



# MAKING WAVES

*A maritime news brief covering:*

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

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# MARITIME SECURITY

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## ROYAL NAVY LED INTERNATIONAL FORCE CONTINUES TO DELIVER MARITIME SECURITY DURING FOCUSED OPERATIONS

The focused operation, which ran from 19th – 30th March 2023, known locally as “Operation Gundog Fury” was a highly productive period of maritime security operations which developed deeper interoperability with CMF partners. During the focused operation, a significant number of visits and boardings took place, conducted by the US Coast Guard and US Navy, ensuring the safe passage of vessels transiting through the Northern Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf. Valuable information was gathered from the vessels visited and information shared about threats and concerns in the region. US Coast Guard Cutter Clarence Sutphin Jr was also able to provide essential first aid to a civilian mariner whilst undertaking military tasks, fostering good relations with civilian sailors in the region.

Source: [Here](#) 14 April, 2023

## THE NIGERIAN MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AND SAFETY AGENCY (NIMASA), CROSS RIVER PARTNER ON MARITIME SECURITY

The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency has donated equipment to security agencies in Cross River State to aid the fight against criminality in the state. The equipment included handcuffs, a two-way radio system, tasers, flashlights, batons, body scanners, vehicle search mirrors and other personal protective equipment. This was done during a one-day sensitisation workshop with security agencies in the state. It was organised in collaboration with the Cross River State Emergency Management Agency.

Source: [Here](#) 13 April 2023

## BLACK SEA SECURITY UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT AS RUSSIA WAVERS ON GRAIN EXPORT DEAL

A two-day conference on Black Sea security was underway in the Romanian capital Bucharest, with the defence and foreign ministries of both Ukraine and Romania taking centre stage, as Russia questions the future of an UN-brokered shipping deal signed with Ukraine in 2022. This was the First Black Sea Security Conference that kicked off in Bucharest on 12<sup>th</sup> April, Wednesday against the backdrop of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has compromised maritime security in the Black Sea and Azov Sea regions. Moscow has indicated that the outlook for the UN-brokered Black Sea grain deal was not great as promises to remove obstacles to Russian agricultural and fertiliser exports had not been fulfilled.

Source: [Here](#) 12 April 2023

# **THE SCOURGE OF ILLEGAL UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING**

IUU Fishing is a global phenomenon, with much of it taking place in the developing world where fishing communities still follow traditional fishing practices and are largely ignorant of the legal implications related to fishing. At the recent Summit meeting of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, the informal grouping comprising Australia, India, Japan and the USA, concerns about maritime security in the Indo-Pacific were flagged with special reference to the proliferation of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing. IUU Fishing is regarded as the single most important non-traditional transnational maritime security challenge with the UN's Food and Agriculture organisation (FAO) estimating the economic loss caused by IUU fishing at about US \$ 23 Billion annually, which corresponds to about 20% of the global catch, but is also greatly detrimental to the maritime environment and sustenance of marine biosphere.

Source: [Here](#) 10 April, 2023

## **US COAST GUARD, US NAVY, MEXICAN NAVY, AND ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY PARTICIPATE IN NORTH AMERICAN MARITIME SECURITY INITIATIVE**

The US Coast Guard, along with the US Navy, Mexican Navy (SEMAR) and the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) participated in the North American Maritime Security Initiative (NAMSI) exercise off the coast of Manzanillo, Mexico March 27-31. First instituted in 2008, NAMSI is an interagency and tri-lateral forum among US, Mexican and Canadian maritime commands intended to develop and refine maritime operations, as well as synchronize training and operational interoperability amongst forces of the three nations. The three participating nations actively seek opportunities to operate together and strengthen their cohesive approach to enhance regional maritime security in North America.

Source: [Here](#) 06 April 2023

## **CALL BY CGC (W) ON FOC-IN-C (WEST)**

ADG KR Suresh, Coast Guard Commander (Western Seaboard) called on Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi, FOCINC HQWNC on 03 April 2023. The senior officers discussed various issues pertaining to maritime, coastal, and offshore security. FOCINC, also Commander-in-Chief for Coastal Defence, highlighted need for enduring synergy between Indian Navy and Coast Guard in strengthening coastal security and security of nation's offshore assets. Referring to shared nature of responsibilities between two services in ensuring maritime security, he also emphasised need to work continuously to strengthen

co-ordination, obviate duplication of efforts and utilise resources optimally while engaged in coastal security operations.

