



MAKING WAVES

A maritime news brief covering:

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

EDITED BY:

Cmde Debesh Lahiri

execdir.nmf@gmail.com

Ms Sreoshi Sinha

indopac4.nmf@gmail.com

CONTENTS

MARITIME SECURITY	4
US HELPS VIETNAM STRENGTHEN MARITIME SECURITY	4
UKRAINE DOING BETTER AT A TACTICAL LEVEL: NAVY CHIEF	4
QUAD, FRANCE MILITARY LEADERS DISCUSS UKRAINE, INDO-PACIFIC	4
WORLD COURT ORDERS COLOMBIA TO CEASE ACTIVITIES IN NICARAGUAN MARITIME ZONE.....	5
COAST GUARD DIPLOMACY AND MARITIME SECURITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA	5
MARITIME SECURITY THREATS IN AFRICA FALL UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT	5
US NAVY ESB COMPLETES GULF OF GUINEA MARITIME SECURITY PATROL	6
JOHNSON-MODI MEET: INDIA-UK FOCUS ON INDO-PACIFIC, FTA, DEFENCE, MARITIME SECURITY AND MORE	6
INDIA WELCOMES UK JOINING INDO-PACIFIC OCEANS INITIATIVE UNDER MARITIME SECURITY PILLAR, SAYS FS HARSH VARDHAN SHRINGLA	7
MULTILATERALISM IS BEST FOR PH’S MARITIME SECURITY – EXPERT	7
ARES SECURITY SOFTWARE SELECTED TO POWER MARITIME SECURITY ACCREDITATION.....	7
US-INDIA COLLABORATION HAS ‘VISIBLE IMPACT’ ON COVID-19, MARITIME SECURITY: JAISHANKAR.....	8
MARITIME FORCES.....	9
NATO MARITIME GROUPS TRAIN WITH FINLAND AND SWEDEN	9
SURGE DEPLOYMENT OF U.S. 2ND FLEET DESTROYERS SEEN AS ORFP, AGILE C2 SUCCESS	9
RUSSIA DEPLOYS TRAINED MILITARY DOLPHINS TO GUARD KEY BLACK SEA NAVAL BASES	10

WIPED-OUT IN 10 MINS – HOW AN ENTIRE US CARRIER BATTLE GROUP & 13,000 PERSONNEL WERE ‘SUNK TO BOTTOM’ DURING MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE.....	10
VISIBLE, CREDIBLE AND RESPONSIVE PRESENCE: RAJNATH ON NAVY IN INDIAN OCEAN.....	10
US DEFENSE SECRETARY WELCOMES INDIAN NAVY’S DECISION TO JOIN COMBINED MARITIME FORCES MARINE	11
HOW WOULD THE RUSSIAN NAVY FIGHT IN A FULL-SCALE CONFLICT?	11
SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY	12
SEYCHELLES SET TO AWARD \$107M CONTRACT FOR PORT VICTORIA'S EXPANSION	12
HOW PORTS CAN BE TRANSFORMED INTO ENERGY HUBS OF THE FUTURE	12
MAJOR SHIPPING FIRM SEES SIGNS OF SUPPLY CHAIN BOTTLENECKS EASING.....	13
ADANI PORTS TO TAKE OVER MARINE SERVICES PROVIDER OCEAN SPARKLE	13
KERALA PORTS DEPARTMENT PLANS BIG-TICKET PROJECTS TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE.....	13
MARINE ENVIRONMENT	15
DISEASE-CAUSING PARASITES MAY HITCH A RIDE ON PLASTICS AND SPREAD IN THE SEA	15
PARASITES CAN RIDE SEA-FARING MICROPLASTICS, POSSIBLY CONTAMINATING OCEAN LIFE AND US	15
RESEARCH DISCOVERS NEW BACTERIA THAT STICK TO PLASTIC IN THE DEEP SEA TO TRAVEL AROUND THE OCEAN	16
FISH ON DRUGS: COCKTAIL OF MEDICATIONS IS ‘CONTAMINATING OCEAN FOOD CHAIN’	16
BACTERIA THAT STICK TO PLASTIC IN THE DEEP SEA TO TRAVEL AROUND THE OCEAN	16
GEOPOLITICS.....	17
CHENNAI-VLADIVOSTOK MARITIME CORRIDOR: A MAJOR SHIFT IN INDIA’S GEO-ECONOMIC IMAGINATION WITH RUSSIA	17
BRI AND THE ‘INDO-PACIFIC’ STRATEGY: GEOPOLITICAL VS. GEOSTRATEGIC.....	17

