<u>CUJ PRESS BRIEF ON WEBTALK – INDIA'S MARITIME SECURITY</u>

Department of National Security Studies, Central University of Jammu organized a WebTalk on India's Maritime Security. This was the 8th webtalk of the series. Speakers from the different disciplines share their views in the webtalk.

Dr. Utham Kumar, who is a Prof. in the department of Defence and Strategic Studies, University of Madras, speaks about various dimension of the maritime security ranging from the costal security to securing our maritime boundaries from the external maritime threats, securing sea lines of communications to the use of Indian Navy as a Foreign Policy tool.

Dr. Namrata Hasija, who is a Research Fellow in the Centre for China Analysis and Strategy, New Delhi share her view on the rising power of the China's People Liberation Army Navy. She speaks on the rising power of the Chinese navy in the Indian Ocean Region which is a threat to the India. Going of Hambantota Port to the Chinese hand and the construction of Gwadar Port in Pakistan by China was also discussed by Dr. Namrata.

Abhijit Iyer-Mitra, who is a security analyst, speaks about the issues in the modernisation and indigenisation of Indian Navy.

Vice Admiral Rama Kant Pattanaik, former Deputy Chief of Naval Staff of Indian Navy talked upon the contemporary scenario of the world and the role which Indian Navy is playing. He stressed upon the low percentage of the defence budget compared to the GDP which is lowest since 1962. Despite having a low budget, Indian Navy is performing its role, he added.

Amb. G Parthasarathy, Ex-Army officer and a diplomat, who is the current Chancellor of Central University of Jammu, emphasise on the diplomacy of the India in the contemporary world. India should utilise the available resources despite having the low defence budget, he added.

Prof. Ashok Aima, Vice Chancellor of Central University of Jammu, in the later discussion announced that the CU Jammu is going to start the Shina Language course from the upcoming session.

In the end, formal vote of thanks was given by Dr. J Jeganaathan, Assistant Prof., Department of National Security Studies, Central University of Jammu, who is coordinating this webtalk series.