' with a focus to shed light on the current scenario with regards to the application of coastal and maritime law and security in the region.

The Indian Ocean region has been acting as an important trading hub from traditional times. It continues to be vital for the security and

stability of shipping lanes and trade routes because it manages almost one-third of the world's bulk cargo traffic, two-thirds of its oil exports, and ensures global access to food, precious metals, and energy supplies.

India is a major player in the Indian Ocean as the resident naval power. With 14,500 kilometres of navigable waterways, more than 11,098 kilometres of coastline, and 212 operational ports—12 government-owned and 200 immediate and minor ports— India is largely dependent on the Indian Ocean for trade, tourism, fishing, energy imports, and commercial and non-commercial shipping. In order to support its duty as a first responder and a net supplier of security for its friends and partners in the region, the Indian Navy considers the whole Indian Ocean—from the eastern coast of Africa to the Andaman Sea—to be its area of priority.

As per the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Report titled, 'Energy Statistics India 2024' an estimated reserves of crude oil in India, stood at 653.02 Metric Tonne (MT) against 591.92 MT in the previous year, showcasing an increase of 10%. The estimated reserves of natural gas stand at 1149.46 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM) with the maximum reserves of 29% in the western region and 23.4% in the eastern region. In the fiscal year 2023-2024, India's hydrocarbon production for crude oil production stood at 29.36 MMT and natural gas production at 36.44 BCM. Furthermore, as per Ministry of Mines, monthly summary report (January 2025) on minerals and non-ferrous metals, India's production of gold has witnessed a growth from 951 Kg (2023-24) to 1074 Kg in (2024-25); along with a growth of 7.9% cumulatively in minerals including bauxite, chromite, copper, iron ore, lead, manganese, zinc and other metallic minerals.

Additionally, as per Food and Agriculture Organization's report, 'The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2024' the fish capture in 2022, global capture fisheries production reached 92.3 million tonnes, comprising 91.0 million tonnes (live weight equivalent) of aquatic animals and 1.3 million tonnes (wet weight) of algae, in addition to about 7 700 tonnes of other aquatic products such as corals, pearls, shells and sponges. The top seven capture producers (China-14.8%, Indonesia-8.6%, India-4.5%, Peru-6.6%, Russian Federation-5.9%, United States of America-5.3% and Viet Nam-4.3%) accounted for approximately 50 percent of total global capture production. With India, being the top most country in category of capture fisheries production of aquatic animals in inland waters with 16.7% in 2022.

Furthermore, the continents of Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia have been erroneously used to study the Indian Ocean region for many years. However, the region must be seen as a single, continuous theatre in order to fully appreciate its significance and strategic advantages. India depending on the priorities of partner countries, India's development cooperation ranges from commerce to culture, energy to engineering, health to housing, IT to infrastructure, sports to science, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance to restoration and preservation of cultural and heritage assets. Development assistance in the form of concessional Lines of Credit (LOCs) is extended by the Government of India under the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) through the Exim Bank of India. More than 300 LOCs worth US\$ 30.66 billion have been extended to 64 countries. Out of the total LOCs of US\$ 30.66 billion, US\$ 15.90 billion have been extended to Asian countries, with the largest value of commitments having been made in India's immediate neighbourhood.

LOCs worth US\$ 7.862 billion have been extended to Bangladesh, US\$ 2.02 billion to Sri Lanka, US\$ 1.65 billion to Nepal, US\$ 964.80 to Mauritius, US\$ 840 million to Maldives, US\$ 538.90 million to Myanmar and US\$ 128 million to Seychelles.

Over the years, the Indian Ocean has grown exponentially and is currently the most concentrated region where political interests and global economic activity have come together. The most heavily trafficked waterways and chokepoints in the entire world, such as the Suez Canal, Bab al-Mandeb, the Strait of Hormuz, and the Strait of Malacca, the Sunda Strait, the Ombai Wetar Strait and the Lombok Strait are all in the Indian Ocean. Thus, this holds equal importance for India as it does for the rest of the globe because from this location international business as well as connection of various economies is made possible.

The course is designed accordingly to generate coastal and maritime security law awareness under the three-ocean theory for strategic appreciation. The course will be conducted in multiple sessions comprising of interactive lectures of 1.5 hours each in a duration of five days.

With growing security threats, including territorial disputes, maritime crimes, and environmental concerns, the enforcement of maritime law and regional security frameworks is critical. The academy will focus on:

- UNCLOS and maritime boundary governance
- Territorial disputes and sovereignty claim mechanism
- Combating piracy, smuggling, and IUU fishing – case study
- Environmental security and climate change regulations
- International maritime disputes settlement: current development and its implications





Organising Committee



Prof. (Dr.) Bimal N Patel
President, Mahasagar Academy
Member, International Law Commission (ILC)
Vice Chancellor, Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)
Member, National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)



Prof. (Dr.) Prabhakaran Paleri
Centre Head, RRU Centre for Indian
Ocean Legal Studies (RCIOLS)
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Officer, SICMSS



Tripti
Research Officer, SICMSS



Jagrati Saraswat
Junior Research Officer,
SICMSS



Nakul Rajpurohit
Junior Research Officer,
SICMSS

Registration Fees:

In-person:

A) National level (Academicians): **Rs.10,000/-**

B) National level (Students/Researchers/PhD Scholars): **Rs.7,500/-**

C) International level (Academicians): **USD 100/-**

D) International level (Students/Researchers/PhD Scholars): **USD 80/-**

E) Remote participation (International participants only): **USD 50/-**

F) The registration fee doesn't include the lodging and boarding of the participants. The same is provided on a chargeable basis (single/twin sharing).

Mode of Conduct: Physical Mode (Online - International)

Venue: Rashtriya Raksha University, Gujarat, India.

Tentative Schedule: 20 to 24 April, 2026

Contact:

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