**WAR IN UKRAINE THREATENS GEOPOLITICAL BALANCE
IN THE ARCTIC18**
**ICJ TO RULE ON COLOMBIA-NICARAGUA MARITIME
DISPUTE18**
**JAISHANKAR REFERS TO AFGHAN SITUATION EVEN AS
TRUSS PUSHES INDIA ON UKRAINE.....18**
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS19

MARITIME SECURITY

US HELPS VIETNAM STRENGTHEN MARITIME SECURITY

The United States has handed over a fourth training facility, as well as ships and a drone, to the Vietnamese Coast Guard. Robert Pope, the head of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's (DTRA) cooperative threat reduction programme, is a combat support agency in the United States. The handover ceremony was performed in the northern port city of Hai Phong, according to the Department of Defense for combating weapons of mass devastation.

Source: <https://e.vnexpress.net>; 28 April 2022

UKRAINE DOING BETTER AT A TACTICAL LEVEL: NAVY CHIEF

Superiority between weaponry will always exist, and the Ukrainians are doing better at a tactical level, Navy Chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar remarked on Wednesday at the Raisina Dialogue meeting in the context of the Ukraine war. Speaking at the occasion, Admiral John C. Aquilino, Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command, stated that China's words have "amplified" fears about the conflict, resulting in "grave anxiety for the future." "We are all concerned about what we saw in Ukraine. We watched as unprovoked action sparked a conflict.

Source: thehindu.com; 28 April 2022

QUAD, FRANCE MILITARY LEADERS DISCUSS UKRAINE, INDO-PACIFIC

On the margins of the Raisina Dialogue, a multilateral meeting conducted in New Delhi, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar visited Admiral John C Aquilino, Commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command. They talked about how to improve the existing collaboration between the two fleets. Earlier in the day, both admirals spoke on a panel at the Raisina Dialogue, alongside General Koji Yamazaki, Chief of Staff of the Joint Staff of Japan Self-Defense Forces, General Angus Campbell, Chief of the

Australian Defence Force, and Air Marshal Luc De Rancourt, deputy director general for international affairs and strategy, Ministry of Armed Forces, France.

Source: [indianexpress.com](https://www.indianexpress.com); 28 April 2022

WORLD COURT ORDERS COLOMBIA TO CEASE ACTIVITIES IN NICARAGUAN MARITIME ZONE

Last Monday, the International Court of Justice ordered that Colombia must "immediately halt" patrolling and attempting to regulate fishing in regions of the Caribbean that the ICJ declared to be inside Nicaragua's exclusive economic zone. The International Court of Justice concluded that Colombian operations in the Nicaraguan zone, such as granting others fishing rights and interfering with maritime research, infringed Nicaragua's sovereign rights. In 2012, the International Court of Justice issued a decision that restricted Colombia's marine area.

Source: [channel16.dryadglobal.com](https://www.channel16.dryadglobal.com); 28 April 2022

COAST GUARD DIPLOMACY AND MARITIME SECURITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

The United States' decision to station the United States Coast Guard in Southeast Asia provides a chance for the region to work more closely on maritime security, argues Aristyo Rizka Darmawan. The United States has put the Coast Guard at the centre of its Indo-Pacific maritime security plan in its recently revealed Indo-Pacific Strategy. According to the Strategy, the government will increase the presence and cooperation of the US Coast Guard in Southeast and South Asia, as well as the Pacific Islands, with an emphasis on advising, training, deployment, and capacity development. So, how would this aid Southeast Asian coastguards? And how should present regional coast guard structures alter in response to the US strategy?

