

CMEC (RIS)-IHC Maritime Knowledge Lecture Series

Security and Growth for All (SAGAR) and the Developmental Partnerships

March 10, 2025

The third program in the Maritime Knowledge Lecture Series was conducted on 10 March 2025, at Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre on the theme of, “Security and Growth for All (SAGAR) and the Developmental Partnerships”.



The Panel was Chaired by Vice Admiral SN Ghormade, Former Vice Chief of the Naval Staff and panellists included Dr Sriparna Pathak, Associate Professor O.P Jindal University and Captain SS Parmar, Retd., Distinguished Fellow at the Council of Strategic & Defence Research, New Delhi.

The panelists highlighted SAGAR, and the need to continuously position India as a maritime power, ensuring stability and prosperity for all nations connected through the seas. Panelists dwelled that SAGAR is also deeply tied to India's Indo-Pacific strategy, emphasizing partnerships with neighbouring countries, strengthening trade networks, and addressing challenges like piracy, climate change, and disaster preparedness.

Sriparna Pathak, highlighted that India has been actively implementing SAGAR through several diplomatic and strategic efforts, namely :-

- Maritime Connectivity & Infrastructure: Expansion of ports, enhanced shipping routes, and better trade agreements with the neighbouring countries.
- Security & Defense Cooperation: Strengthened naval collaborations with nations like Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Mauritius, ensuring regional stability.
- Blue Economy Initiatives: Investment in ocean-based industries such as sustainable fishing, aquaculture, and offshore energy projects.
- Disaster Preparedness: Enhanced capabilities in cyclone forecasting, tsunami alerts, and quick-response mechanisms for maritime disasters.
- Technology & Innovation: Adoption of AI, automation, and digital tools in maritime trade, surveillance, and logistics management. Dr Sriparna gave some examples that how frugal grassroot innovation by Indian startups has promoted the SAGAR vision.

SS Parmar brought out that SAGAR is not just about security—it's an economic game-changer for regional cooperation by Boosting Trade & Investment, Partnering with smaller island nations to support their economic development through maritime trade and investments and encouraging Indian and foreign companies to invest in port-led industrialization. He also emphasized on the aspects of Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA).



The Chair concluded that SAGAR is a transformational initiative that extends beyond just security—it integrates economic development, environmental sustainability, and global partnerships. With rapid advancements in technology and increased startup participation, India is well on her way to becoming a global maritime leader. He also said that this event is just happening timely, just a day prior to the Hon. PM of India's visit to Mauritius where in his earlier visit he declared the SAGAR vision for the first time. The panellists agreed that future of SAGAR will be defined by how well India continuously leverages technology,

trade, and diplomacy to drive sustainable maritime growth and the developmental partnerships.