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**Maritime Surveillance, Law and Order and the
Indian Coast Guard: Analysing the Role of
the Indian Coast Guards and Community
Interest Associated**

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Abstract

Maritime trade and commerce have gained importance in today's context of globalisation, resulting in bringing the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) to highlight. India, a nation with a vast coastline, automatically attracts a mega responsibility to protect and ensure due surveillance in its EEZ. Maritime surveillance remains an integral component in the India's security architecture. The Indian Coast Guard (ICG), the multi-dimensional maritime force responsible for securing India's maritime interests, including safeguarding coastal communities, plays a vital role in maintaining the safety of India's vast maritime domain and the socioeconomic interests of the coastal community there. This research article attempts to analyse the issues concerning the surveillance of the exclusive economic zone in India and the impact of surveillance on the coastal community in India. It further explores the socio-legal perspectives of the ICG's role in protecting the livelihoods and cultural interests of coastal communities in India.

Keywords: *Maritime Surveillance, Law and Order, Indian Coast Guard, Coastal Community, Exclusive Economic Zone, Maritime Trade and Commerce, Security of State*

I. Introduction

India persists as a major power in the Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean region. As a result, stability and security of Indian maritime affairs emerge as central to the stability of the Indo-Pacific region. Furthermore, the accelerated development and blistering growth of international trade in the current times of globalisation and the contribution of maritime trade into this sphere has made the maritime sector important for every country. Additionally, maritime security persists as a critical aspect of national security and is essential for every nation's economic and strategic interests. Therefore, an informative analysis concerning its maritime security dimensions becomes imperative in current times. Moreover, India is a state with a long coastline stretching over 7,517 km, surrounded by the Bay of Bengal in the east and the Arabian Sea on the west. The country has taken several measures to enhance its maritime security and protect its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZs). However, despite these efforts, India is facing a law and order crisis in its maritime domain, with an increasing number of incidents of terrorism and piracy. This paper explores the measures taken by India to enhance its maritime security and protect its EEZs and examines the challenges associated with ensuring effective maritime security surveillance in its EEZs and its impact on the local coastal community.

II. India and It's Maritime Security Strategy

India's maritime security stands paramount to protect its vast coastline, exclusive economic zone and seaborne trade. The 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai uncovered India's maritime security vulnerabilities, leading to the need for more comprehensive measures. Whilst measures at the strategic level include aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines, on the other end of the spectrum, are policing and constabulary functions which must be enforced without fail. Further taking steps to increase surveillance along its coastlines, investing heavily in technology like radar systems or satellite-based tracking systems for ships entering Indian waters, strengthening port security procedures and improving intelligence sharing among various agencies involved with maritime security operations, also remains vital for India's marine security. Thus, heightened vigilance, along with proactive measures and contemporary cutting-edge technology, must be leveraged for bolstering Indian Defence capabilities.

Additionally, involving all stakeholders, including people from the coastal community, particularly fishermen, and making them aware of their responsibilities towards safeguarding Indian coasts from potential threats, becomes necessary for our Maritime security strategy. While countering security vulnerabilities remain the foremost priority in India's maritime security strategy, China's rising capabilities significantly influence the security configurations (Times of India, 2021). In response, India is investing both in itself and its neighbors to ensure Delhi, remains the primary power in the Indian Ocean (Rajagopalan, 2021).

To counter Chinese influence in the region, India is investing in building up its own capacity. For example, India has upgraded the Car Nicobar Air Force Base with a nine-thousand-feet runway (Rajagopalan, 2021), and plans to deploy military transport, patrol, and combat aircraft there permanently. India is also building Coast Guard and naval facilities in neighbouring countries like Mauritius and Seychelles (Al Jazeera, 2021), and signing access agreements with regional powers like France, who are now allowing reciprocal access for Indian naval ships to French bases, like the brig on Réunion Island (Pandey, 2019). Réunion Island being the biggest naval facility of the French in the Indian Ocean, as a result provides extended access of the western Indian Ocean region to India (Pillai Rajagopalan, 2020).