Source: [policyforum.net/](https://www.policyforum.net/); 26 April 2022

MARITIME SECURITY THREATS IN AFRICA FALL UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

At the recent Maritime Security Conference in Simon's Town, Vice Admiral Mosiwa Samuel Hlongwane, Chief of the South African Navy, unpacked Africa as the last maritime security frontier, and explored future threats and opportunities, strategies

and business opportunities to enhance Africa's ocean security. According to the Institute for Security Studies, illegal arms and drug trafficking, piracy, armed robbery at sea, crude oil theft, maritime terrorism, human trafficking, waste dumping and environmental harm, unregulated fishing, and overfishing are just a few of the major threats to African maritime security that Africa must address urgently.

Source: defenceweb.co.za/; 25 April 2022

US NAVY ESB COMPLETES GULF OF GUINEA MARITIME SECURITY PATROL

Hershel "Woody" Williams performed maritime security operations in March and April alongside African partners from Sierra Leone, Cabo Verde, and Senegal, as well as personnel of the US Navy, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps. In March, a combined US-African marine team apprehended an illicit, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing vessel in Sierra Leone's economic exclusive zone. As part of the African Maritime Law Enforcement Partnership (AMLEP), a joint team led by Cabo Verde collaborated with the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre – Narcotics (MAOC-N), the International Police (INTERPOL), and Cabo Verde's national Maritime Operations Center (COSMAR) in April to conduct a compliant boarding of a Brazilian-flagged fishing vessel, resulting in the seizure of approximately 6,000 kilogrammes of suspected cocaine.

Source: navalnews.com/; 22 April 2022

JOHNSON-MODI MEET: INDIA-UK FOCUS ON INDO-PACIFIC, FTA, DEFENCE, MARITIME SECURITY AND MORE

Next-generation defence cooperation, the sea, air, space, and cyber domain were among the topics discussed between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Friday. Both presidents discussed the need of strengthening bilateral ties between the two countries. Prime Minister Modi declared at the end of the discussions in his joint speech to the media that the two nations had agreed to finalise the FTA by the end of this year.

Source: financialexpress.com/; 22 April 2022

INDIA WELCOMES UK JOINING INDO-PACIFIC OCEANS INITIATIVE UNDER MARITIME SECURITY PILLAR, SAYS FS HARSH VARDHAN SHRINGLA

PM Modi and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson held delegation-level talks at Hyderabad House in Delhi, after which Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla stated, 'India welcomes the UK's participation in the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative under the maritime security pillar and agreed to cooperate closely in this region towards their shared commitment to maintaining an open, free, and secure Indo-Pacific region.' Prime Minister Modi and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson attended the signing of agreements between India and the United Kingdom. Following the negotiations, the two leaders held a joint news conference.

Source: freepressjournal.in/; 22 April 2022

MULTILATERALISM IS BEST FOR PH'S MARITIME SECURITY — EXPERT

According to a security expert, the Philippine government should turn to multilateralism in order to build a strong defence posture and a safe civil marine sector. "We have acknowledged that China's intentions in the South China Sea are not benign," Chester Cabalza, president and founder of the International Development and Security Cooperation, stated in his paper, *Philippine Civil and Maritime Security: Transforming from Archipelagic to Maritime Power*, which was recently published by think tank Stratbase ADR Institute.

Source: newsinfo.inquirer.net; 20 April 2022

ARES SECURITY SOFTWARE SELECTED TO POWER MARITIME SECURITY ACCREDITATION

The National Maritime Law Enforcement Academy (NMLEA) has chosen ARES Security Corporation (ARES) as a preferred provider of software solutions to enable its newly established maritime security accreditation programme. ARES will make the AVERT software available to ports seeking certification in this capacity. The ARES AVERT software is a tried-and-true solution for optimising risk assessment, security design, terrorism countermeasures, and training and exercises for ports seeking accreditation.

