



MAKING WAVES

A maritime news brief covering:

- **MARITIME SECURITY**
- **MARITIME FORCES**
- **SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY**
- **MARINE ENVIRONMENT**
- **GEOPOLITICS**

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MARITIME SECURITY

INDIA-EU HOLD 2ND MARITIME SECURITY DIALOGUE; BOTH COMMIT TO INCLUSIVE, RULES-BASED INDO-PACIFIC

On Tuesday, India and the European Union held their second virtual maritime security dialogue, during which both sides committed to a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based maritime order in the Indo-Pacific region. The consultations included developments in the maritime security environment, policy developments covering the EU strategy for Indo-Pacific cooperation and India's Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative, India-EU maritime cooperation, and regional initiatives to address international maritime security issues, according to a release from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Following their successful joint naval exercise in the Gulf of Aden in June 2021, India and the EU discussed cooperation, including maritime domain awareness, capacity-building, and joint naval activities, according to the release.

Source: [The New Indian Express](#); 01 February 2022

INDO-PACIFIC MARITIME SECURITY UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

Representatives from the European Union's (EU) East African naval force attended a second meeting on enhancing maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region. The first meeting resulted in a June joint naval exercise with Indian Navy elements collaborating with EUNav for Operation Atalanta, a five-ship, two-day effort. To date, workshops and meetings have taken place as part of the joint effort to provide additional protection to EU critical maritime routes in the Indo-Pacific (CRIMARIO), including an interoperability workshop with India's Maritime Information Fusion Center for the Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR). The EU adopted an Indo-Pacific cooperation strategy in September, including the possibility of expanding the Coordinated Maritime Presence concept to the northwestern Indian Ocean to improve synergies and information exchanges.

Source: [defenceweb.com](#); 07 February 2022

INDIAN COAST GUARD INDUCTS MADE-IN-INDIA CHOPPERS FOR MARITIME SECURITY OF WEST COAST

- Sidharth MP

The Indian Coast Guard inducted two Advanced Light Helicopters Mk3 variants into the 845 Squadron at Kochi. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited designed and built these made-in-India helicopters, and the Indian Coast Guard operates ten of them. The chopper's Mk 3 variant is a maritime version that can be used for reconnaissance, long-range search and rescue, and both day and night operations. The two helicopters, based in Kochi, are intended to improve coastal security along the coasts of Kerala, Karnataka, and the area around Lakshadweep on India's West Coast. The ALH Mk 3 incorporates a number of systems previously seen on larger, multi-role helicopters. This model is outfitted with cutting-edge surveillance radar and electro-optical equipment.

Source: wionews.com; 10 February 2022

SINGAPORE AIRSHOW 2022: SINGAPORE AIR FORCE REVIEWS MARITIME SECURITY REQUIREMENTS

- Ridzwan Rahmat

The Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) has upgraded its fleet of Fokker-50 maritime patrol aircraft (MPAs) and is collaborating with the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) to assess the country's maritime security requirements. Major General Kelvin Khong, the RSAF's commander, revealed the information in a written response to questions sent to the service in the run-up to the Singapore Airshow 2022. The RSAF operates a fleet of five Fokker-50 airframes configured for maritime patrol, with a further four aircraft configured for general utility roles. The planes were first delivered in 1993, and all of them are assigned to the RSAF's 121 Squadron.

Source: [Janes's](http://janes.com); 15 February 2022

MEA JAISHANKAR HOLDS MEETING WITH PHILIPPINES COUNTERPART, AGREES TO STRENGTHEN COUNTER- TERRORISM AND MARITIME SECURITY

- AIR News

Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister, concluded his three-day visit to the Philippines today. This was his first visit to the country as Minister of External Affairs. During his visit, Dr. Jaishankar met with his counterpart, Teodoro L. Locsin Jr., in a bilateral meeting. The two Ministers discussed bilateral relations since the meeting of the Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation, which they co-chaired virtually in November 2020. The Ministers agreed to continue working to strengthen engagement in counter-terrorism, defence, and maritime security, including defence capabilities, military training, and capacity building.