Another key aspect of India's strategy stands on investments in commercial ports, both to head off Chinese control of those facilities and allow future Indian naval access. Investments in Chabahar Port in Iran, Sabang Port in Indonesia, Haifa Port in Israel, among others, are some examples of the strategy (US DOD, 2019). India's creation of a new information fusion centre to bring maritime domain awareness and radar information from all across the region remains central to the security doctrine (Pincus, 2021). Moreover, as part of this, India has started to build large radar networks across some of the smaller developing island states in the Indian Ocean, including Sri Lanka, Seychelles, Mauritius and Bangladesh (Gireesh, 2020).

While, studying and exploring the contours of India's maritime security strategy provides substantive informative consideration for the subject; exploring the meaning and dimensions of the exclusive economic zone in the maritime domain, remains appropriate.

III. Exclusive Economic Zone

An exclusive economic zone (EEZ), as prescribed by the United Nations Convention on the Law of

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the Sea, is a maritime zone wherein a state enjoys special rights over exploration as well as the usage of marine resources. The EEZ stretches from its baseline to 200 nautical miles. This boundary does not include territorial sea or continental shelf; it only grants sovereign rights to coastal states regarding what lies below the surface level while, international waters exist above it. Therefore, in these areas, the coastal state has sovereign rights to explore, use, conserve, and manage the natural resources, both living and non-living, in the waters, seabed and its subsoil.

The purpose of an EEZ is twofold. It allows countries access to potential natural resources within their jurisdiction and authorizes states to regulate activities like pollution control and shipping lanes that would otherwise occur without any oversight if these areas were considered international waters. Therefore, exclusive economic zones provide many benefits for coastal nations seeking greater control over their marine environment while allowing global commerce within reasonable boundaries mutually agreed upon by all parties involved to ensure environmental sustainability remains intact in the midst of increasing demand for marine resources worldwide.

India and Its Exclusive Economic Zone

The EEZ of India, a vital asset for the nation, encompasses both the eastern and western coasts and two island domains in its waters. If it is utilized adequately by the state, it will give India significant economic potential for benefit of its citizens. Immense potential exists within the oceanic boundaries of India's EEZ when it comes to natural resources like oil reserves, mineral deposits and others. Such resources significantly contribute towards strengthening India's economy on a large scale basis, if exploited responsibly through sustainable development practices, like deep seabed mining or renewable energy projects like wind farms located offshore coastal regions and others.

The rich marine biodiversity found within Indian maritime borders presents lucrative opportunities for tourism related activities like scuba diving expeditions, whale watching trips, among others. These activities generate employment and bring much-needed foreign exchange into local communities that depend on fishing for their livelihoods. Moreover, India's strategic location near major shipping lanes means developing ports and harbours along with other infrastructure necessary for international trade, which will open up new avenues and markets, where goods manufactured domestically can be exported abroad. Thereby creating jobs at home and simultaneously boosting export revenues (Kulshreshtha, 2021).

The EEZ being one of the largest in the world by covering an area of approximately 2.02 million square km, faces critical maritime security challenges threatening the safety and security of India's coastal community and maritime interests. Some of the significant challenges include:

1. **Illegal Fishing:** Illegal and unregulated fishing exists as a major concern in the EEZ, affecting not only India's marine resources but the livelihoods of local fishing communities as well
2. **Smuggling:** The Indian EEZ is rising as a major route for smuggling drugs, weapons, and other contraband, thereby threatening national security and maritime interests.
3. **Piracy:** Piracy stands as a significant threat to Indian maritime security interests, notably in the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Aden. Piracy jeopardizes the safety of maritime channels, including those used for trading purposes, thereby not only threatening the national security domain but also imperiling Indian economic interests.

