



# 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

## INDIA AND BANGLADESH WANTS TO STRATEGISE COOPERATION IN MARITIME SECURITY FOR WHICH DHAKA HOSTED THE SIXTH INDIAN OCEAN CONFERENCE

Bangladesh this year held the sixth Indian Ocean Conference in the month of May in response to China's expanding influence over the Indian Ocean, a vital maritime trade route. The two days conference was inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Friday May 12, 2023 and was attended by top leaders as well as ministers and senior officers from Indian Ocean Rim countries that included representatives from BIMSTEC, SAARC and others. The Indian Ocean Conference is a flagship consultative forum of the Indian Ocean countries to deliberate upon the prospects of regional cooperation for **Security and Growth for All in Region (SAGAR)**. More than 25 nations were represented at the conference this year, which had as its subject "Peace, Prosperity and Partnership for a Resilient Future," where participants discussed how to foster economic growth while preserving peace and stability in the region.

Source: [Here](#) 12 May, 2023

## ADM R HARI KUMAR CNS ADDRESSED 8TH INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY CONFERENCE (IMSC)

Adm R Hari Kumar CNS addressed 8th International Maritime Security Conference IMSC on 04 May 2023 at Singapore and delivered a talk on "Cooperation and Collaboration in the Future Maritime Environment". During the panel discussion, CNS shared his views on contemporary maritime security environment and avenues of enhancing bilateral collaboration between maritime nations of Indo Pacific region.

Source: [Here](#) 04 May 2023

## EU CALLED FOR IMPROVED MARITIME SECURITY IN NIGERIA

The European Union through the West and Central Africa Port Security has stressed the need for improved security measures in the country's maritime domain. EU said this in Lagos during the closing ceremony of the WeCAPs first mission training in Nigeria. This came weeks after the Federal Government, through the National Boundary Commission, got approval to extend its Exclusive Economic Zones from 200 to 350 nautical miles. Speaking at the event, the Team Leader of WeCAPs, Nico Vertogen, said the need to strengthen the security and safety of the West and Central African ports cannot be overemphasized.

Source: [Here](#) 04 May 2023

## **CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF OF THE INDIAN NAVY VISITS SINGAPORE**

The Chief of Naval Staff of the Indian Navy, Admiral (ADM) R. Hari Kumar called on Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng when he was in Singapore from 1 to 4 May 2023 for his introductory visit. On 1 May 2023, he received a brief on Singapore's history and visited the Kranji War Memorial. On 2 May 2023, he inspected the Guard of Honour at the Ministry of Defence, before calling on Chief of Defence Force Rear-Admiral (RADM) Aaron Beng and Chief of Navy RADM Sean Wat. Thereafter, he visited the Information Fusion Centre (IFC) at RSS *Singapura* - Changi Naval Base (CNB), where he was briefed on how the IFC contributes towards maritime security by cueing operational responses from regional navies through information sharing.

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

## **CONFIDENCE BUILDING THROUGH DIALOGUE AND PRACTICAL COOPERATION ESSENTIAL FOR MARITIME SECURITY: MR. HENG CHEE HOW**

Senior Minister of State for Defence Mr Heng Chee How delivered the keynote address at the opening dinner of the 8th International Maritime Security Conference (IMSC) at Gardens by the Bay on 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, 2023. Themed "Safe and Secure Seas – Emerging Stronger as a Maritime Community", this year's IMSC saw over 400 international participants from navies, coast guards, maritime industries, academia, and think-tanks from more than 45 countries. In his address, Mr Heng highlighted how countries have been building up maritime capabilities to address evolving maritime threats that undermine the safety and security of our vital waterways but emphasised the continued need to build trust and understanding through dialogues and practical cooperation at sea to achieve maritime security.

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

## **ASEAN INDIA MARITIME EXERCISE (AIME-2023)**

Indian Naval Ships *Satpura* and *Delhi* with RAdm Gurcharan Singh, the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet embarked onboard arrived at Singapore on 01 May 2023 to participate in the Inaugural ASEAN India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2023) that was scheduled from 02 to 08 May 2023. The Harbour Phase of the exercise was held at Changi Naval Base from 02 to 04 May 2023 and the Sea Phase was conducted from 07 to 08 May 2023 in the South China Sea. AIME 2023 provided an opportunity for Indian Navy and ASEAN navies to work together closely and conduct seamless operations in the maritime domain.

