



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

INDIAN NAVAL SHIP KHANJAR TO VISIT TRINCOMALEE TO STRENGTHEN MARITIME SECURITY IN THE REGION

The visit of the Indian Naval Ship Khanjar to Trincomalee holds great significance as it showcases the potential to enhance the capabilities of the Sri Lanka Navy in efficiently addressing shared challenges to maritime security in the region. The Khanjar, an indigenously built Missile Corvette of the Khukri-class, aims to bolster, and strengthen maritime security cooperation between India and Sri Lanka, paving the way for greater collaboration in safeguarding our common interests in the seas. This strategic partnership is expected to act as a deterrent against illicit activities such as piracy, smuggling, and illegal fishing, which pose challenges to the safety and prosperity of the entire region. As the visit progresses, it is expected that discussions between naval authorities from India and Sri Lanka will explore new avenues for collaboration, including information sharing, technology transfers, and joint patrols, all aimed at fostering a secure and stable maritime environment.

Source: [Here](#) 29 July, 2023

EU READY TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION WITH THE PHILIPPINES ON MARITIME SECURITY – EC PRESIDENT

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen expressed the European Union's unwavering commitment to bolstering cooperation with the Philippines in the realm of maritime security. Following a meeting with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in Manila, both leaders reaffirmed their dedication to strengthening ties through joint efforts. President von der Leyen articulated their readiness to enhance collaboration by engaging in critical activities such as information sharing, conducting comprehensive threat assessments, and enhancing the capabilities of the Philippine coast guard. By pooling resources and expertise, the EU aims to contribute significantly to the security and stability of the maritime region. The significance of the Philippines in the geopolitical rivalry between the United States and China was also acknowledged. Given its strategic location, encompassing part of the South China Sea—an area rich in resources and subject to competing territorial claims—the Philippines plays a pivotal role in regional dynamics. The joint statement further emphasized the mutual interest in exploring opportunities for a free trade agreement, demonstrating the EU's commitment to fostering economic growth and cooperation between the two parties. Additionally, discussions regarding the Southeast Asian country's energy transition underscore the importance of sustainable development and renewable energy cooperation in addressing shared challenges such as climate change. The EU-Philippines partnership in maritime security, trade, and sustainable energy stands as a testament to the shared commitment to promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. By engaging in comprehensive cooperation, both

sides can work towards safeguarding vital sea routes, encouraging economic growth, and ensuring a sustainable and secure future for the region.

Source: [Here](#) 31 July 2023

MARITIME SECURITY IN THE BLACK SEA IS AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM

The West, with or without the support of the US Navy, must urgently re-engage in the Black Sea region to address critical challenges. One pressing issue is the need to break the maritime blockade that is hindering essential humanitarian shipping, which is crucial in combating the looming global famine. Upholding universal Freedom of Navigation is equally imperative to safeguard international trade and maritime security. The withdrawal of Moscow from the Black Sea Grain Initiative has raised alarm within NATO, signaling potential escalation risks in the region. Concerns are mounting as reports suggest Russia has deployed additional sea mines near Ukrainian ports, further exacerbating the already precarious situation. The Black Sea Fleet's deployment to intercept civilian shipping destined for Ukraine underscores the severity of the crisis. Relentless attacks on Ukrainian ports, through massive missile and UAV strikes, have inflicted extensive damage on more than 26 port infrastructure facilities and five civilian vessels within a brief 10-day period.

Addressing these challenges necessitates a concerted effort from Western nations to bolster their presence in the Black Sea region. By doing so, they can help ease the maritime blockade, facilitate humanitarian aid, and ensure the unimpeded flow of essential goods and resources. Moreover, the West's re-engagement is crucial in deterring further aggressive actions from Russia and safeguarding regional stability. Upholding Freedom of Navigation is not only a matter of principle but also a practical imperative to prevent further escalation and protect global trade.

In this critical situation, the international community must come together to find diplomatic solutions and promote dialogue to de-escalate tensions. Swift and decisive action is required to address the humanitarian crisis, protect maritime interests, and preserve peace and security in the Black Sea region. Failure to act promptly could have severe consequences not only for the nations directly involved but also for the broader international community.