4. The proclivity of the Indian Ocean to being prone to several natural disasters, like tsunamis and cyclones, also threatens the safety and security of the zone.
5. Environmental degradation, including oil spill incidents and dumping of hazardous waste in the ocean, remains a critical concern in the zone. The acts degrading the maritime ecosystem's quality not only affect the environment but have a devastating influence on the health and livelihood of local inhabitants.
6. A good marine law-and-order stands crucially indispensable for India and its coastal inhabitants. Despite the state-sponsored efforts to improve security surveillance and monitoring in the EEZ, reports of smuggling, human trafficking, and other criminal operations in the zone are still reported, thereby making law-and-order crisis a substantial potential danger to national security and strategic interests and further raising concerns for the security and well being of the local coastal community. Thus, comprehensive and coordinated actions are necessary to improve maritime security and monitoring capabilities, the enforcement of maritime law in the zone, and sustaining efforts for engaging and partnering with the coastal population.

IV. Maritime Security and Law and Order

The vast oceanic area encompassed by the Indian maritime domain makes continuous maritime surveillance and preserves the highest standards of law and order, which is substantially challenging. Supplementary to it, the pervasive frequency and scale of marine crimes like, piracy, human trafficking, and others, further compounds the inherently complex security challenges in the maritime domain. Moreover, with the devastating impact of the recent Covid pandemic, new set of challenges has surfaced in the coastal regions. The closure of economic activities, reduced marine trade and tourist movements, travel restrictions and other strenuous restraints due to the pandemic boosted the web of poverty and unemployment in the region leading to a significant rise in crime and criminals.

Coastal law and order issues directly influence the area of maritime security. The incrementing criminal activities in coastal regions remain detrimental to maritime security interests, since it potentially threatens the safety of ports, shipping lanes and other critical infrastructure present there. Such threats patently undermine the maritime security architecture, which later can disrupt global maritime trade by hindering the free movement of goods and other trade activities in the region.

In addition to enormous challenges, instances of terrorism and insurgency in the maritime domain, further complicates the law and order situation in India. The 2008 Mumbai terror-attacks brought the issue of maritime security to the forefront, highlighting the dire necessity for better coordination among various security agencies and consolidating as well as modernizing the existing coastal security architecture. Responsively, the Indian government adopted several measures like, adopting the Coastal Security Scheme to strengthen the infrastructural capabilities of coastal states as well as union territories, deploying more coast guards and navy patrols, establishing National Command Control Communications and Intelligence network and creating a National Maritime Security Coordinator at the National Security Council for coordinating the efforts of different security agencies and improving information and intelligence sharing.

Law-and-Order of the Exclusive Economic Zone of India

Law-and-order stands as a major challenge for the security of India's EEZ. Increasing piracy incidents in the seas complicate security configurations. Illegal fishing and waste dumping cause environmental damage, which have long-term implications for the health and productivity of the marine ecosystem and reduce India's ability to exploit and manage its natural resources effectively. These reflect the denunciation and critical state of law and order in the Indian maritime sector. The poor state of law and order in the seas sometimes make it difficult for ships to navigate safely in the region, leading to increased insurance costs, disruptions in global trade and economy, and generating fear among coastal communities.

The lack of effective enforcement of maritime laws exacerbates the law-and-order crisis in India's maritime domain. The country lacks the necessary resources and manpower to effectively patrol its EEZ and enforce maritime laws. This makes it easier for criminals to engage in illegal activities in the seas. In addition, the absence of an integrated system for maritime security surveillance, makes it difficult for India to coordinate its efforts and share information with other countries and organizations. The law-and-order crisis in India's EEZ therefore has far-reaching implications for the stability and security of the region.

V. Maritime Surveillance and Exclusive Economic Zone

The descriptive exploration concerning the poor state of maritime law and order certifies maritime security and surveillance as inherent to each other. The strategic positioning of India makes surveillance of EEZ, even during peacetime, critically intrinsic for safeguarding its assets in the zone, other security interests and conservation of the marine climate (Ministry of Defence, 2021; Milind Kulshreshtha, 2021; Baruah, 2020). The prolife rating gravity attached to maritime surveillance today is an immediate consequence of the new international marine law giving littoral and hinterland states changing levels of privileges and similarly significant obligations over the EEZ (Mukerji, 2021).