Source: globenewswire.com/; 18 April 2022

US-INDIA COLLABORATION HAS 'VISIBLE IMPACT' ON COVID-19, MARITIME SECURITY: JAISHANKAR

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar stated on Monday (local time) that US-India cooperation has expanded well beyond its bilateral scope and has a noticeable influence on global concerns such as COVID-19, climate change, maritime security, and essential technology. "Our relationship has expanded well beyond his bilateral scope and now has a noticeable influence on global impact; it might be tackling the COVID-19 problem, taking climate action, maintaining marine security, or promoting key technologies." "What India and the United States do jointly will make a difference," he remarked.

Source: theprint.in/; 12 April 2022

MARITIME FORCES

NATO MARITIME GROUPS TRAIN WITH FINLAND AND SWEDEN

From the 25th to the 27th of April, SNMCMG1 made a stop in Turku, Finland, to train mine countermeasures with their Finnish counterparts. SNMCMG1 is led by Estonian Navy Commander Ott Laanemets and consists of the Latvian Navy's flagship LNVS Virsaitis, the Estonian Navy's ENS Sakala, and the Royal Netherlands Navy's NHLMS Schiedam. Following the tour, the delegation planned to take part in an exercise in the Archipelago Sea led by Finland's Coastal Fleet.

Source: nato.int; 29 April 2022

SURGE DEPLOYMENT OF U.S. 2ND FLEET DESTROYERS SEEN AS ORFP, AGILE C2 SUCCESS

The recent surge of several guided-missile destroyers from the United States East Coast to the North Atlantic Ocean, Baltic and North Seas, was a successful demonstration of the flexibility of geographic command relationships and the value of the Optimized Fleet Response Plan, according to the commander of the United States Navy's 2nd Fleet. Vice Adm. Daniel Dwyer, commander of the United States Second Fleet, spoke to reporters on April 29 about the surge deployment of destroyers under the operational control of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 22 to support European Command operations and "to reaffirm our commitment to our NATO allies and partners."

Source: seapowermagazine.org; 29 April 2022

RUSSIA DEPLOYS TRAINED MILITARY DOLPHINS TO GUARD KEY BLACK SEA NAVAL BASES

Russia has trained dolphins to defend the entrance to a vital Black Sea port as well as important Kremlin naval stations as part of its marine mammal programme, which teaches the aquatic creatures to be specialists in detecting hostile ships and sea mines. In sentinel-2 satellite data provided by the US Naval Institute (USNI) on April 27, Wednesday, militarised dolphin enclosures were discovered at the naval facility near Sevastopol port. The Russian Federation's naval forces transported at least two highly trained dolphin pens to the facility in February, around the time Moscow started an all-out invasion of Ukraine.

Source: republicworld.com; 28 April 2022

WIPED-OUT IN 10 MINS – HOW AN ENTIRE US CARRIER BATTLE GROUP & 13,000 PERSONNEL WERE ‘SUNK TO BOTTOM’ DURING MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE

The adversary, a third-world country with an even inferior, often irregular force, swarms the entire US armada – speed boats; missiles launched from speed boats; ground-based launchers; missiles launched from commercial ships; low-flying planes with no radio communication to avoid detection; low-tech measures such as lights and motorcycle messengers to avoid American Signals Intelligence (SIGINT); and other smaller kamikaze speed boats packed with explosives. The Aegis system, America's pride and joy in radar and early warning technology, has been overrun. It couldn't stop the 19 ships, including the carrier, several cruisers, and five amphibious ships from sinking – or the almost 13,000 military men on board - in under 10 minutes.