Source: [Here](#) 03 April 2023

## **THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (DA) RESOLVES TO PROTECT INDEPENDENCE OF THE SA RESERVE BANK**

South Africa's four coastal provinces trace a vast coastline which stretches over 3 000 kilometers. The South African ocean economy is under threat from criminality, piracy, and terrorism. Criminal syndicates specifically are exploiting the lack of maritime security and marine law-enforcement capacity which is having a very negative effect on the sustainability of our fisheries, tourism the conservation of endangered marine life and our national security.

Source: [Here](#) 02 April 2023

# **MARITIME FORCES**

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## **MEGA JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE 'KAVACH' CONCLUDES AT ANDAMAN & NICOBAR COMMAND**

Indian Armed Force's only tri-service command, Andaman and Nicobar Command recently concluded Exercise KAVACH, a large-scale joint military exercise. The exercise, with the participation of assets from all three services and the Indian Coast Guard, had begun in February this year. The large-scale joint exercise saw the involvement of the 'Shatrujeet Brigade' of the Army, Armed Forces Special Operations Division (AFSOD), Special Forces of the Navy and Amphibious troops of the Andaman and Nicobar Command. Exercise KAVACH was structured to enhance the joint warfare capabilities and the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of the Armed Forces. The training exercise also strengthened interoperability and operational synergy between the forces. The exercise, which lasted longer than a month, witnessed drills including amphibious landing, and air-landed operations. The troops also carried out heliborne operations and rapid insertion of Special Force operators from the mainland on a remote island of Andaman and Nicobar.

Source: [Here](#) 09 April, 2023

## **ROYAL NAVY LED INTERNATIONAL**

## **FORCE CONTINUES TO DELIVER MARITIME SECURITY DURING FOCUSED OPERATIONS**

Royal Navy led Combined Task Force 150 (CTF 150) has continued to deliver ongoing maritime security operations in the Northern Indian Ocean and Gulf of Oman during a period of focused operations. The focused operation, which ran from 19th – 30th March 2023, known locally as “Operation Gundog Fury” was a highly productive period of maritime security operations which developed deeper interoperability with CMF partners. During the focused operation, a significant number of visits and boardings took place, conducted by the US Coast Guard and US Navy, ensuring the safe passage of vessels transiting through the Northern Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf. Valuable information was gathered from the vessels visited and information shared about threats and concerns in the region.

**Source:** [Here](#) 14 April 2023

## **NAVAL FORCES FROM UK, FRANCE & US CONDUCT MCM EXERCISE IN PERSIAN GULF**

According to information published by the UK MoD on April 14, 2023, forces from France, the United Kingdom, and the United States completed a two-week exercise in the Arabian Gulf focused on countering mines. The training exercise, called Artemis Trident, included mine countermeasures ship USS Devastator (MCM 6) with the Sea fox ROV as well as landing ship dock RFA Cardigan Bay (L3009). Dive teams and explosive ordnance disposal technicians from the US Navy, UK Royal Navy, and French Navy also participated. The exercise included a professional exchange among Sailors from all navies aboard Cardigan Bay during the initial week. Participants shared best practices and tactics for detecting, classifying, and clearing naval mines effectively. The previous iteration of Artemis Trident took place in April 2021 when the Australian, French, UK, and US navies conducted mine hunting and clearance training in the Arabian Gulf.

**Source:** [Here](#) 14 April 2023

## **ITALY, JAPAN BOOSTS COOPERATION THROUGH JOINT NAVAL TRAINING**

The Bergamini frigate sailed alongside the Makinaki destroyer to increase coordination and aid in anti-piracy missions, carried out by the Combined Maritime Forces and the EU. These exercises are part of Italy’s broader Indo-Pacific strategy. On April 8, Italian and Japanese warships conducted joint exercises in the Gulf of Aden. The Italian Navy Frigate ITS Carlo Bergamini sailed alongside the Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force destroyer JS Makinami, transferring personnel, and conducting professional exchanges on topics related to vessel boardings and maritime security.