The viable reconnaissance of the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), an exceptionally overwhelming mission, requires a wide range of assets and abilities. The EEZ covers a colossal region with restricted assets accessible to the Indian Coast Guard and Navy for observation (Bhattacharya, 2021). Adequately screening this zone requires a blend of low-and high innovation identification systems, same as using air and surface components. Later on, as dangers increase in complexity, so too will the need for more innovative advances to guarantee successful reconnaissance over such enormous space will continue to emerge.

To effectively address these challenges, it is imperative for India's military powers to put resources into cutting-edge innovation frameworks, equipped for giving realtime information about any activity taking place within its EEZ. This includes satellite observing frameworks that give global perception capacities to marine radar frameworks, which track vessels in close proximity. These essential tools are indispensable for India's maritime forces to counteract potential threats or criminal activities within their jurisdiction. Such advancements likewise help diminish human blunders related to manual surveillance strategies, while expanding reaction times, should there be any suspicious movement identified at sea (Suri, 2016).

Henceforth, effective monitoring and patrolling operations within EEZ require both technological advancements along with traditional methods employed by naval personnel on board ships or on aircraft patrolling territorial waters surrounding mainland India, ensuring safety from external threats while protecting sovereign rights over natural resources located therein. With increased investments towards advanced technologies coupled with well-trained personnel, it will become possible to enhance situational awareness and ensure quick response whenever required; thereby effectively safeguarding against illegal activities.

The Indian Coast Guard and Navy are responsible for ensuring safety and security within the Indian maritime zone. While the former is the lead agency responsible for coastal security and preventing illegal activities like smuggling, drug trafficking, and illegal fishing; the Navy ensures the security of Indian offshore assets and Indian shipping lanes.

VI. The Indian Coast Guard

Considering the critical security and economic interests associated with the ocean and EEZ in particular, a dedicated security force was necessitated to administer the EEZ (Rajya Sabha, 2021; Roy Chaudhury, 1998). Consequently, pursuant to the recommendations of the Rustamji Committee in September 1974 and with the enactment of the Coast Guard Act (herein referred to as the Act) in Parliament in 1977, the Indian Coast Guards was established as an equipped power of the state (Ministry of Defence, 2010; Roy-Chaudhury, 2000).

The Indian Coast Guard, established in 1978, ensures the safety and security of India's maritime interests, including its EEZ. The force carries out a range of activities to fulfil its mandate, including maritime surveillance, search and rescue operations, and enforcement of maritime laws. It has been instrumental in preventing piracy, smuggling, and illegal fishing incidents and remained prompt through search and rescue operations in responding to natural disasters, like the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

The EEZ, an area of strategic relevance for India, encompasses its maritime interests, including fisheries, minerals, and petroleum resources. ICG, responsible for the surveillance of the EEZ, faces several challenges hindering its ability to carry out surveillance of the EEZ, consequently threatening the safety and security of India's maritime interests. Limited resources, including financial and workforce limitations, remain major challenges before the force. Additionally, the complex intricacies of marine security threats, including the transnational character of associated security risks and the vast geographical area of the Indian Ocean, raise difficulties for the force to carry out its mandate effectively. Exploring some of the significant challenges facing the Indian Coast Guard in the surveillance of the EEZ are postulated below:

- **Lack of Resources:** One of the biggest challenges facing the Indian Coast Guard is the lack of necessary resources to carry out effective surveillance of the EEZ. This includes the shortage of ships, aircraft, and personnel. These limit the ability of the Coast Guard to carry out its responsibilities effectively. The Indian Coast Guard is tasked with a complex and difficult mission without adequate resources. At times making it challenging to carry out few of the missions efficiently (Chronicle, 2023; IANS, 2016).
- **Illegal Fishing, Smuggling and Privacy** stands as major challenges before ICG. The Indian security forces, including ICG, face severe challenges in the prevention and interception of smuggling

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activities due to factors like, constraints in resources with the force, the enormous size of the EEZ and others. Further, the Coast Guard while, preventing and intercepting piracy activities faces the dual challenge of securing trade routes and ships on those routes as well.