Source: eurasianimes.com; 24 April 2022

VISIBLE, CREDIBLE AND RESPONSIVE PRESENCE: RAJNATH ON NAVY IN INDIAN OCEAN

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised the Indian Navy on Thursday for its visible, credible, and responsive presence in the Indian Ocean Region, highlighting the Navy's

commitment to India's maritime security. On the final day of the Naval Commander's Conference on Thursday, Rajnath Singh addressed the senior leadership of the Indian Navy. Ajay Bhatt, Minister of State for Defence, was also there, as were the Defence Secretary and other top Defence Ministry officials.

Source: [business-standard.com](https://www.business-standard.com); 20 April 2022

US DEFENSE SECRETARY WELCOMES INDIAN NAVY'S DECISION TO JOIN COMBINED MARITIME FORCES MARINE

On April 12 (local time), US Defense Secretary Lloyd James Austin hailed the Indian Navy's decision to join the Combined Maritime Forces Marine. "We applaud India's decision to join the Combined Maritime Forces Marine. We have also agreed to do additional workouts together. India continues to buy critical US defence platforms, building crucial new links between our defence industrial base. "We're doing all of this because the US supports India as an Indo-Pacific defence industry leader and net supplier of security in the area," Austin said following the India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue.

Source: [dnaindia.com](https://www.dnaindia.com); 13 April 2022

HOW WOULD THE RUSSIAN NAVY FIGHT IN A FULL-SCALE CONFLICT?

How may Russian naval forces be used against the United States and its allies? This subject is becoming increasingly important as concerns about unintentional escalation in Ukraine grow. Understanding the answer necessitates a detailed reading of what Russian military thinkers write about warfare, as well as a study of maritime geography, fighting power, and intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and targeting (ISR-T). Due to constraints in all of these areas, Russian marine forces are expected to be more effective at operations that focus on attacking "important objects" on land rather than ship-to-ship combat at sea.

Source: [maritime-executive.com](https://www.maritime-executive.com); 11 April 2022

SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY

SEYCHELLES SET TO AWARD \$107M CONTRACT FOR PORT VICTORIA'S EXPANSION

The island nation of Seychelles is finally about to embark on a project to expand Victoria's port in order to transform it into a modern international multipurpose commercial port capable of accommodating new generations of vessels and allowing the country to capitalize on opportunities in the blue economy. The Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA) is in the final stages of selecting a contractor for the \$107 million Port Victoria repair and development project. SPA, the European Investment Bank, the French Development Agency, and the European Union are all contributing to the project's funding.

Source: maritime-executive.com; 29 April 2022

HOW PORTS CAN BE TRANSFORMED INTO ENERGY HUBS OF THE FUTURE

Today's economic and cultural landscape appears to be defined by a lack of trust and a proclivity for risk-aversion. Nonetheless, the reality of today's global concerns necessitates a strong strategy based on genuine, collective commitment. We need governments, companies, and people to believe that we can and will turn things around. Despite the fact that fossil energy has added significant economic value to society over the last century, its burning has also resulted in a significant disturbance of our atmosphere's natural CO₂ equilibrium.

Source: weforum.org; 29 April 2022

MAJOR SHIPPING FIRM SEES SIGNS OF SUPPLY CHAIN BOTTLENECKS EASING

According to one of the world's largest shipping corporations, port bottlenecks that have worsened supply-chain congestion due to the crisis in Ukraine and Chinese lockdowns may be improving. According to Cheng Cheng-mont, chairman of Taiwan-based Yang Ming Marine Transport Corp., the number of ships waiting outside of the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach has been reduced to fewer than 40 from more than 100 earlier this year.

Source: economictimes.indiatimes.com; 28 April 2022

ADANI PORTS TO TAKE OVER MARINE SERVICES PROVIDER OCEAN SPARKLE

Adani Harbour Services, a subsidiary of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), has inked a formal deal to buy Ocean Sparkle (OSL), an India-based third-party maritime services provider, for Rs15.3 billion (\$200 million). OSL, which was founded in 1995 by a group of maritime technocrats, offers towage, pilotage, and dredging services. The corporation owns 94 boats and has 13 vessels owned by third parties. According to Adani, the maritime services firm has an enterprise value of Rs17 billion (\$222 million) and free cash flow of Rs3 billion (\$39.2 million).

