



Enclosure-1

Maritime Centre of Excellence (MCOE) on Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA) Framework

This proposal includes the establishment of a “**Centre of Excellence**” comprising 5 sub-centres (or verticals), under the MRC, which would be characterised by a strong coherence but with independent activities. All the five centres will draw inputs from each other but have their unique and well defines Key Result Areas (KRAs) and Key Performance Areas (KPAAs). The five sub-centres under the Centre of Excellence are listed below:

(a) The first will be **strategy centre** that will keep track of the R&D and industry requirements to build effective policy frameworks. There will be data driven policy formulation to address the stakeholder requirements. The KRA for the strategy centre will be to identify gaps in the domestic and regional policies and formulate effective way forward to build effective maritime governance. The KPAAs will reflect in seamless interactions among the policy makers and the local communities and the key indicator of our success will be policy intervention for enhanced economic growth for the local industry and long term sustainable maritime activities.

(b) The second will be a multi-disciplinary **research centre** that will provide cutting edge inputs with site specific field experimental R&D to address the core acoustic capacity and capability building requirements. The IOR with its unique tropical littoral waters needs sustained indigenous R&D efforts to overcome the challenges and capitalize on the opportunities. These efforts should be able to provide nuanced inputs for the strategy centre for effective policy formulation with data driven real time ground understanding. This should minimise the dependence on the technology imports and also enhance our strategic capabilities. Home grown science & technology dominance will minimize strategic risks for security and other critical projects. The activities of this sub-centre would be of relevance to our maritime outlook in its widest scope.

(c) The third will be an **incubation centre** that will map the research outcomes of the research centre to application specific requirements of the stakeholders. Start-ups and industries can draw ideas from here and build business plans. India’s self-reliance on critical strategic issues will be critically depend on this initiative. The start-ups are always known for their agility to build high-tech solutions and the UDA framework has unimaginable possibilities. The effective eco-system provided by this incubation centre will nurture the talent pool we have in the country and provide innovative directions to channelize their efforts towards nation building.

(d) The fourth will be a **skilling centre** that will ensure the professionals and practitioners from the stakeholders, including partner countries to understand the nuances of the UDA framework and apply them effectively in their operations and

strategic planning. This will not only make our practitioners more scientific and effective in their routine operations but also promote building the national infrastructure and bring seamless collaboration across the stakeholders. This facility will add to our diplomatic leverage in the pursuit of our larger maritime objectives.

(e) The fifth will be the **academic centre** that will build academic programs along with project based learning to prepare the next generation of students and professions to attain higher professional qualifications to appropriately take forward the UDA framework. The professional enhancement will be a very critical aspect to bring regional cooperation. The young generation and the experienced professionals sitting together and working on regional issues need no elaboration for its impact on regional cooperation. These centres will be the hotbed of innovations and ideas for effective progress and seamless interactions at all levels of decision making.