Report of the Webinar on
"Maritime Security: Issues and Challenges"

Mangalore University in association with Institute for Contemporary Studies, Bangalore (ICBS) organized a two-day webinar on "Maritime Security: Issues and Challenges" on the 7th and 8th of June 2022. The webinar was organized against the backdrop of increased maritime threats to India's security and economic interests as well as the increasing importance of the Asia-Pacific region in global affairs, especially in the backdrop of China's action.

The web conference focused on the dimensions of maritime security, its challenges and the way out. Joining in this scrutiny were the country's leading experts, high-ranking officials from Navy and defence establishments, administrators and policymakers with vast hands-on experience, business leaders and academicians. The staff and students of Mangalagangothri and Chikka Alavar Campuses as well as from other colleges of Mangalore University besides officials from the Coast Guard, Marine police and business community attended the conference.

As the feedback suggested students, in particular, benefitted from the conference as it enhanced their understanding of India's security needs and its linkages with general well-being. Not much discussed issues related to maritime security were analyzed neatly by the experts and it did sensitize them to the issues involved and provided an opportunity to explore possible career options in the field. Besides, the webinar also underlined the strategic location of Mangalore on India's West Coast and its potential to be a force multiplier for Karnataka and the region. The webinar has given a boost to the idea of starting a department of Maritime Studies at Mangalore University, the only public University in the coastal belt of Karnataka, to address the emerging issues.

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