**Source:** [Here](#) 01 May 2023

# MARITIME FORCES

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## US COASTGUARD SEIZES DRUGS WORTH MORE THAN \$30M IN GULF OF OMAN

On May 8, 2023, the US Coastguard apprehended a fishing boat in the Gulf of Oman with heroin and methamphetamine worth more than \$30 million. According to the navy's Combined Task Force 150, the crew of the Glen Harris discovered 580 kg of methamphetamine and 35 kg of heroin aboard the fishing boat while operating in international seas. The task team has so far this year confiscated illicit drugs with a street value of \$200 million, it claimed. Analysts said that the Houthi militia fighting in Yemen is partially funded by this heroin trafficking.

**Source:** [Here](#) 08 May 2023

## THERE IS INCREASED RUSSIAN NAVAL ACTIVITY IN NORWAY'S MARITIME AREAS

"Several Russian vessels are currently operating in the North Sea, and it is the highest activity since before the pandemic. The Armed Forces emphasize that the Russian vessels are sailing in international waters and that the activity is legitimate and in line with international agreements," wrote the Norwegian Joint Headquarters (NJHQ) in a press release on 4 May 2023. More specifically, it referred to the Russian Northern Fleet's large destroyer Vice Admiral Kulakov and the tanker Kama. According to Kama's last registered route on Marine Traffic, it sailed off the coast of Western Norway. The destroyer was also not visible on the map service that located ships with their automatic identification system (AIS) turned on. NJHQ pointed towards how Russian maritime forces were active in connection with Victory Day on May 9th, which marked the victory over Nazi Germany in World War II. It was anticipated that the mentioned vessels were on their way from the Kola Peninsula to St. Petersburg to participate in the marking of the day.

**Source:** [Here](#) 05 May 2023

## SAGAR KAVACH EXERCISE HELD IN LAKSHADWEEP

A two-day comprehensive Coastal Security Exercise Sagar Kavach 01/23 involving all maritime security agencies was conducted in the UT of Lakshadweep from 03-04 May 2023. The exercise was executed under the aegis of the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Southern Naval Command, FOCINC SNC who also exercises the authority of Commander-in-Chief, Coastal Defence (South). About 1000 personnel from all law enforcement agencies including UT of Lakshadweep Administration, Coastal Police, Indian Reserve Battalion, and Dept of Port were engaged in the exercise. The exercise aimed to assess the efficacy and robustness of the coastal security mechanism of the islands while dealing with an asymmetric threat emanating from the sea. INS Jamuna, INS Kalpeni along with assets of the Indian Coast Guard, ICG and other coastal security agencies were deployed to maintain surveillance in the area. Enhanced security measures were instituted in the islands and extensive aerial surveillance was undertaken by Dornier aircraft operating

from Kochi. The exercise was closely monitored at Joint Operations Centre, Kochi which is the nodal hub for all coastal security operations and exercises around operations. The exercise witnessed close coordination and synergy among all coastal security stakeholders. Lessons learnt from the exercise would be incorporated to strengthen the coastal security architecture.

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

# SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY

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## INDIAN PORTS ADOPTED ‘GREEN PORT’ GUIDELINES

To meet the larger vision of achieving Zero Carbon Emission Goal, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways has launched ‘Harit Sagar’ the Green Port Guidelines. The guidelines were launched by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways and AYUSH in the august presence of Shri Shripad Y. Naik, Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Tourism and other senior officials of the Ministry today in New Delhi. Harit Sagar Guidelines - 2023 envisages ecosystem dynamics in port development, operation and maintenance while aligning with ‘Working with Nature’ concept and minimizing impact on biotic components of harbour ecosystem. It lays emphasis on use of Clean / Green energy in Port operation, developing Port capabilities for storage, handling and bunkering Greener Fuels viz. Green Hydrogen, Green Ammonia, Green Methanol / Ethanol etc.

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

## GLOBAL ‘BLUE DEAL’ URGENTLY NEEDED TO PROTECT AND INVEST IN OUR OCEAN

The ocean holds vast opportunities for developing countries to build more innovative and resilient economies. But climate change, pollution and overfishing threaten those opportunities and the livelihoods of about 3 billion people who rely on the ocean for food and income. UNCTAD’s Trade and Environment Review 2023, published on 8 May, analyses the world’s ocean economy – worth an estimated \$3-6 trillion – and assesses how human activity and multiple global crises have significantly affected different sectors, including fishing, seafood, shipping, and coastal tourism. The report, presented at the 3rd UN Trade Forum, calls for a global trade, investment, and innovation “Blue Deal” to sustainably use our ocean, home to 80% of all life. It builds on the recommendations from the 4th UN Oceans Forum and the 2nd UN Ocean Conference held in 2022. “The ocean economy offers many opportunities. We must strike the right balance between benefitting from the ocean and protecting its resources,” UNCTAD Deputy Secretary-General Pedro Manuel Moreno said.