**Source:** [Here](#) 13 April 2023

## **GREEK-INDIAN AIR FORCES TO CONDUCT MASSIVE JOINT EXERCISE OVER MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

The Greek and Indian Air Forces will collaborate on a joint training exercise with Su-30, F-16, and Rafale fighter jets for ten days over Greece and the Mediterranean Sea. The Greek and Indian Air Forces will collaborate on a joint training exercise with Su-30, F-16, and Rafale fighter jets for ten days over Greece and the Mediterranean Sea. The exercise will be conducted as part of the annual Greek exercise Iniochos 23, led by the Greek Air Force and the Greek Air Tactics Center of the Ministry of Defense. The training was scheduled to begin on April 18th and would be concluded on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Source:** [Here](#) 12 April 2023

## **SHIPS SUPPORTING TWO NAVAL PARTNERSHIPS CONDUCT TRAINING IN GULF OF ADEN**

Ships from the navies of Japan and Italy sailed together and conducted combined training in the Gulf of Aden, April 8, while operating under two multinational maritime partnerships, Combined Maritime Forces and European Union Naval Forces. Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force destroyer JS Makinami (DD 112) and Italian Navy frigate ITS Carlo Bergamini (F 590) transferred personnel and conducted professional exchanges on topics related to vessel boardings and maritime security. “The combined training instilled a firm belief that our ships performing maritime operations can work together anytime and anywhere,” said Capt. Kenichi Fujii, commander of Japan’s 7th Escort Division that oversees Makinami.

**Source:** [Here](#) 12 April 2023

## **NAVAL FORCES OF KAZAKHSTAN MARK 30TH ANNIVERSARY**

The month of April marks an important date for the Naval Forces of Kazakhstan. They were established exactly thirty years ago as part of the Armed Forces to protect the state border and strategic facilities such as Aktau, Bautino and Kuryk seaports, artificial islands, pipelines, and deposits on the Kazakh sector of the Caspian Sea. Ten years later, the navy became an independent branch of the nation’s armed forces after a decree aimed at improving their structure. They are considered an elite force in Kazakhstan. “Only courageous and responsible soldiers who are devoted to their homeland can serve in the Naval Forces,” according to the Defence Ministry. Equipped with modern ships, weapons and devices, the forces ensure navigational and hydrographic support for the safety at sea.

**Source:** [Here](#) 10 April 2023

# SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY

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## NATIONAL MARITIME DAY 2023 OBSERVED ON 05TH APRIL

In India, the National Maritime Week begins on March 30 and culminates in the celebration of National Maritime Day on April 5. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the event, which aims to recognize India's significant contribution to the maritime industry and its history as a seafaring nation. National Maritime Day plays a crucial role in promoting awareness about India's maritime heritage and current role in supporting the country's economy. The day is an opportunity to express gratitude to the sailors who work tirelessly at sea, often spending months away from their families, to ensure the smooth functioning of the industry

Source: [Here](#) 05 April 2023

## KOLKATA PORT PROFIT JUMPS 152PC IN FY'23; TRIAL RUN TO MYANMAR'S SITTWE PORT IN APRIL

Kolkata port, now known as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, on Tuesday announced that it has handled 65.66 million tonnes of cargo in the 2022-23 financial year, up by 12.87 per cent. It clocked a net surplus (profit) of Rs 304 crore in FY'23, increasing by over 152 per cent from Rs 120 crore in the previous fiscal. The port also said a long-awaited trial run to Sittwe Port in Myanmar will be conducted in April with a cargo of 3,000 tonnes of cement. The initiative is part of Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport project. The objective of the project is to provide alternative connectivity to the North East region from Kolkata port through Sittwe Port up to Paletwa in Myanmar by waterway and Paletwa to Zorinpui by road in Mizoram.