Source: ship-technology.com/; 25 April 2022

KERALA PORTS DEPARTMENT PLANS BIG-TICKET PROJECTS TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE

At the meeting, as many as 120 investors from countries such as the UAE, Qatar, and Malaysia, as well as NRI investors, were present, and the port department presented a host of projects that the state hopes to develop through public-private partnerships or revenue-sharing models. Shipbuilding and ship repair yards, dry docks, offshore wind energy projects, water sports, and tourist projects are among the projects under consideration. "The Kerala Maritime Development Corporation has infrastructural facilities near Neendakara, Kollam, that might be used to establish a maritime institute. The Kerala Maritime Academy is capable of providing skill-based training.

We intend to investigate coastal and marine resources in order to capitalize on the blue economy's potential, "Pillai stated.

Source: [newindianexpress.com/](https://www.newindianexpress.com/); 10 April 2022

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

DISEASE-CAUSING PARASITES MAY HITCH A RIDE ON PLASTICS AND SPREAD IN THE SEA

When most people think of plastic pollution, they see seagulls with junk in their tummies or marine turtles with plastic straws in their nostrils. Plastic pollution, on the other hand, is a problem that is unseen to the naked eye and has serious effects for both human and animal health. Microplastics, which are microscopic plastic particles found in many cosmetics, can arise when bigger items, like clothes or fishing nets, degrade in water. Microplastics are increasingly common in the water and have been identified in fish and shellfish, including those consumed by humans.

Source: [science.thewire.in/](https://www.thewire.in/); 30 April 2022

PARASITES CAN RIDE SEA-FARING MICROPLASTICS, POSSIBLY CONTAMINATING OCEAN LIFE AND US

Tiny parasites might be hitchhiking on microplastics floating in the water and then making their way to sea life. Researchers have demonstrated that three common pathogens – *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Giardia*, and *Cryptosporidium* – are more than capable of sticking to synthetic microbeads and microfibers under laboratory settings.

Source: [sciencealert.com](https://www.sciencealert.com/); 30 April 2022

RESEARCH DISCOVERS NEW BACTERIA THAT STICK TO PLASTIC IN THE DEEP SEA TO TRAVEL AROUND THE OCEAN

Newcastle University researchers discovered new species of plastic-loving bacteria that cling to plastic in the deep water and may be able to 'hitchhike' throughout the ocean. For the first time, the researchers demonstrated that these deep-sea, plastic-loving bacteria account for barely 1% of the overall bacterial community. The study discovered that these bacteria exclusively attach to plastic and not the non-plastic control of stone, as reported in the journal *Environmental Pollution*.

Source: [Sciencedaily.Com/](https://www.sciencedaily.com/); 29 April 2022

FISH ON DRUGS: COCKTAIL OF MEDICATIONS IS 'CONTAMINATING OCEAN FOOD CHAIN'

However, research suggests that bonefish numbers have plummeted in south Florida. According to academics' estimations, population has declined by more than half during the last four decades. Dr. Jennifer Rehage, a fish biologist and associate professor at Florida International University (FIU), has spoken with several fishermen about the fish's disappearance from Florida's seagrass flats: "They've stated to me, 'I've fished [bonefish] all my life and I can't locate them.'" I haven't seen a bonefish in five years, and it's terrifying me.'

Source: [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/); 29 April 2022

BACTERIA THAT STICK TO PLASTIC IN THE DEEP SEA TO TRAVEL AROUND THE OCEAN

Newcastle University researchers discovered new species of plastic-loving bacteria that cling to plastic in the deep sea and may be able to "hitchhike" throughout the ocean. For the first time, the researchers demonstrated that these deep-sea, plastic-loving bacteria account for barely 1% of the overall bacterial community. The study discovered that these bacteria exclusively attach to plastic and not the non-plastic control of stone, as reported in the journal *Environmental Pollution*.