**Source:** [Here](#) 08 May 2023

## **KOLKATA PORT FLAGS OFF FIRST TRIAL MOVEMENT OF CARGO SHIP TO MYANMAR**

Kolkata port flags off first trial movement of cargo ship to Myanmar. A cargo ship was flagged off on Thursday from a Kolkata port for a trial run to a facility at Sittwe in Myanmar which is funded by India as part of the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport project. Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shantanu Thakur flagged off the ship. 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. The Port has been built under grant assistance from the Government of India as part of the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP).

Source: [Here](#) 04 May 2023

## **GRI ATTEMPTS TO YIELD PARTIAL RECOVERY SUCCESS FOR INDIA-US CARRIERS**

Container carriers working for the India-US trades are seeing some upward pricing momentum after they began recasting their contract quotes with a \$500 per TEU general rate increase (GRI) from the end of March, this year. Average short-term contract prices for loads from West India (Nhava Sheva/Mundra) to the US East and West coasts have moved up by about \$300 per TEU and \$400 per FEU over the past month, according to market research by the Journal of Commerce. Rates are now hovering at \$1,750/TEU and \$2,100/FEU for US East Coast cargo and \$1,800 and \$2,200, respectively, for US West Coast shipments, the analysis shows.

Source: [Here](#) 02 May 2023

## **A CHINESE STATE-OWNED COMPANY TO BUILD KEY PORT COMPLEX IN SRI LANKA**

A Chinese state-owned firm said on 01 May 2023 that it had plans to take its investment in Sri Lanka to \$2 billion by building a major logistics hub. Sri Lanka was already looking to kickstart its economic recovery after defaulting on its foreign debt last year, when shortages of essentials such as food, fuel and medicines sparked widespread protests. The investment by the China Merchants Group in a large logistics complex at Colombo Port, with an estimate construction cost of \$392 million, would be the first major foreign investment in Sri Lanka since the default. The logistics centre project will take CMG's "accumulated investment in Sri Lanka to... over \$2 billion, making it the largest foreign investment enterprise in the island", the company claimed.

Source: [Here](#) 02 May 2023



# MARINE ENVIRONMENT

## SUPER SALTY WATER LEAKING FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN MAY HAVE HELPED END THE LAST ICE AGE

Extremely salty water flooding into the Atlantic Ocean from the Indian Ocean may have contributed to the end of the last ice age 15,000 years ago, researchers have found. Propelled by a change in winds and currents towards the end of the Pleistocene epoch (2.6 million to 11,700 years ago), the salty stream snaked around the tip of Africa in an inflow of water known as the Agulhas Leakage, which merges with the Gulf Stream in the North Atlantic. Once there, the huge salt delivery likely triggered changes in ocean circulation systems that help to regulate the climate, according to the researchers. Scientists already knew that the end of the last ice age saw significant changes in ocean currents and salinity, but until now they were unsure how this occurred. "We discovered more than ten years ago that the end of the ice age saw a massive pulse in Atlantic currents, which helped usher in warmer interglacial conditions," Steve Barker, a professor of earth science at Cardiff University in Wales who participated in the research, said in a statement.

Source: [Here](#) 12 May 2023

## PLASTIC DEBRIS DROPPED INTO THE OCEAN CAN TRAVEL HUNDREDS OF MILES WHILE SINKING

Floating islands of garbage composed of discarded or drifting plastic debris on the ocean's surface are a common and visible reminder of the world's plastic pollution problem. However, researchers believe that a significant portion of plastic waste might be sinking deeper into the ocean, making it harder to spot and understand the full scope of the issue. A study published in American Chemical Society's *Environmental Science & Technology* provided an insight into the behaviour of lightweight plastic particles in the Mediterranean Sea, suggesting that they can drift farther underwater than previously thought.

Source: [Here](#) 09 May 2023

## OCEAN WARMING IS AT A RECORD HIGH – WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

According to the Guardian, sea surface temperatures have reached a record high, causing marine heatwaves to spread around the world. Data gathered by the US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) support this. Early in April, NOAA scientists measured surface water temperatures of 21.1 °C, a tenth higher than the maximum temperature ever noted, which was 21 °C in 2016. According to the Guardian, this sudden increase in ocean temperature is "an anomaly that scientists have yet to explain."

Source: [Here](#) 04 May 2023



## **JOINT VENTURE ANNOUNCED TO BUILD 'UNDERWATER SPACE STATION OF THE OCEAN'**

The first "underwater space station of the ocean" to study marine life and climate change is closer to reality now that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Proteus Ocean Group have agreed to develop and build the underwater habitat. PROTEUS will be built off the Caribbean island of Curaçao, NOAA and Proteus Ocean Group announced on May 3, 2023, after signing a formal agreement in the month of April.

