

World Oceans Day- 08 June 2026

Theme: Reimagine Beyond the World We Know: A New Perspective based on the Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA)

Background

Oceans cover more than 70 per cent of the Earth's surface and form the foundation of life, climate regulation, global trade, food security, energy resources, and biodiversity sustenance. At the same time, oceans are increasingly under stress from climate change, unsustainable resource exploitation, habitat degradation, marine pollution, biodiversity loss, invasive species, and growing geopolitical competition in maritime spaces. In this context, the Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA) Framework has emerged as critical for comprehensively assessing underwater environments through the synergetic integration of science, technology, policy, security, ecology, and capacity-building initiatives. The importance of the [UDA Framework](#) extends far beyond conventional maritime security. It plays a crucial role in Sustainable Blue Economy Development, Biofouling Management, Sediment Management, Coastal Management, Marine Spatial Planning, Underwater Radiated Noise (URN) Management, and Climate Change Risk Assessment. Recognising these interconnected dimensions, the Maritime Research Centre has consistently worked to promote interdisciplinary dialogue and develop actionable frameworks.

Proposal

World Oceans Day, observed annually on 08 June, serves as a global platform to recognise the indispensable role of oceans in sustaining humanity and planetary well-being. The 2026 theme, "Reimagine", calls upon the global community to rethink humanity's relationship with the oceans and envision more responsible, resilient, and sustainable maritime futures.

In line with this vision, the Maritime Research Center, in collaboration with Nirdhwani Technology Private Limited, proposes to organise a webinar to commemorate World Oceans Day 2026. The webinar will bring together students, experts from academia, industry, policy, defence, environmental organisations, and the maritime sector to deliberate on emerging ocean challenges and collaborative pathways toward sustainable ocean governance through the lens of UDA. **The webinar will be conducted on 08 June 2026, from 4:00 PM IST to 6:00 PM IST.** As the global community seeks to "Reimagine" its relationship with the oceans, our webinar aims to serve as a meaningful platform for dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge exchange.

Format and Structure

As part of this webinar, our UDA Summer Interns from prestigious institutes such as IIT Bombay, IIT Madras, IIT Delhi, and IIT Kanpur will give short presentations on their projects. The UDA

Summer Internship Program is designed to nurture young talent and engage them in real-world applications of cutting-edge maritime research.

The primary objectives of hosting their presentations include:

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

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
4:05-4:15 PM	MRC's Projects Overview by Mr Shridhar Prabhuraman, Deputy Director, MRC
Group 1 projects: Marine Spatial Planning	
4:15-4:20 PM	Dev Raj Karan Singh from IIT Madras: Presentation on "Riverine Flood Module for Tropical Major Basins."
4:20-4:25 PM	Mahaswi Ganipisetty from IIT Bombay: Presentation on "Coral Reef Bleaching Risk Modelling for Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal."
4:25-4:30 PM	Premkumar Narayan Tambekar from IIT Delhi: Presentation on "Passive Sonar Detection and Classification System."
4:30-4:35 PM	Ashish Kumar Jha from IIT Kanpur: Presentation on "Passive Sonar Deployment Toolkit."
4:35-4:40 PM	Pranav Ashok Mahitkar from IIT Madras: Presentation on "Wind- and Rain-Driven Ambient Noise Layer for the IOR."
Group 2 projects: Sediment Management	
4:40-4:45 PM	Disha Gugale from IIT Bombay: Presentation on "Machine Learning-Based

	Sediment Transport Modelling in Freshwater Systems.”
4:45-4:50 PM	Sagar Yadav from IIT Delhi: Presentation on “Determination of Sediment Bearing Pressure Using Acoustic and Sediment Data.”
4:50-4:55 PM	Aryan Singh from IIT Delhi: Presentation on “Satellite-Based Determination of Sediment Concentration in Ujjani Reservoir.”
Group 3 projects: Biofouling Management	
4:55-5:00 PM	Varun Malviya from IIT Kanpur: Presentation on “Biofouling Environment Characterisation and Maintenance Gap Analysis for Strategic Maritime Infrastructure in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.”
5:00-5:05 PM	Lovina Goyal from IIT Kanpur: Presentation on “Monsoon-Driven Biofouling Succession - A Theoretical Analysis Using Parametric Seasonal Forcing of MRC ODE Framework.”
Group 4 projects: Fisheries and Aquaculture	
5:05-5:10 PM	Shivam Gawande from IIT Bombay: Presentation on “Detection and Characterisation of Small Artisanal Fishing Fleets in the Indian EEZ Beyond AIS.”
5:10-5:15 PM	Shiwang Gupta from IIT Delhi: Presentation on “In-Situ Subsurface Ocean Observation Gaps in Rapid Cyclone Intensification Forecasting for the Bay of Bengal.”
Comments and Feedback Session	
5:15-5:25 PM	Mr Rakesh Kumar, General Manager, Bharat Electronics Limited
5:25-5:35 PM	Shri Killi Mohana Rao, Chief Surveyor-cum-Additional Director General of Shipping
5:35-5:45 PM	Professor Tomonari Akamatsu, Senior Researcher (Professor), Research Organisation for Nano & Life Innovation, Waseda University, Japan
5:45-5:55 PM	Ms Swati Meherishi, Editorial Director, Asia Pacific Engineering and Applied Sciences Books Program at Springer Nature
5:55-6:05 PM	Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd), Former Vice Chief of Staff of the Indian Navy and Former National Maritime Security Coordinator

Concluding Remarks	
6:05-6:15 PM	Ambassador Anup Kumar Mudgal (Rtd) , Former Indian Diplomat, MRC Strategic Advisor
Closing Remarks	
6:15-6:20 PM	Ms J. Cathrine , Head of Research and Publication, MRC

Expected Outcomes:

The webinar is expected to:

- Strength awareness regarding sustainable ocean stewardship and integrated underwater and maritime governance.
- Promote interdisciplinary collaboration under the broader UDA Framework.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange on emerging underwater and marine ecological challenges
- Encourage stakeholder engagement towards sustainable Blue Economy initiatives.
- Inspire future research, innovation, and policy intervention in the underwater and maritime domains.