Source: [Here](#) 29 July 2023

ATMIS AND EUCAP SOMALIA TRAIN COAST GUARD OFFICERS ON MARITIME SECURITY

A contingent of Somali Navy and Coast Guard (SNCG) officers has successfully concluded a specialized two-week training program focused on maritime security, representing a crucial step in safeguarding Somalia's extensive coastline. The training initiative, conducted jointly by the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) and the European Union Capacity Building Mission in Somalia (EUCAP Somalia), aimed to equip the 15 Coast Guard officers with essential skills and knowledge. In alignment with the Somali Transition Plan (STP) and the ATMIS mandate, which emphasizes mentorship and capacity building of the Federal Government of Somalia institutions, this second training session stands as a significant milestone. Lt. Gen. Sam Okiding, ATMIS Force Commander, reiterated the training's relevance, emphasizing the importance of enhancing Somalia's capabilities across all domains. The training took place in the capital city of Mogadishu and held the primary objective of preparing Somali Security Forces (SSF) to undertake maritime security responsibilities as ATMIS forces plan to exit by the

end of 2024. Given Somalia's extensive coastline stretching over 3,333 km—the longest in Africa—the security and stability of the nation carry immense regional significance for the Horn of Africa. The successful completion of the training program by the first group of 15 soldiers, which occurred last month, encompassed both theoretical knowledge and practical exercises. This comprehensive approach ensures that the Somali Navy and Coast Guard officers are well-prepared to handle maritime security challenges efficiently and effectively. By building the capacity of the SSF, Somalia takes a proactive stance in securing its maritime borders and protecting its territorial waters, contributing to overall regional stability. The partnership between ATMIS and EUCAP Somalia underscores the international community's commitment to supporting Somalia's efforts in strengthening its security forces and promoting peace and prosperity in the region.

Source: [Here](#) 28 July 2023

A DELEGATION OF SEVEN OFFICERS FROM FRIENDLY FOREIGN COUNTRIES UNDERGOING MARITIME SECURITY COURSE (MSC-07)

A delegation comprising seven officers from friendly foreign countries, who were undergoing the Maritime Security Course (MSC-07), along with eight officers from the Indian Army and Indian Air Force participating in NHCC-36 at NWC, Goa, visited SNC (Southern Naval Command), Kochi from 17th to 21st July 2023 as part of their orientation phase. The primary objective of this visit was to provide the visiting officers with valuable insights into various aspects of modern training, operational capabilities, technical infrastructure, and maintenance capabilities of the Indian Navy. During their stay, they were exposed to a wide spectrum of qualitative training, encompassing cognitive skills, technical expertise, and cutting-edge technology, showcasing the Indian Navy's transformational journey as a preferred training destination for friendly foreign countries. The visiting officers had the opportunity to witness firsthand the state-of-the-art training infrastructure, facilities, and demonstrations on simulators at professional training schools and establishments in Kochi. A special visit to INS Garuda enabled them to grasp the operational and training roles of the Air Squadrons. Furthermore, the delegation gained valuable insights into the critical role played by the Naval Ship Repair Yard (NSRY) in ensuring the operational availability of naval assets through a visit to various repair and maintenance facilities. In an interactive session with Vice Admiral MA Hampiholi, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOCINC) of SNC, matters related to Tri-service cooperation and foreign training were discussed, enhancing mutual understanding, and fostering closer ties.

The delegation also had the privilege of engaging with Rear Admiral Susheel Menon, Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST), where they were briefed on the organization and functions of Headquarters Sea Training, as well as the various activities undertaken by the Workup teams. They were enlightened about the role of HQST as a Regional Centre of Excellence. An unforgettable highlight of the visit was the opportunity to tour the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and the sail training ship INS Sudarshini, where the visiting officers had the chance to interact with the ship's crew and gain unique insights into naval operations.

The visit of the foreign officers to SNC, Kochi, served as a testament to the Indian Navy's commitment to fostering international cooperation, sharing expertise, and nurturing strong bonds with friendly nations. Such engagements are instrumental in promoting regional security, stability, and camaraderie among naval forces worldwide.