- Recurrent natural disturbances oblige the coast guard to divert its resources in search and rescues operations and for prevention of the environmental degradation like oil spills. Responding towards such events also stands as a complex challenge for the force.

To address the above challenges, following changes could be proposed:

- To increase its operational capabilities, the ICG should be provided with better defense technology, equipment, boats, and aircraft of contemporary standards. The government should also enhance the ICG's fiscal allotment to recruit additional personnel and improve their training.
- The ICG should improve its coordination with other maritime agencies. The government should establish a centralized coordination mechanism to facilitate information flow and ensure effective coordination between different agencies at domestic front.
- Considering the transnational character of maritime security risks on account of the vast geography and virtually open-architectural connectivity of oceans. The ICG needs to develop stronger partnerships with other countries to combat transnational maritime crimes effectively. It should also explore the possibility of joint patrols and sharing of information with the neighboring countries in order to prevent maritime crimes.

VII. Role of Indian Coast Guard, Marine Surveillance and Interests of Coastal Community

Marine surveillance and security, crucial for the stability and prosperity of coastal communities and societies, protect critical infrastructures like ports and shipping lanes from maritime crime, piracy, and terrorism. It ensures a secured flow of goods and services crucial for a prosperous global trade and commerce and coastal community's interests.

Sense of Secured Order and Security in Coastal Community

Maritime security measures, such as those implemented by the Indian Coast Guard, play an important role in shaping social norms and values related to maritime activity. From a sociological perspective, maritime surveillance and security measures help to establish a sense of order and stability in coastal communities. Coastal communities have long been dependent on the maritime ecosystem particularly, ocean for their livelihoods, cultural practices, and identities. However, the increasing threats of piracy, smuggling, illegal fishing, and maritime terrorism have disrupted their way of life consequently posing a threat to their safety.

The Indian Coast Guard, as the primary security force in the relevant jurisdiction, remains actively involved in addressing these challenges. Its presence in coastal areas creates a sense of safety and security among the local population, which helps deter criminal activities and establish social norms. This, in turn, reinforces the importance of law and order and respect for the law, among others, in the maritime domain. The Sense of stability and security further encourages locals to consider protecting the maritime domain from criminal activities and cooperating with the authorities to maintain intrinsically relevant order. The law enforcement agency's efforts to promote maritime security and

preserve law and order positively impact on the interests of the coastal community .

Costal Engagement Programmes

The ICG efforts to promote secured environment through engagement of community initiatives have also helped in building trust and confidence between the local population and the authorities. This sense of order helps to establish social norms and values related to maritime activity, such as respect for the law and for other users of the maritime domain. It also helps in creating a sense of shared responsibility within coastal communities in order to safeguard the maritime domain from criminal activity. Moreover, the Indian Coast Guard can be instrumental in promoting community interest by engaging in activities directly benefiting coastal communities, like search and rescue operations, disaster response, and environmental protection measures. Such activities, while promoting the security and well-being of coastal communities, supplement building trust and collaboration between law enforcement agencies and local inhabitants.

Coastal Inclusion

The ICG community engagement initiatives, wherein the force engages local inhabitants in its activities, help bring coastal inhabitants from diverse cultural backgrounds together. Thus promoting mutual understanding and respect among various coastal communities. Community engagement initiative promotes social inclusion and diversity among diverse coastal communities, fostering a sense of ownership and pride among coastal communities and strengthening their identity.

Sustainability of Livelihood and Marine Environment

Adequate measures of marine surveillance and security provide a favourable environment for flourishing maritime trade and commerce, providing economic prosperity to coastal communities. It helps create jobs and promote social mobility, thus benefiting the coastal community and ensuring their financial and social well-being.