Source: [Here](#) 04 May 2023

## **NEW TECHNIQUE CAN MAP OCEAN PLASTICS FROM SPACE**

Despite their name, microplastics are a gigantic player in pollution worldwide. These fibres, beads, and fragments (defined as being less than five millimetres in size) have infiltrated nearly every environment, especially oceans. To track the problem, researchers are now homing in on these seaborne flecks from more than 300 miles away—in space. Recent research in *Scientific Reports* details how microplastics appear to flow alongside floating patches of oily and soapy substances called surfactants, which create distinct footprints in ocean currents. Those footprints are detectable by NASA's Cyclone Global Navigation Satellite System (CYGNSS), a network of eight hurricane-monitoring satellites, and tracking them could help map microplastics' spread, aiding clean-up and regulation efforts.

Source: [Here](#) 01 May 2023

# **GEOPOLITICS**

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## **INDIA, UAE CONNECTION DEEPLY ROOTED IN SHARED CULTURAL HERITAGE, MARITIME TRADE**

The ties between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are firmly anchored in their common cultural heritage and marine trade for a long time. These linkages have radically altered the geopolitics of the area and have proven a testament to the resilience of international collaboration and diplomacy. In the last 50 years, India has also learned that its relationship with the UAE goes beyond just trade and business. There are several other factors that naturally bind the two nations together, such as their mutual respect for the principles of national sovereignty, the social security of Indian expatriates in the Arab Gulf region, and their relationship.

Source: [Here](#) 12 May 2023

## **INDIA'S NAVAL EXERCISE IN SOUTH CHINA SEA SENDS CHINA INTO A FRENZY; PLA SENDS VESSELS TO SPY, INTIMIDATE**

China has reportedly sent multiple militia vessels towards the South China Sea (SCS) where a joint naval exercise between Indian and ASEAN naval ships was taking place. This was the inaugural edition of the joint exercise — ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME) 2023 which started from 2 May and continued till 8 May.

**Source:** [Here](#) 08 May 2023

## **ROYAL THAI NAVY AND US NAVY COMMENCE CARAT THAILAND 2023**

The Royal Thai Navy (RTN) and US Navy began exercise Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Thailand 2023 in Sattahip, May 8, 2023. CARAT Thailand is a bilateral maritime exercise taking place ashore in Sattahip and at sea in the Gulf of Thailand. The Independence-variant littoral combat ship USS Mobile (LCS 26) with embarked MH-60R Seahawk will meet the RTN frigates HTMS Naresuan (FFG 421), HTMS Bangpakong (FFG 456), and HTMS Kraburi (FFG 457) at sea. “This exercise remains a model for US-Thai cooperation that has evolved in complexity and allowed our navies to refine operations and tactics in response to emerging challenges,” said Rear Adm. Derek Trinque, commander, Task Force (CTF) 76/3 and Task Group (CTG) CARAT. “Thailand is America’s oldest treaty ally in Southeast Asia and CARAT is a demonstration of the US’s unwavering commitment to Thailand and like-minded allies and partners, in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific that preserves regional peace, prosperity and stability.”

**Source:** [Here](#) 08 May 2023

## **AMERICAN-LED MARITIME LIVE-FIRE EXERCISE IN THE WORKS OFF ANDØYA, NORTHERN NORWAY**

The allied naval exercise Formidable Shield 2023 took place in the seas around Andøya, Northern Norway, from May 8 to May 12. The Norwegian Armed Forces have announced this in a news statement. Every two years, Formidable Shield is organised and is overseen by the US Sixth Fleet in coordination with NATO command and control systems. The exercise's goal is to improve the capabilities of the allies to work together on an integrated air and missile defence doctrine. In a nutshell, it involves defending the alliance against a variety of missiles. In 2021, Norway served as the exercise's first host nation.

**Source:** [Here](#) 05 May 2023

## **1ST RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION, INDONESIAN KORPS MARINIR INTEGRATE FOR ANNUAL BILATERAL TRAINING EXERCISE**

US Marines with 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, and members of the 2nd Intai Amfibi Battalion, Indonesian Korps Marinir, participated in an annual

reconnaissance exercise at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, April 8-20, 2023. Together, reconnaissance Marines and members of Indonesia's KORMAR spent 12 days training and rehearsing across Camp Pendleton for a culminating event April 18-19. The training included back-to-back days of flying the RQ-20 Puma, live-fire ranges, urban combat training, swim qualification, operational planning, and combat rubber raiding craft operations. On the first day of the exercise, the Marines began familiarizing the KORMAR with the RQ-20 Puma, which is a small, unmanned and hand-launched aircraft system. Here, the KORMAR learned about the drone's extensive capabilities, including how to control the drone, operate the camera, and practiced hand launching.

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