Source: [Here](#) 23 July 2023

MARITIME FORCES

US NAVAL FORCES COMPLETE ANNUAL MARITIME EXERCISE WITH LEBANON

Naval forces from Lebanon, the United States, and regional partners successfully completed a comprehensive nine-day maritime exercise on July 18. Exercise Resolute Union 2023, jointly conducted by U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), brought together naval counterparts from Egypt, France, Iraq, Jordan, and the United Kingdom. This year's edition of the annual exercise focused on enhancing maritime awareness, conducting strategic operations, refining command and control mechanisms, bolstering force protection, and fortifying infrastructure defence capabilities. With more than 100 international personnel participating, including nearly 20 service members from the United States, the exercise fostered robust cooperation and coordination among the participating nations.

The NAVCENT contingent, comprising experts in explosive ordnance disposal, civil affairs, maritime security, maritime law, joint planning, and amphibious operations, contributed their specialized knowledge to enrich the training's effectiveness. Exercise Resolute Union 2023 underscores the commitment of all participating nations to strengthen regional security, promote stability, and improve interoperability in maritime operations. Through joint training initiatives like this, navies from different countries can build vital relationships, share best practices, and enhance their collective capabilities in confronting shared challenges.

By exchanging expertise and working together, the naval forces involved in this exercise are better equipped to safeguard their respective maritime interests, protect international waters, and respond effectively to emergent threats. Such collaborations bolster regional security and contribute to the overall stability and prosperity of the involved nations and the broader region. Naval forces from Lebanon, the United States, and regional partners successfully completed a comprehensive nine-day maritime exercise on July 18. Exercise Resolute Union 2023, jointly conducted by U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), brought together naval counterparts from Egypt, France, Iraq, Jordan, and the United Kingdom. This year's edition of the annual exercise focused on enhancing maritime awareness, conducting strategic operations, refining command, and control mechanisms, bolstering force protection, and fortifying infrastructure defence capabilities. With more than 100 international personnel participating, including nearly 20 service members from the United States, the exercise fostered robust cooperation and coordination among the participating nations. The NAVCENT contingent, comprising experts in explosive ordnance disposal, civil affairs, maritime security, maritime law, joint planning, and amphibious operations, contributed their specialized knowledge to enrich the training's effectiveness.

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Source: [Here](#) 18 July 2023

NAVAL FORCES FROM KUWAIT, UK COMPLETE JOINT DRILLS

Naval forces from Kuwait have successfully concluded three weeks of joint drills with the UK's Royal Marines, as reported by the Kuwait News Agency. During the comprehensive training exercises, both militaries engaged in a range of critical operations aimed at enhancing their capabilities and readiness. The drills covered a diverse set of scenarios, including anti-terrorism training to counter potential threats, combating maritime piracy to safeguard international waters, and ship inspection operations to ensure maritime security. In addition to the tactical aspects of the training, emphasis was placed on enhancing the skills of the personnel involved. Participants received training in first aid and medical evaluations, ensuring they are well-prepared to handle any medical emergencies that may arise during operational engagements. Furthermore, combat training was conducted to sharpen their combat skills and readiness to face any challenges effectively.

The joint drills between the Kuwaiti naval forces and the UK's Royal Marines underscore the commitment of both nations to bolstering regional security and cooperation. Such military cooperation and training initiatives are essential for fostering strong partnerships and promoting collective security in the maritime domain. By engaging in these exercises, both Kuwait and the UK demonstrate their dedication to maintaining a robust defense posture, safeguarding their respective territories, and contributing to broader efforts to ensure stability and peace in the region. These joint training endeavors further strengthen the bonds between the two nations and pave the way for future collaborations to address shared security challenges effectively.

Source: [Here](#) 17 July 2023

NEW MULTINATIONAL TASK FORCE CONDUCTS MARITIME TRAINING IN THE SEYCHELLES

Bahrain – Combined Maritime Forces, the world's largest multinational naval partnership, completed a two-week training mission in the Indian Ocean Island nation of the Seychelles on July 14, to enhance operational readiness for 160 participants from five nations. CMF's new maritime security training task force, Combined Task Force 154, facilitated Operation Southern Readiness in partnership with the Seychelles Defence Force. More than 50 CMF facilitators from nine nations led training courses on maritime awareness, law, interdiction, search and rescue, unmanned operations, and leadership development. "Operation Southern Readiness has been a fantastic opportunity to learn with our partners in the Seychelles Defence Force," said Commodore Philip Dennis, commander of United Kingdom Maritime Component Command and deputy commander for CMF. "We are stronger when we train, operate and work together."