Source: [labmanager.com](https://www.labmanager.com/); 29 April 2022

GEOPOLITICS

CHENNAI-VLADIVOSTOK MARITIME CORRIDOR: A MAJOR SHIFT IN INDIA'S GEO-ECONOMIC IMAGINATION WITH RUSSIA

Concerning the present conflict in Ukraine, India has unambiguously stated its support for a peaceful and diplomatic resolution to the problem. It has not responded to the crisis in the way that the United States expected. India has been a trailblazer in the delivery of humanitarian relief and medical supplies. Russia, on the other hand, displays a strong desire to increase economic links with India, recognising the latter's large absorption capacity and massive energy demand in order to revitalise its sanction-stressed economy. This is a chance for India to take advantage of this offer and diversify its energy reliance. The sanctions imposed by the Biden administration have had little effect on Russia's energy exports to Europe.

Source: [firstpost.com/](https://www.firstpost.com/); 24 April 2022

BRI AND THE 'INDO-PACIFIC' STRATEGY: GEOPOLITICAL VS. GEOSTRATEGIC

The new US Indo-Pacific Strategy paper, which was unveiled in February, contains two intriguing components, one overt and one covert. The text openly asserts the United States to be a "Indo-Pacific power." Its covert goal is to "tighten the noose on China." Without military force, China's almost decade-long "Belt and Road Initiative" cannot be viewed as a broad national strategy aimed at dominating Eurasia, Asia Pacific, or any other area. Nonetheless, the BRI has been mythologized as such a geostrategic game-changer that it has alarmed the United States and its Asian Pacific allies. At best, the BRI is a geopolitical overland and marine "chessboard" built on commerce and investment.

Source: [moderndiplomacy.eu/](https://www.moderndiplomacy.eu/); 21 April 2022

WAR IN UKRAINE THREATENS GEOPOLITICAL BALANCE IN THE ARCTIC

Nikolai Korchunov, Russia's top diplomat at the Arctic Council international forum, spoke out on April 17 regarding NATO's growing involvement in the Arctic since the start of the Ukrainian war. Long-planned military maneuvers in the region in March by NATO, Finland, and Sweden were "a source of anxiety" for Russia, he added. "Another large-scale military drill was recently staged in northern Norway by the Alliance." "In our opinion, this does not help regional security," he added.

Source: france24.com; 20 April 2022

ICJ TO RULE ON COLOMBIA- NICARAGUA MARITIME DISPUTE

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) will rule on a lawsuit involving Colombia and Nicaragua over disputed Caribbean seas on April 21. While the chance of an inter-state war between the two countries is remote, it is critical that this disagreement be addressed and that international law be both honored and impartial.

Source: geopoliticalmonitor.com/; 12 April 2022

JAISHANKAR REFERS TO AFGHAN SITUATION EVEN AS TRUSS PUSHES INDIA ON UKRAINE

Foreign Minister S Jaishankar said on Thursday that the events in Afghanistan last August that brought the Taliban to power had impacted geopolitics closer to home, even as his UK counterpart Liz Truss insisted on describing the war in Ukraine as the single biggest event in recent times that had harmed geopolitics. Jaishankar also objected to India being singled out because of Russian oil purchases. Without naming any specific countries, he stated, "it's like a campaign on this topic..." on India's import of Russian oil. He mentioned Europe buying a lot of electricity from Russia.

Source: [Economictimes](https://economictimes.com); 01 April 2022

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

‘Making Waves’ is a compilation of maritime news and news analyses drawn from national and international online sources. Drawn directly from original sources, minor editorial amendments are made by specialists on maritime affairs. It is intended for academic research, and not for commercial use. NMF expresses its gratitude to all sources of information, which are cited in this publication.

Cover Designed by Gayathri Rajesh, NMF Intern.