Source: [Here](#) 04 April 2023

## ADANI PORTS COMPLETES ACQUISITION OF KARAIKKAL PORT

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) announced on Saturday that it has completed the acquisition of Karaikal Port. APSEZ is the port unit of billionaire Gautam Adani's conglomerate. Karaikal Port is an all-weather deep-water port on India's eastern coast. This development follows the approval of the group's resolution plan by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). Under the plan, the Adani arm will pay Rs 1,485 crore (\$181 million) to financial creditors. Adani Ports will spend further Rs 850 crore over time to upgrade infrastructure in order to reduce the logistics cost for the customers," Bloomberg reported quoting Karan Adani, the CEO of Adani Ports.

Source: [Here](#) 01 April 2023

# MARINE ENVIRONMENT

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## THE SCOURGE OF ILLEGAL UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

IUU Fishing is a global phenomenon, with much of it taking place in the developing world where fishing communities still follow traditional fishing practices, and are largely ignorant of the legal implications related to fishing. At the recent Summit meeting of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, the informal grouping comprising Australia, India, Japan and the USA, concerns about maritime security in the Indo-Pacific were flagged with special reference to the proliferation of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing. IUU Fishing is not only regarded as the single most important non-traditional transnational maritime security challenge with the UN's Food and Agriculture organisation (FAO) estimating the economic loss caused by IUU fishing at about US \$ 23 Billion annually, which corresponds to about 20% of the global catch, but is also greatly detrimental to the maritime environment and the sustenance of the marine bio-sphere.

Source: [Here](#) 10 April 2023

## WHAT IS THE GREAT BLUE WALL INITIATIVE?

Africa's Great Blue Wall Initiative aims to establish a network of seascapes that benefit both people and nature more sustainably. The initiative sets out to help countries reach the following targets: protect 30% of the ocean by 2030; achieve net gain of critical blue ecosystems – such as mangroves, corals, seagrasses – by 2030; develop a regenerative blue economy and create millions of jobs by supporting local communities through funding, training, and technical assistance.

Source: [Here](#) 06 April, 2023

## ZERO POLLUTION AND BIODIVERSITY: NATIONAL MARINE ENVIRONMENT MONITORING PROGRAMMES SHOW THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE BUT GAPS REMAIN

On 4<sup>th</sup> April, the European Commission published an assessment of the marine environment monitoring programmes reported by the Member States. The assessment, together with a detailed report by the Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), gives an overview of where, how often and what is monitored under the Marine Strategic Framework Directive (MSFD). It identifies gaps in data and areas monitored, and draws recommendations to improve the monitoring of European seas. Under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Member States are required to report the various steps of

their marine strategies to the European Commission, to assess the state of their seas and set targets. They must also set up and implement monitoring programmes and take measures to achieve or maintain “good environmental status.” 22 Member States have access to the sea. The analysis of the monitoring programmes shows that, despite efforts made since the previous assessment done six years ago, there are still information gaps which do not allow for precise assessing the distance to environmental targets or to the desired quality level of the marine environment by the Member States. Closing those gaps will allow for better assessment or the effectiveness of measures undertaken to tackle various environmental problems affecting the condition of coastal and marine waters, such as pollution, overfishing and degradation of biodiversity and habitats.

**Source:** [Here](#) 04 April 2023

## **BIRD AEROSYSTEMS CUTS RISK FOR NIGERIA’S MARITIME PROTECTION**

Following the delivery of its ASIO Maritime Task Force Solution to Nigeria, as part of the NIMASA Deep Blue Project, BIRD Aerosystems has completed a successful live demonstration of the ASIO aircraft capabilities, including real-time interception of vessels performing illegal activities at sea. IRD’s ASIO task Force has been successfully operating in Nigeria for more than two years, proving its effectiveness and unprecedented achievements in tackling piracy in the Nigerian EEZ and the entire maritime environment, allowing Nigeria to conclude 2022 with zero piracy events in its maritime territory.

**Source:** [Here](#) 04 April 2023

## **ANTARCTIC MELTWATER THREATENS COLLAPSE OF OCEAN’S OVERTURNING CIRCULATION**

Off the coast of Antarctica, trillions of tons of cold, salty water sink to great depths. As the water sinks, it drives the deepest flows of the “overturning” circulation. This circulation is a network of strong currents spanning the world’s oceans. The overturning circulation carries heat, carbon, oxygen, and nutrients around the globe. It also fundamentally influences climate, sea level and the productivity of marine ecosystems. But there are worrying signs these currents are slowing down. They may even collapse. If this happens, it would deprive the deep ocean of oxygen and limit the return of nutrients back to the sea surface. It would also potentially cause further melt back of ice as water near the ice shelves warms in response. There would be major global ramifications for ocean ecosystems, climate, and sea-level rise.