Source: [newsonair.com](https://www.newsonair.com); 15 February 2022

INDIA AND THE PHILIPPINES TO WORK TOWARDS MARITIME SECURITY, INDO-PACIFIC AND DEEPER DEFENSE

- Huma Siddiqui

During the meeting, both ministers reviewed bilateral relations between the two countries since the last Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation meeting, which was held in 2020. India and the Philippines have agreed to work together to strengthen maritime security, counter-terrorism, military training, and capacity building. Dr S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister, met with other ministers in addition to his counterpart Teodoro L Locsin Jr., Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines. The meetings also focused on further strengthening cooperation in various sectors such as defence, finance, and agriculture.

Source: [The Financial Express](https://www.financialexpress.com); 15 February 2022

FORMER NAVY VICE CHIEF TAKES OVER AS MARITIME SECURITY COORDINATOR

- Rahul Singh

Kumar, a graduate of Sainik School in Amaravathi Nagar, Tamil Nadu, and the National Defense Academy in Khadakwasla, Pune, was commissioned into the navy's executive branch in July 1982. Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar, a former navy vice chief, took over as India's first national maritime security coordinator (NMSC) on Wednesday, amid growing threats to coastal security and shifting power dynamics in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), where China is attempting to expand its sphere of influence, officials familiar with the development said. Kumar was hand-picked for the difficult role. He will report directly to Ajit Doval, the national security adviser. To be sure, NMSC will not be supported by any forces.

Source: [Hindustan Times](#); 17 February 2022

INDIA, FRANCE SET ROADMAP FOR MARITIME SECURITY IN INDO- PACIFIC; CHINA CONTINUES ILLEGAL FISHING AROUND INDIA

- Huma Siddiqui

In the face of growing Chinese bullying in the Indo-Pacific, India and France have signed a Blue Economy and Ocean Governance Roadmap. It was signed over the weekend at the conclusion of bilateral talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian. Both countries have agreed to cultivate a high-quality dialogue on maritime security, allowing them to raise strategic issues in the Indo-Pacific and adapt to new challenges posed by China's presence in the region. Both India and France have stated their commitment to international maritime law and agreed to collaborate in multilateral forums to address emerging challenges in the Indo-Pacific.

Source: [The Financial Express](#); 21 February 2022

INDIA, LANKA CLOSE TO SEALING 3 DEFENCE-RELATED PACTS TO BOOST MARITIME SECURITY

- Rezaul H Laskar

Prior to the visit of Sri Lankan Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa to India this week, the two countries are nearing completion of three defense-related agreements and arrangements that are expected to strengthen cooperation for maritime security. Rajapaksa, the younger brother of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, has been working with India to finalise an economic assistance package to help Sri Lanka weather a severe balance of payments crisis. He is scheduled to visit New Delhi on the 25th and 26th of February, his second visit to the Indian capital since December.

Source: [Hindustan Times](#); 23 February 2022

INDIAN NAVY-LED MULTINATIONAL EXERCISE MILAN 2022 BEGINS IN BAY OF BENGAL

For the first time, the US Navy is taking part in the exercise, which includes over 40 countries. MILAN 2022, a nine-day multilateral naval exercise led by India, began on February 25 in the Bay of Bengal. The US Navy took part in the exercise alongside the navies of India and other countries. MILAN 2022 will be held in two phases, with the harbour phase taking place from February 25 to 28 and the sea phase taking place from March 1 to March 4. This year's theme is 'Camaraderie – Cohesion – Collaboration.'

Source: [navaltechnology.com](#); 28 February 2022

MARITIME FORCES

US NAVCENT-LED INTERNATIONAL MARITIME EXERCISE 2022 BEGAN ON FEBRUARY

- Dzirhan Mahadzir

The United States Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) has begun the largest maritime exercise in the Middle East region in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The 18-day biennial naval training event, known as International Maritime Exercise (IMX) 2022, was launched during a ceremony at the headquarters of the United States Fifth Fleet in Bahrain. The event is combined with Exercise Cutlass Express (CE), which is held annually in the West Indian Ocean and along the East African coast by US Naval Forces Europe-Africa. It will be attended by 9,000 personnel and up to 50 vessels from more than 60 partner countries and international organisations operating in two regions.