Source: [Here](#) 16 July 2023

SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY

A RECORD \$90 BILLION IN SHIP ORDERS LOOM OVER BOOM-BUST INDUSTRY

The world's largest shipping companies are using their substantial profits from the pandemic period to place an extraordinary number of orders for new vessels. This unprecedented surge in investments is transforming an industry notorious for its volatile cycles of prosperity and downturn, leaving it more exposed to risks during the current economic slowdown.

The global shipping industry experienced a unique windfall during the pandemic, primarily due to increased demand for goods, as well as disruptions to supply chains that led to higher freight rates. As a result, shipping companies found themselves with substantial profits, enabling them to embark on a massive spree of ordering new ships.

However, this surge in ship orders may pose challenges in the latest downturn. Historically, the shipping industry has been susceptible to sharp fluctuations in demand and freight rates, leading to periods of boom and bust. By significantly increasing their capacity through new vessel orders, these companies risk exacerbating the cyclical nature of the industry during times of economic slowdown or reduced demand.

Such a trend could lead to an oversupply of vessels, driving down freight rates and impacting the profitability of shipping companies in the long run. Moreover, a surplus of ships could also result in increased competition, potentially creating a challenging environment for smaller or less financially robust shipping companies.

While the industry's current profits and optimism may be driving this unprecedented wave of orders, it is crucial for shipping companies to adopt a prudent and strategic approach to investment. A balanced approach that considers market conditions and long-term sustainability will be vital to weathering future economic uncertainties and maintaining the stability and resilience of the shipping industry.

Source: [Here](#) 31 July 2023

INDIAN COAST GUARD RESCUES 8 FISHERMEN FROM SINKING VESSEL NEAR KOCHI

In a daring rescue operation, the Indian Coast Guard successfully saved the lives of eight fishermen aboard the sinking vessel IFB Mariyam, located 21 nautical miles west of Kochi. The Coast Guard's quick response and efficient coordination between its ship Arvindh and CG ALH helicopter ensured the safe retrieval of the distressed crew. Upon receiving the distress message, Indian Coast Guard Ship Arvindh swiftly navigated to the scene. The dedicated team skillfully rescued all eight crew members from the sinking vessel, averting a potential tragedy. Additionally, the Coast Guard's timely intervention in controlling flooding onboard the vessel played a crucial role in stabilizing the situation. With

commendable expertise, the Coast Guard personnel made the boat operational again, assuring the crew's safety during the rescue process. Subsequently, the relieved fishermen were safely transferred back to the boat, and the IFB Mariyam was escorted to the secure confines of Munambam fishing harbor.

The successful rescue mission highlights the Indian Coast Guard's unwavering commitment to maritime safety and their exemplary preparedness to handle emergencies at sea. Their swift and decisive action in rescuing the crew of IFB Mariyam underscores the invaluable role they play in safeguarding lives and promoting maritime security along India's coastline.

Source: [Here](#) 30 July 2023

INDIGENOUSLY BUILT INDIAN NAVAL SHIP ARRIVES IN SRI LANKA TO ENHANCE INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN TWO NAVIES

The Indian naval ship 'Khanjar,' a Missile Corvette of the Khukri class, arrived at Trincomalee port in Sri Lanka for a three-day visit, aiming to strengthen the close ties and interoperability between the two navies. The visit holds great significance in fostering cooperation between India and Sri Lanka to enhance the capabilities of the Sri Lanka Navy, effectively addressing shared challenges in maritime security within the region. The Sri Lanka Navy extended a customary welcome to INS Khanjar upon its arrival.