As coastal communities derive their daily sustenance and livelihood from the marine environment, illegal fishing, piracy, and smuggling activities critically impact their direct livelihood sources. The ICG's efforts to curb illegal ocean activities help protect the coastal community's interests, ensuring that they receive a fair share of available marine resources. It henceforth reinforces values of sustainability and conservation among coastal communities, which is indispensable for our marine ecosystem's long-term health and sustainability.

Socioeconomic Interests of Coastal Community and Its Inhabitants

The Coast Guards play an intrinsic role in preserving the socioeconomic interests of the Indian coastal community. Its primary role as an agency securing the Indian maritime zone also includes protecting the life and livelihood of local coastal inhabitants. It assists distressed fishermen and also monitors fishing activities by preventing illegal fishing. During natural and other climatic disturbances, ICG conducts search and rescue operations and provides required medical assistance to people in need. The agency's mandate to defend the coastal community's cultural values stands equally essential. India's coastal inhabitants have a rich cultural past inextricably related to the maritime environment.

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The ICG collaborates closely with coastal communities to protect cultural heritage and develop Eco-tourism. Additionally, it teaches coastal communities about the significance and necessity of marine conservation and sustainable fishing practices.

The table below summarizes diverse roles performed by the force to protect the sociological and community interests of individual coastal inhabitants and the community at large in the Indian maritime waters:

Dynamic Impact of Marine Surveillance on Coastal Community

Role	Description
Preventing Illegal Activities	The Coast Guards conduct regular patrols and surveillance for prevention of illegal activities including, illegal fishing, piracy, smuggling, and trafficking in the coastal areas of India.
Search and Rescue Operation	The force is responsible for providing timely assistance and also conducting search as well as rescue operations for boats and vessels in distress, including fishing boats and other small crafts which are used by coastal inhabitants.
Environmental Protection	The ICG plays a vital role in protecting the marine environment, including preventing oil spills and other forms of pollution that can impact the livelihoods and health of coastal communities.
Maritime Safety and Security	The ICG ensures the safety and security of maritime traffic and vessels, including small fishing boats used by coastal communities. It also monitors the movement of ships and boats to prevent maritime accidents and incidents.
Community Outreach and Awareness	The ICG engages in community outreach programs to create awareness among coastal communities about maritime safety, security, and environmental protection. It also provides training to fishermen and other stakeholders on safe fishing practices, first aid, and other relevant skills.

Contrary to the above exploration validating the beneficence of maritime surveillance, marine surveillance and security implications on coastal communities and society are not always constructive. Implementing strict security measures sometimes creates tension and conflict between coastal communities and law enforcement agencies. In worst cases, this could be exacerbated when state agencies are perceived as acting to benefit external powers, like private corporations or friendly foreign governments.

Furthermore, strict security measures could intimidate or marginalize specific segments of coastal communities, like fishermen and other maritime workers. Based on their movements or other activities, law enforcement agencies sometimes could view them through the lens of suspicion creating distrust between them and obliging them to stringent security checks, which sometimes could be harassment for locals. This could eventually result in social unrest, undermining maritime security measures' effectiveness.

Thus, the sociological perspective analysis, indicates that maritime security measures, including surveillance, impact upon coastal communities dynamically, depending on social, economic, and political factors. For example, drastic changes in the global economy, trade, or political landscape of a region can significantly impact upon the security measures' effectiveness. Subsequently, while adopting marine security measures, developing an integrated and holistic strategy incorporating and considering coastal communities' social, economic, and political environment within its scope is critically intrinsic. Therefore, the security approach must include community participation, consultation and efforts to build strong trust and effective collaboration between law enforcement agencies and coastal communities.