Source: navaltechnology.com; 01 February 2022

NATO CARRIER EXERCISES CONTINUE AMID RISING TENSIONS WITH RUSSIA

As tensions with Russia remain high, maritime forces from France, Italy, and the United States conducted a rare tri-carrier operation in the eastern Mediterranean Sea on February 6–7, while conducting naval exercises in the area. During the two-day exercises, the Harry S Truman carrier strike group (CSG) collaborated with the French Charles de Gaulle Task Force 473 and the Italian carrier ITS Cavour strike groups. The joint operation included more than 20 ships and at least two submarines, as well as more than 100 aircraft from the three carriers.

Source: [Jane's](https://janes.com); 11 February 2022

ISRAELI NAVAL FORCES DETAIN 7 GAZAN FISHERMEN, CONFISCATE BOAT: PALESTINIAN OFFICIAL

- Huaxia

According to a Palestinian official, an Israeli army naval force arrested seven Palestinian fishermen off the northern coast of the Gaza Strip on Monday morning and confiscated their fishing boat. According to Nizar Ayyash, the head of the Gaza fishermen union, the seven fishermen were taken to the Israeli seaport of Ashdod. Ayyash condemned Israeli naval forces and urged the international community to put pressure on Israel to end its "harassment" of Gaza fishermen. Israel has not commented on the incident, but its army previously claimed that the Palestinian fishermen were detained for exceeding the permitted fishing zone. On Sunday, Gazan fishermen threatened to stop fishing for days unless Hamas-run naval authorities met their demands.

Source: [Xinhua](#); 14 February 2022

OMAN NAVY CHIEF IN INDIA FOR STRATEGY TALK

- Mayank Singh

Rear Admiral Saif Bin Nasser Bin Mohsin Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman (CRNO), is on a goodwill visit to India as part of a series of joint defence and military meetings. "The visit aims to consolidate bilateral relations with the Indian Navy as well as to explore new avenues for defence cooperation with India," the Indian Navy said in a statement released on Monday. Both nations' Naval Principles met to discuss ways to improve cooperation between their naval forces. This is the second high-level meeting with Oman's Defense Ministry Secretary General Mohammed Nasser Al Zaabi, the Omani defence establishment's executive head, who was in India from January 30 to February 4.

Source: [The New Indian Express](#); 15 February 2022

NAVAL PRESENCE IN MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEAS AT HIGHS RARELY SEEN SINCE COLD WAR

- Alison Bath

Warships are transiting the Mediterranean Sea and nearby waters in numbers unseen in decades, adding a new dimension to NATO-Russia tensions over Moscow's military buildup along Ukraine's borders. While the focus remains on the 130,000 Russian troops massed along Ukraine's land borders and whether the Kremlin will follow through on its promise to withdraw some of them, both the US and Russia have recently announced the deployment of multiple ships carrying guided missiles to the region.

Source: starsandstripes.com; 16 February 2022

FOSTERING BONDS OF MARITIME FORCES, VIZAG TO WITNESS A SEA OF MANOEUVERS

- Rani Devalla

The City of Destiny is preparing for the Indian Navy's largest multilateral exercise, 'MILAN-2022,' which will be held for the first time in the port city, to commemorate the bond of friendly navies and absorb best practices in the maritime domain. With the arrival of the Gepard-class frigate VPNS Quang Trung from Vietnam and the BNS Umar Farooq from the Bangladesh Navy, the fleet of participating ships is expected to grow to include the Royal Australian Navy's HMAS Arunta, the Republic of Korea Navy's ROKS Gwangju, and the US Navy's Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Fitzgerald.

Source: [The Hans India](https://www.thehansindia.com); 25 February 2022

SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY

BLACK SEA BLOCKADE: UKRAINE ACCUSES RUSSIA OF MAJOR MARITIME ESCALATION

- Peter Dickinson

BEIJING (BLOOMBERG) - China is preventing public access to shipping location signals because of national security concerns, the Financial Times reported, as Beijing seeks greater control over the country's economic data. The number of Automatic Identification System (AIS) signals coming from ships in Chinese waters dropped from more than 15 million per day in October to about one million per day in early November, the paper reported on Wednesday (Nov 24), without citing where it got the information.