During the ship's visit, the two navies will partake in various activities, including planning discussions, professional exchanges on topics of mutual interest, sports fixtures, and onboard visits by trainees from the Naval and Maritime Academy of Sri Lanka. INS Khanjar, a product of indigenously designed and built Khukri-class missile corvettes, boasts modern weapons and sensors. Commanding Officer NVS Phani Kumar will meet with the Commander of Eastern Naval Area, facilitating further collaboration between the two navies. Professional interactions on topics such as VBSS (Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure), gunnery, and missile operations will contribute to enhancing operational preparedness and mutual understanding. The visit of INS Khanjar strengthens the enduring friendship and partnership between India and Sri Lanka, laying the groundwork for continued cooperation in safeguarding maritime security and promoting stability in the region.

In conclusion, this visit reaffirms the commitment of both nations to mutual security interests, fostering regional stability, and promoting the spirit of camaraderie between the Indian and Sri Lankan navies. Through such engagements, the two countries further solidify their collaboration in addressing the evolving challenges in the maritime domain and upholding peace and prosperity in the region.

Source: [Here](#) 29 July 2023

WORLD'S FIRST ZERO-CARBON SMART TIANJIN PORT LINKS WITH SOUTH AMERICA

On the afternoon of July 29th, a container ship anchored at Tianjin Port, home to the world's first zero-carbon terminal, heralded the inauguration of a new direct shipping route connecting the pivotal north China port with South America.

Operated by Wan Hai Lines, nine 35,000-tonne container vessels will serve the route,

making stops at major ports in countries such as Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Ecuador. According to a company representative, the new shipping route is expected to significantly reduce transportation times by approximately one-third. Notably, commodities, particularly frozen seafood, fruit, and vegetables from South America, can now be transported to Tianjin in just 25 days.

This development holds great promise for consumers in north China, particularly in Beijing and Hebei Province, as it enables faster and more efficient access to a variety of goods from South America. With shorter transportation times, businesses and individuals alike stand to benefit from the increased availability of fresh produce and other commodities. Moreover, the fact that this new shipping route is facilitated by a zero-carbon terminal at Tianjin Port reflects a commitment to sustainable and eco-friendly practices. As the world seeks solutions to combat climate change and reduce carbon emissions, such initiatives serve as positive examples of how the shipping industry can play a crucial role in promoting environmental responsibility.

Overall, the establishment of this direct shipping route signifies a milestone in global trade connectivity and sustainable shipping practices. It not only strengthens economic ties between north China and South America but also showcases the potential for efficient and environmentally conscious transportation solutions in the maritime industry.

Source: [Here](#) 30 July 2023

BEYPORE PORT IN KERALA RECEIVES ISPS CODE, ALLOWING DIRECT DOCKING OF FOREIGN SHIPS

Beypore Port in Kerala has achieved a significant milestone by obtaining the prestigious International Ship and Port Facility Security Certification (ISPS), enabling it to directly receive foreign ships and handle immigration clearance. The certification has elevated the port to global standards and is valid for a period of five years, according to Ports Minister Ahammad Devarkovil.

To meet the stringent security measures required for ISPS accreditation, the port has implemented several enhancements. A barbed wire fence has been erected on top of the perimeter wall, raising it to a height of 2.4 meters. Additionally, state-of-the-art security equipment, such as an X-ray scanning system and metal detector, has been installed at the port gate. To enhance maritime surveillance, an automated radar system has been deployed to detect approaching ships and small vessels. Furthermore, significant improvements have been made, including the installation of a new communication system at the dock and the reconstruction of the main entrance and passenger gate.

With the ISPS code now in place, foreign cargo-passenger ships can directly sail to Beypore, making it the primary port in the Malabar region for obtaining an international unique identity number. This certification is a vital prerequisite for foreign ships to dock at any port, as mandated by the Mercantile Marine Department. To accommodate larger ships, dredging work is underway to improve the coast of Beypore, facilitating smoother navigation and handling of maritime traffic.

The attainment of the ISPS certification marks a significant development for Beypore Port, enhancing its global standing and opening doors to international trade and maritime activity. The port's upgraded security measures and modern infrastructure will undoubtedly bolster its role as a key gateway for foreign vessels and further contribute to Kerala's economic growth and prosperity.