**Source:** [Here](#) 03 April 2023

# GEOPOLITICS

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## US AND PHILIPPINES LAUNCH LARGEST JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE IN DECADES

US defence secretary Lloyd Austin said a deal providing the Pentagon with access to bases in the Philippines would boost interoperability between the militaries, as the two countries kicked off their largest joint military exercise in 31 years. Austin and US secretary of state Antony Blinken met their counterparts from the Philippines in Washington on Tuesday for the first so-called 2+2 meeting between the allies in seven years and the first since Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos Jr took office last year.

Source: [Here](#) 12 April 2023

## INDIA, US SPECIAL FORCES CARRY OUT WARGAMES, FOCUS ON FIGHTER AIRCRAFT OPS AMID CHINA STANDOFF

The wargames are being carried out at Special Forces training centres near here, defence sources told ANI here. The operations are likely to have focused on supporting the fighter aircraft operations including designating targets in frontline areas by laser so that the precision-guided bombs can reach their designated target accurately, the sources said. The troops of both countries are likely to join up with the larger contingent of both sides including their fighter and transport aircraft at Kalaikunda code named Ex Cope India, the sources said.

Source: [Here](#) 09 April 2023

## INDIA–SRI LANKA ANNUAL BILATERAL MARITIME EXERCISE SLINEX-23 UNDERWAY

The tenth edition of India-Sri Lanka bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-23 is scheduled at Colombo from 3-8 April 2023. The exercise is being conducted in two phases—the Harbour Phase from 3-5 April 2023, followed by a Sea Phase from 6-8 April 2023. Indian Navy is being represented by INS Kiltan, an indigenous Kamorta class ASW corvette and INS Savitri, an Offshore Patrol Vessel. The Sri Lanka Navy is being represented by SLNS Gajabahu and SLNS Sagara. Maritime Patrol Aircraft, helicopters and Special Forces from both sides would also participate in the exercise. The previous edition of SLINEX was conducted off Visakhapatnam from 7-12 March 2022. The Indian Navy said aim of SLINEX is to enhance interoperability, improve mutual understanding and exchange best practices while jointly undertaking multi-faceted maritime operations.

Source: [Here](#) 06 April 2023

## **EGYPT, SUDAN PARTICIPATES IN A JOINT NAVAL EXERCISE**

Egyptian and Sudanese navies carried out the joint naval exercise SUD-EGY-T-1 on maritime security and confronting atypical threats. The Egyptian Armed Forces said in a statement that the exercise was carried out over several days at the naval base in Port Sudan, Sudan. The drill included organizing lectures and workshops to unify concepts among the participants on issues of maritime security, illegal immigration, countering terrorism and atypical threats. The exercise also came up with recommendations that enhance the joint efforts of both countries to confront illegal marine activities within the Red Sea.

**Source:** [Here](#) 04 April 2023

## **HOW CHABAHAR IS DEFINING THE GEOPOLITICS OF NORTHERN INDIAN OCEAN**

Three recent developments underscore the enduring geopolitical significance of the port of Chabahar. First, was the Chinese role in normalising the Iran-Saudi Arabia relations. Second development was the trilateral naval exercises between China, Russia, and Iran in the Gulf of Oman. Finally, Bharat decided to send wheat to Afghanistan via the Chabahar route. Each of these developments indicate the changing geopolitics of the Northern Indian Ocean. China brokered an agreement that will normalise ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran, two regional rivals who were engaged in intense politico-military-ideological competition. Days after the China-brokered deal, the naval forces of China, Russia and Iran have been engaged in maritime exercises in the Gulf of Oman. They carried out similar exercises in 2019 and in 2022. The signal is loud and clear: China is emerging as the next major player that will shape the geopolitics of West Asia and Northern Indian Ocean.

**Source:** [Here](#) 03 April, 2023