The data could not immediately be verified by Bloomberg News.

That steep decline comes after a Nov 1 report in Chinese state media about AIS stations in coastal Guangdong province that warned "the intelligence extracted from this data endangers China's economic security and the harm cannot be ignored". China's decision to curtail the flow of information out of its ports coincided with the Personal Information Protection Law, which took effect on Nov 1. That legislation is meant to regulate the flow of Chinese data overseas and ensure the gathering of such data is minimised, according to state-run media.

Shipping companies have already reported a diminished ability to accurately track activity in Chinese ports without the data, Ms Charlotte Cook, head trade analyst at VesselsValue, told the newspaper. AIS signals previously allowed companies and governments to assess activity levels in Chinese ports, which have been congested by supply chain snarls and Covid-19 pandemic controls in recent months. Earlier this month, China punished an unnamed non-governmental organisation (NGO) for collecting sensitive maritime data and sharing it abroad. The NGO set up coastal monitoring stations near military sites to track offshore debris, threatening China's national security, the Communist Party's highest law enforcement body, the Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission, said on its website.

Source: [Atlantic Council](#); 10 February 2022

PORTS JOIN EU TO ENHANCE OCEANS PLEDGING TO REDUCE STOPOVER EMISSIONS

The European Union is emphasising a wide range of initiatives agreed upon at the conclusion of the three-day One Day Ocean Summit hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron in his capacity as President of the European Union Council. At the summit, port authorities and stakeholders from around the world signed a joint commitment to reduce the environmental impact of container and cruise ship stopovers during their sea journeys. Other agreements focused on illegal fishing and improving ocean understanding. The ports' declaration, led by the French Ministry of Transport, establishes a new goal for promoting green maritime transport.

Source: [The Maritime Executive](#); 11 February 2022

SHIPMENT OF STEEL THROUGH THE INDO BANGLADESH PROTOCOL ROUTE FLAGGED OFF

Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and AYUSH, flagged off the maiden voyage of barges carrying 1798 MT of Tata Steel Limited finished steel products from Haldia to Pandu (in Assam) via the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route on Wednesday (IBP Route). According to a statement from the Ministry of Ports, "this maiden voyage demonstrates multimodal cargo movement as well as harnessing the power of river-sea combination."

Source: [Livemint](#); 16 February 2022

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

IMPROPERLY DISCARDED SURGICAL MASKS THREATEN THE MARINE ECOSYSTEM AND FOOD CHAIN

- City University of Hong Kong

Surgical masks were an important part of personal protection during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, improper disposal of surgical masks can result in serious microplastic pollution, equivalent to seriously polluting more than 54,800 Olympic-sized swimming pools of seawater each year, City University of Hong Kong (CityU) researchers discovered. This can also have an impact on the growth and reproduction of marine organisms, as well as the food chain. The research team urged the public to properly dispose of their used masks and emphasised the importance of better environmental management by developing policies and enforcing laws to ensure the proper disposal of surgical masks.

Source: [phys.com](https://www.phys.com); 08 February 2022

MACRON SPEAKS TO ONE OCEAN SUMMIT ABOUT PROTECTING MARINE ENVIRONMENT

French President Emmanuel Macron is speaking at the One Ocean Summit in Brest, northwest France, where world leaders, scientists, and representatives from major corporations are gathering to discuss efforts to promote the marine environment. Watch the live coverage on FRANCE 24. Despite the fact that the world's five connected oceans cover roughly 70% of the planet, regulate the climate, nurture millions of species, feed the population, and enable global trade, they are still misunderstood and underprotected. Macron of France hopes to elicit "ambitious commitments" from a "small but determined" group of more than 40 countries and multinational corporations, including European maritime transport behemoths Maersk, CMA CGM, Hapag-Lloyd, and MSC.