Source: [Here](#) 30 July 2023

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

JOINT GUIDELINES FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE SEAWEED FARMING AND HARVESTING UNVEILED IN THE UK

The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) and the Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) have collaboratively issued comprehensive guidelines for environmentally responsible seaweed farming and wild harvesting in the UK. These guidelines aim to empower seaweed businesses with a clear understanding of the potential environmental impacts associated with both seaweed aquaculture and wild seaweed harvesting. By providing this knowledge, the initiative seeks to support businesses in incorporating sustainable practices into their planning and development processes.

The Significance of the Guidelines

These guidelines represent a significant step towards promoting ecological responsibility within the seaweed industry. With the rising demand for seaweed-based products in various sectors, including food, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals, it is essential to ensure that such commercial activities are conducted with a strong commitment to environmental preservation. By providing a comprehensive framework, the MCS and SIFT are enabling businesses to make informed decisions that prioritize the protection and conservation of marine ecosystems.

The Road Ahead: A Code of Practice by SSIA

Acknowledging the ongoing evolution of the seaweed industry and its continued growth, the Scottish Seaweed Industry Association (SSIA) will lead the development of an industry-led comprehensive code of practice. This forthcoming code aims to further enhance environmental stewardship within the sector, fostering a culture of sustainability, innovation, and responsible management. The combined efforts of the MCS, SIFT, and SSIA signal a collective commitment towards striking the delicate balance between economic progress and ecological harmony.

The joint issuance of guidelines for environmentally responsible seaweed farming and harvesting marks a pivotal moment in the UK's approach to sustainable resource utilization. As the potential of seaweed-based industries continues to grow, it is imperative to address the environmental implications associated with these activities proactively. By providing the necessary knowledge and support, these guidelines empower businesses to embrace practices that minimize negative impacts on marine ecosystems. The collaboration between respected organizations such as the MCS and SIFT signifies the collective determination to safeguard the marine environment. Additionally, the forthcoming industry-led code of practice spearheaded by the SSIA will further bolster the industry's commitment to ecological responsibility.

As the seaweed industry moves forward, these guidelines and future initiatives serve as a blueprint for fostering a thriving sector that not only meets economic aspirations but also preserves the invaluable marine biodiversity that sustains our planet. By adopting and implementing these guidelines, businesses can contribute to a more sustainable and resilient future for both the seaweed industry and the environment at large.

Source: [Here](#) 31 July 2023

G20 ENVIRONMENT MEETING ENDS WITHOUT AN AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE; OUTCOME DOCUMENT STRESSES ON SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

The Outcome Document of the fourth and final G-20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) and Environment and Climate Ministers meeting was released recently. In this document, the G-20 nations made an important announcement, declaring the adoption of principles for a robust blue economy. These principles are centred around three key pillars: prioritizing ocean health, promoting social and intergenerational equity, and ensuring the sustainable use of the marine environment. The G-20 nations are committed to building a sustainable and resilient blue economy, recognizing the crucial role of oceans in supporting economic growth and environmental well-being. The 'Chennai High-Level Principles for a Sustainable and Resilient Blue/Ocean-based Economy' form the cornerstone of this commitment. These principles stress the importance of fostering a responsible ocean-based economy that considers the preservation of marine ecosystems and biodiversity while meeting the needs of present and future generations. One of the significant aspects highlighted in the document is the need for strengthened international cooperation to address shared maritime challenges. By collaborating on matters like marine pollution, overfishing, and climate change, the G-20 nations aim to develop effective solutions that benefit all countries and protect our planet's oceans. Another critical point emphasized in the Outcome Document is the enhancement of ocean finance. The G-20 nations recognize that adequate and sustainable financing is essential to support projects and initiatives focused on preserving ocean health and promoting sustainable economic activities related to marine resources.

In conclusion, the Outcome Document of the G-20 Environment and Climate Sustainability meeting represents a significant step towards building a more sustainable and resilient blue economy. The adoption of the 'Chennai High-Level Principles' underscores the G-20 nations' commitment to preserving ocean health and promoting equitable and sustainable marine resource management. However, the absence of a final communique on climate change indicates that there is still work to be done in addressing global climate challenges through international cooperation and policy agreements.

