

## **Indian Council of Historical Research**

### **Importance of Maritime and Underwater Archaeology India**

India has been a core region in the maritime world of the Indian Ocean from the very early period. India lies in the centre of the Indian Ocean region that connected the various continents and civilizations. The people who lived along the coast from the early period developed watercrafts and navigational knowledge. Human groups have migrated and ideas have dispersed from the early period.

The Harappan civilization of India had intense connections with the civilizations of the Western Asia. Indian cultural ideas have reached different areas of the Indian Ocean through the maritime connections. India had interactions with the Roman empire and various other regions of Asia and Africa. India had intimate connections with the regions of Southeast Asia, where the temples, sculptures and inscriptions still stand testimony the connectivity with India. Numerous important port towns that existed on the coasts of India served as centres of maritime activities. However, the historical research initiatives on India have not sufficient thrust to maritime history, especially the maritime archaeology.

India is a country with more than 7000 km stretch of coast and the coastal areas have very rich cultural heritage remains. The rich sources of history submerged under the oceans and in the coastal areas have not been utilized for the reconstruction of the history of India and India's the maritime heritage has not been given due importance. ICHR in an attempt to give proper thrust to the maritime archaeology and Maritime historical research of India, is planning to initiate a research project with the expertise of the scholars in the field. Remote sensing, underwater explorations and scientific probes would become part of this research initiative. Scientific investigations are essential to understand the rich maritime history of India and remote sensing can help to understand the sea level changes over the years.

ICHR advocates the researchers to take up research on the maritime history and underwater archaeology using scientific

aids. ICHR also seeks to conduct training programmes for the young researchers to support the maritime archaeological research in India.

ICHR