

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

(Join us on 29th July 2025, from 4:00 PM IST onwards)

About:

The Maritime Research Centre (MRC) is pleased to host an upcoming webinar highlighting the mid-internship progress of participants in the 2025 Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA) Summer Internship Program. This special event, which is scheduled for July 29, 2025, will feature thought-provoking presentations by interns from some of the world's and India's leading academic institutions, including ***St. Stephen's College (University of Delhi), Symbiosis School of Liberal Arts, the University of Virginia, USA, University College London (UCL), UK and Sciences Po, Paris.***

These interns, representing diverse disciplines such as International Relations, Public Policy, Economics, History, and English, bring a unique and essential perspective to the field of Underwater Domain Awareness. Their work explores the socio-political, strategic, and economic dimensions of UDA, offering fresh insights into how maritime security, ocean governance, and the blue economy intersect with global policy, historical context, and communication strategy. This interdisciplinary approach deepens our understanding of UDA and highlights the critical role that humanities and social sciences play in shaping a more secure, sustainable, and informed maritime future.

The primary objectives of hosting this workshop are:

- **Showcase Research Outcomes:** To present the research projects that these summer interns are working on, highlighting significant findings and potential impacts.
- **Encourage Knowledge Sharing:** To foster an environment of knowledge exchange among interns, mentors, and the broader research community.
- **Provide Constructive Feedback:** To offer feedback and suggestions from experienced researchers and industry experts to help interns refine their work.
- **Strengthen Networking:** To build connections between interns, faculty, industry professionals, and researchers, encouraging future collaborations.

The UDA Summer Internship Program is designed to nurture young talent and engage them in real-world applications of cutting-edge maritime research. This mid-internship presentation offers an opportunity to review the significant strides made so far, discuss challenges encountered, and chart the path forward for the second half of the program. ***During this workshop, our internal team will also present, followed by comments and feedback from the experts.***

Event Details:

- **Date:** 29 July 2025
- **Time:** 4:00 pm IST onward
- **Venue:** Online (through Webex and YouTube Broadcast)
- **Format:** Each presenter (UDA Summer intern) will deliver a 10-minute presentation, followed by comments and feedback from the experts.

The Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA) Framework, developed by the MRC, has garnered widespread recognition for promoting safe, secure, and sustainable development in the tropical littoral waters of the Indo-Pacific region. The Digital Ocean construct, supported by the UDA framework, will significantly enhance good maritime and underwater governance. It encourages the pooling of resources and the synergising of efforts across stakeholders and has devised technology tools to support the livelihoods of coastal communities.

Programme Details

Convenor: Dr. (Cdr) Arnab Das; Founder & Director, Maritime Research Centre (MRC), Pune

The schedule of the programme is as follows:

Time	Programme Details
4:00- 4:05 PM	Welcome Remarks by Dr. (Cdr) Arnab Das, Founder and Director, MRC, Pune
4:05- 4:15 PM	MRC's Projects Overview by Cathrine J, Head of Research and Publications, MRC, Pune
Presentations by Group 1	
4:15- 4:25 PM	Presentation by Prathna Anand (Studying BA in Public Policy and Leadership from the University of Virginia, USA) on 'Public Policy Framework with the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)-aspect of the UDA'
4:25- 4:35 PM	Presentation by Tejaswini Kaktikar (Studying BSc. Anthropology from University College London (UCL), UK) on 'Importance of the UDA Framework for the Brahmaputra River'
4:35- 4:45 PM	Presentation by Manasi Pedharkar (Studying International Economic Policy at Sciences Po, Paris) on 'Indo-Pacific Strategic Space: UDA and Geoeconomics)
Presentations by Group 2	
4:45- 4:55 PM	Presentation by Rajalakshmi Waikhom (Studying International Relations at Symbiosis School of Liberal Arts) on 'UDA for Effective MSP in the Brahmaputra'

4:55- 5:05 PM	Presentation by Palak Jindal (Studying International Relations at Symbiosis School of Liberal Arts) on 'India's Engagement with IORA'
5:05- 5:15 PM	Presentation by Arushi Bisht (Studying International Relations at Symbiosis School of Liberal Arts) on 'UNCLOS and Its Implications for India'
5:15- 5:25 PM	Presentation by Vidya Sreeram (Studying English Literature at Symbiosis School of Liberal Arts) on 'BIMSTEC and Regional Maritime Governance'
Presentations by Group 3	
5:25- 5:35 PM	Presentation by Diya Rao (Studying History at St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi) on 'Marginalisation and Revival of Traditional Knowledge in Indian Maritime Policy'
5:35- 5:45 PM	Presentation by Mehak (Studying English at St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi) on 'Strategic Narratives for UDA- Utilising Media and Civilizational Diplomacy'
5:45- 5:55 PM	Presentation by Maria Fernandes (Studying English at St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi) on 'Utilising Outreach Methods for Community Building and Enhanced UDA Framework'
5:55- 6:05 PM	Presentation by Varsha Mathew (Studying Economics at St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi) on 'Blue Economy Accounting Framework: Sectoral Evaluation and Analysis'
Comments and Feedback Session	
6:05- 6:15 PM	Intervention and Comments by Ms Vandana Chavan, Former Mayor of Pune & Member of Parliament
6:15- 6:25 PM	Intervention and Comments by Mr Ash Bishnoi, Independent Director on Board, Mafatlal Industries Limited
6:25- 6:35 PM	Intervention and Comments by Mr Punnoose George, Executive Chairman at Saintgits Group of Professional Institutions
Concluding Segment	
6:35- 6:45 PM	Vote of Thanks by Mr Praful Talera, MRC's Adviser on Blue Economy

Conclusion:

This webinar will provide a vital platform for UDA Summer Interns from premier institutions to present their progress and engage with subject-matter experts. By fostering dialogue, encouraging innovation, and enabling constructive feedback, the event underscores the Maritime Research Center's commitment to capacity building and technological advancement in Underwater Domain Awareness. The collaborative initiative between MRC and Nirdhwani Technology will not only nurture future leaders in maritime research but also drive innovation and support the broader mission of sustainable and secure development in the Indo-Pacific region.