Source: [Here](#) 29 July 2023

STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL DIPLOMACY IN THE CASPIAN SEA REGION

According to IRNA's report, the Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to enhancing its relations with friendly, neighbouring, and fellow Muslim nations, with a particular focus on strengthening environmental diplomacy. Mr. Salajeqeh emphasized the importance of cultivating robust ties with Kazakhstan, citing shared cultural and religious affinities between the two countries as potential avenues for cooperation in various fields. Mr. Salajeqeh also discussed the Tehran Convention, a significant treaty among the five coastal countries aimed at safeguarding the Caspian Sea's marine environment. Regrettably, he noted that the convention has yet to achieve substantial results. The situation is critical as the Caspian Sea's water inflow has diminished, leading to a surge in

pollutant levels. Highlighting the alarming environmental state of the Caspian Sea, the official urgently called for the coastal nations to bolster their cooperation in addressing these pressing issues. To combat declining water inflow and increasing pollution levels, concerted efforts must be made to protect the marine ecosystem and preserve the region's delicate balance. The Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea, also known as COP 7, is scheduled to take place in Tehran. This crucial gathering will provide a platform for regional leaders and experts to devise comprehensive strategies and policies to safeguard the Caspian Sea's fragile environment. Moreover, Mr. Salajeqeh pointed out the global challenges posed by climate change and its far-reaching consequences. Of particular concern are the escalating occurrences of dust storms, which have become one of the most significant environmental impacts affecting the region and necessitate joint efforts to mitigate their effects.

Considering the pressing environmental concerns facing the Caspian Sea, Iran's pursuit of strengthened relations with neighbouring nations and a focus on environmental diplomacy is commendable. As the upcoming COP 7 meeting approaches, the region must seize this opportunity to take decisive actions to protect the Caspian Sea's marine environment and tackle the consequences of climate change for the well-being of present and future generations.

Source: [Here](#) 28 July 2023

GEOPOLITICS

INDIAN AND INDONESIAN NAVAL SHIPS TO CONDUCT JOINT EXERCISE IN JAKARTA

Indian and Indonesian naval forces are set to strengthen their maritime cooperation through a joint exercise scheduled to take place in Jakarta. The exercise aims to enhance interoperability and promote camaraderie between the two navies, reflecting the shared commitment to regional security and stability. The joint exercise will witness the participation of Indian Navy ships, along with their Indonesian counterparts, engaging in various tactical drills and simulations. The training sessions will encompass a wide array of maritime operations, including anti-piracy measures, search and rescue operations, and communication exercises.

The collaboration comes in the backdrop of the two nations' mutual desire to deepen defense ties and bolster maritime security in the Indian Ocean region. By conducting this joint exercise, India and Indonesia reaffirm their resolve to effectively counter emerging challenges and threats in the maritime domain. In recent years, both countries have demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing issues of regional significance and upholding the rules-based international order. This exercise presents an opportune moment for the naval forces of India and Indonesia to exchange best practices, learn from each other's experiences, and strengthen their capabilities in safeguarding their respective maritime interests.

The upcoming joint exercise between the Indian and Indonesian naval forces marks a significant milestone in the bilateral defense relationship between the two nations. It underscores the importance of fostering regional cooperation and maritime security, particularly in the Indian Ocean, a crucial and dynamic region that links Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. By engaging in joint exercises and sharing expertise, India and

Indonesia reaffirms their commitment to upholding peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region. Such collaborations not only enhance defense capabilities but also contribute to building trust and fostering a spirit of friendship and mutual understanding between the two maritime nations.

As the world faces various security challenges, joint exercises like this serve as essential platforms for fostering international cooperation and forging strong partnerships. The Indian-Indonesian joint exercise sets a positive example for other nations in the region and beyond, highlighting the significance of collective efforts in ensuring the safety and security of shared waters.