Conclusion

Maritime security means safeguarding ships, their routes, crew and cargo on the high seas and ports. It is essential for global trade and the economy, as the sea carries about 90% of world trade. At the best of circumstances, it is evident that the maritime domain is highly intrinsic to the Indian Republic, and its importance may not be over emphasized. Further, maritime security and the protection of EEZs have become increasingly important due to the growing threat of piracy, terrorism, illegal fishing and dumping of wastes in seas. Consequently, with India's long coastline and its vital economic interests in the Indian Ocean, the need for efficient and effective maritime surveillance becomes significantly crucial. However, the above exploratory study also certifies the complex and challenging nature of maritime surveillance in India.

The Indian Coast Guard, even though performing admirably, face challenges due to several constraints. As the sole organization in charge of this duty, it needs more resources, namely ships, aircraft, and personnel, to carry out its mandate efficiently (Mathew, 2019). Adding new technology, such as UAVs and sea satellites, can significantly enhance their ability to monitor the EEZ and, as a result, improve Indian security architecture. The force is effectively engaged in daily surveillance of specific regions of the EEZ vulnerable to security breaches and threats. Therefore, extra funding must be provided to the force to ensure effective EEZ surveillance. India must adopt additional steps to create a marine-specific UAV and provide the necessary sensors atop sea satellites for maritime monitoring of the Indian Exclusive Economic Zones.

However, India has adopted several enhancements to its maritime security configurations. It has incorporated advanced technology such as radars, satellites, and unmanned aerial vehicles to monitor its EEZ and prevent illegal activities. Additionally, to enhance maritime security capabilities, India has signed various international agreements like the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982 and become a member of some organizations, namely; the International Maritime Organization (IMO), 1948, Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), 1997. India also implemented various policies for maritime security enhancements. The 2015 Indian Maritime Security Strategy objectifies providing a comprehensive approach to maritime security and outlines various measures to enhance maritime security, including developing infrastructure, using technology, and improving coastal safety. Consequently, the policy instruments depict a promising future for the growth of the security forces.

While the study depicts the crucial necessity of security measures the sociological study

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concomitantly illustrates that marine surveillance and security measures profoundly impact shaping social norms and values related to maritime activity among coastal communities. Promoting law and order, protecting coastal community interests, promoting sustainability and conservation, and fostering social inclusion and diversity; help build a sense of safety and security among the local inhabitants and reinforces the significance of the ocean towards their livelihoods, cultural practices, and identities. The Indian Coast Guard's efforts in this regard remain instrumental for promoting the well-being of coastal communities, ensuring the long-term health and prosperity of the marine ecosystem and creating a sense of shared responsibility among coastal communities.

However, the impact of marine surveillance and security on coastal communities and society remains complex and multifaceted. While effective security measures help establish social norms and deliver other benefits, they can also create tension and conflict between coastal communities and law enforcement agencies and marginalize specific segments of coastal communities. Thus, establishing an appropriate balance between security requirements and societal constraints remains paramount. Therefore, the need for an integrated approach homogenizing law enforcement mechanisms with military strength, community engagement and trade-related activities emerges patently crucial. Moreover, considering the transnational character of marine security risks, nation-states must adopt a global cooperative security framework to integrate all security mechanisms and counter possible security threats. Further, considering the social, economic, and political context of coastal communities, including community participation and consultation, as well as building trust and collaboration between law enforcement agencies and the community, stands indispensable. It would ensure that maritime surveillance and security measures are adequate, effective and sustainable, benefiting all members of coastal communities and society at large.

The above exploratory study certifies that the role of the Indian Coast Guard in maintaining law and order at sea and promoting community interest is critical for the well-being and development of coastal communities and the society.

Personal Reflexive Statement: Maritime Surveillance remains as an integral component in the security architecture of the Indian Republic. Further security mechanisms and surveillance norms significantly influences and impacts the local society in the region. Consequently, researching about the critical importance of surveillance in the Exclusive Economic Zone (region of the sea wherein state law enforcement agencies enjoy jurisdiction and interact with people involved in various economic activities) and its impact over the local coastal population attracted the interests of the author which in turn has motivated the author to prepare this research article. The author has no conflict of interests and no funding sources have been availed by the author for creating this research article.

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