Source: [france24.com](https://www.france24.com); 11 February 2022

INDIA COMMITTED TO ELIMINATING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC, SAYS PM MODI AT ONE OCEAN SUMMIT

- ANI

India has always been a maritime civilization, and its ancient scriptures and literature speak about the gifts of the oceans, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday (February 11), emphasising the importance of oceans to a country's security and prosperity. In his remarks at the 'One Ocean Summit,' Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that India is committed to eliminating single-use plastic and will be delighted to join France in launching a global initiative on single-use plastics. "India supports France's initiative to form a High Ambition Coalition on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction." "This year, we hope to have a legally binding international treaty," he added.

Source: [NDTV](#); 11 February 2022

INDIA, AUSTRALIA, SINGAPORE TO JOIN HANDS TO ADDRESS MARINE POLLUTION CAUSED BY PLASTIC DEBRIS

- IANS

An official statement issued on Tuesday stated that India, Australia, and Singapore have joined forces for research interventions aimed at monitoring and assessing marine litter as well as plausible long-term solutions to the global marine plastic pollution problem. Dr. M. Ravichandran, India's Secretary of Earth Sciences, delivered the keynote address at a virtual international workshop on combating marine pollution, focusing on marine plastic debris on February 14 and 15, hosted by India in collaboration with the Australian and Singapore governments.

Source: [weather.com](#); 16 February 2022

GEOPOLITICS

QUAD FOREIGN MINISTERS LAY STRESS ON NEED FOR FREE AND OPEN INDO-PACIFIC

- Subhayan Chakraborty

Foreign Ministers from the QUAD nations have once again condemned economic and political coercion, emphasising the importance of a free and open Indo-Pacific region. It has also decided to concentrate on coronavirus vaccine distribution, counter-terrorism, maritime security, and climate change cooperation. In his first official visit to Australia, Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar attended the fourth Quadrennial Meeting of Foreign Ministers in Melbourne. The Ministers' joint statement is interpreted as a reference to China, which has gradually hardened its claims to a large portion of the South China Sea and has increasingly sparred with other powers through trade. The four-day trip is seen as important for the QUAD alliance to send a message to China, with which each of the member countries has seen economic and political tensions rise in recent years. According to sources, it is also important for further cementing the QUAD nations' engagement as a serious, permanent bloc in global geopolitics.

Source: moneycontrol.com; 11 February 2022

INDIA BESET WITH GEOPOLITICAL CHALLENGES, ESPECIALLY FROM CHINA: WHITE HOUSE

"However, India faces significant challenges. China's behaviour along the Line of Actual Control has galvanised India "according to a White House official The White House released its first Indo-Pacific Strategic Report on Friday. The White House stated in its report that India faces significant geopolitical challenges, particularly from China and its behaviour along the Line of Actual Control. According to news agency PTI, the region-specific report highlights the president's vision to firmly anchor the United States' position in the Indo-Pacific, strengthen the region, and support India's rise and regional leadership in the process. "We will continue to build a strategic partnership in which the United States and India work together and through regional groupings to promote South Asian stability; collaborate in new domains such

as health, space, and cyberspace; deepen our economic and technological cooperation; and contribute to a free and open Indo-Pacific," the White House stated.

Source: [abplive.com](https://www.abplive.com); 12 February 2022

BRAHMOS TO PHILIPPINES, GEOPOLITICS, DETERRENCE AND REGIONAL NARRATIVE

- Lt Gen Arvinder Singh Lamba

However, India faces significant challenges. China's behaviour along the Line of Actual Control has galvanised India "according to a White House official The White House released its first Indo-Pacific Strategic Report on Friday. The White House stated in its report that India faces significant geopolitical challenges, particularly from China and its behaviour along the Line of Actual Control. According to news agency PTI, the region-specific report highlights the president's vision to firmly anchor the United States' position in the Indo-Pacific, strengthen the region, and support India's rise and regional leadership in the process. "We will continue to build a strategic partnership in which the United States and India work together and through regional groupings to promote South Asian stability; collaborate in new domains such as health, space, and cyberspace; deepen our economic and technological cooperation; and contribute to a free and open Indo-Pacific," the White House stated.

Source: timesnow.com; 18 February 2022

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