Source: [Here](#) 18 July 2023

CHINA, RUSSIA, AND IRAN COMMENCE JOINT NAVAL DRILLS IN GULF OF OMAN

In a display of strategic collaboration, China, Russia, and Iran have come together to conduct a joint naval exercise named "Security Bond-2023" in the Gulf of Oman. The exercise, spanning five days, is aimed at bolstering the security and safeguarding critical maritime routes in the region. The trilateral naval drills mark a significant milestone in strengthening defence ties and promoting mutual understanding among the participating nations. The joint naval exercise will encompass a diverse range of activities to enhance operational capabilities and foster interoperability among the navies involved. These activities include conducting aerial search operations, sea rescue operations, fleet formation exercises, and other designated tasks. The focus of the drills primarily revolves around non-combat missions, with an emphasis on sea rescue and search operations to respond effectively to maritime emergencies.

China's participation in the joint exercise is led by the deployment of five warships, prominently featuring the state-of-the-art guided-missile destroyer, the 'Nanning.' The participation of advanced naval assets from each country underscores the seriousness and commitment of the nations involved to ensure regional stability and maritime security. The exercise represents a strategic convergence of interests, reflecting the shared commitment of China, Russia, and Iran to maintain peace and stability in the Gulf of Oman and surrounding waters. As geopolitical dynamics continue to evolve in the region, such collaborative initiatives serve to strengthen mutual trust, promote cooperation, and enhance crisis response capabilities.

The joint naval drills serve as a testament to the growing importance of multilateral engagement in addressing security concerns in shared waters. As global maritime interests intersect, collaborations like these play a pivotal role in promoting stability and regional security.

Source: [Here](#) 17 July 2023

RUSSIA AND CHINA CONDUCT JOINT WAR DRILLS IN SEA OF JAPAN TO STRENGTHEN NAVAL COOPERATION

The Russian Defence Ministry has announced that joint war drills between Russia and China are currently underway in the Sea of Japan. The exercises, taking place from the 20th to the 23rd of July, aim to bolster military ties between the two nations and enhance

their naval cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. Following China's earlier announcement about preparing for joint exercises with Russia, the warships from Moscow were swiftly dispatched to join the drills.

The decision to conduct these joint exercises reflects the growing closeness of relations between Russia and China, particularly since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a move that China did not condemn. Images released by different sources show the two countries' navies engaging in practical actions, including anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare, as well as sea and air escorting of ships. Additionally, the exercises encompass the guarding and defending of ship detachments moored in unprotected shipping lanes.

The joint drills signify the willingness of Russia and China to enhance their military cooperation and promote stability and peace in the Indo-Pacific region. By engaging in joint naval exercises, the two powers aim to strengthen their capabilities to respond to potential challenges and threats, thereby fostering a sense of security and collaboration in the region.

However, the closeness between Russia and China has raised concerns among some other powers, particularly those in the West, who view it as a potential challenge to the existing global order.

Source: [Here](#) 20 July 2023

JAPAN 'GRAVELY CONCERNED' BY CHINA AND RUSSIA'S MILITARY CO-OPERATION

In its first defense white paper since announcing plans to expand defense spending last year, Japan has issued a warning about the deepening military cooperation between China and Russia, stating it is of "grave concern" for its security. The joint naval and air exercise conducted by Beijing and Moscow in the Sea of Japan earlier this month further underscored the acceleration of their collaboration, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The white paper, approved by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's cabinet also highlights the rapidly tilting military balance between China and Taiwan, favoring Beijing. Japan reaffirms its stance that China's growing military aggression presents an "unprecedented and the greatest strategic challenge," a phrase adopted when Tokyo unveiled its ambitious military build-up as part of the national security strategy released in December. According to the white paper, the repeated joint exercises between China and Russia are perceived as a show of force against Japan, raising significant concerns about the country's security. The strengthening of Japan's language on the cooperation between its two larger neighbors demonstrates the growing unease over the implications of this collaboration on regional stability and Japan's strategic interests. In June, Chinese and Russian bombers conducted joint patrols in areas where Japan and Russia have territorial disputes in the Sea of Japan. They also patrolled over the East China Sea, where Japan has territorial disputes with China.

Japan's expression of concern over the deepening military cooperation between China and Russia highlights the shifting geopolitical dynamics in the region. As China and Russia strengthen their strategic ties, neighboring countries, including Japan, are closely monitoring the developments and implications for regional security.

Source: [Here](#) 28 July 2023