Joint effort key for coastal security: Nanda

In a seminar at GNLU, state home secretary said combined action plan is essential

DNA Correspondent

Gujarat government emphasised on securing the coastal belt of the state with joint efforts of all agencies and authorities so as to thwart any chance of a security breach.

State home secretary, SK Nanda, said, "We are not safe, unless we are safe at sea. There must by a combined action plan and unanimity among coastal security agencies." Nanda was speaking on the occasion of the inauguration ceremony of the Maritime Legal Adviser Training Program at Gujarat National Law University (GNLU), Gandhinagar.

"We have installed a radar system at two ports in the state and also issued biometric identity cards to fishermen. A vessel tracking system has also been set up at the high sea," said Nanda, while talking to the media on the sidelines of the function. Ironically, the government is yet to float tenders for reading machines of biometric cards, which the fishermen already possess. This will enable the coast guards to check the fishermen's identities.

He added, "A combined action plan and unanimity are needed for posting, checking, security and surveillance among the coastal security agencies. We should be prepared for any kind of attack." It is the first time that such a programme for naval officers was organised by GNLU. Various faculties and experts will teach selected officers of the navy, coast guard and Gujarat maritime board. Commodore RK Mehta of the Western Navy Command also spoke about international laws related to coastal territories.

The training aims to provide knowledge on contemporary and advanced issues and practices of sea and maritime laws in an intensive manner. The course will conclude on April 9 and GNLU will issue certificates of participation to the officers. GNLU director, Bimal Patel, said, "It is a first-of-its kind seminar in the country hosted by our institution. The course will enlighten navy officers about international coastal laws."