

MAKING WAVES

A MARITIME NEWS BRIEF COVERING:

- 1. Maritime Security**
- 2. Maritime Forces**
- 3. Shipping Ports and Ocean Economy**
- 4. Marine Environment**
- 5. Geopolitics**

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CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----|
| MARITIME SECURITY | 2-3 |
| Indian Navy's <i>INS Tarkash</i> Seizes Over 2,500 Kg of Narcotics in Western Indian Ocean | 2 |
| Taiwan Sharpens 'Porcupine' Capabilities to Deter CCP Invasion Threat | 2 |
| Testing a Rival's Response: China's Gray Zone Tactics in Australia | 2 |
| RECAAP ISC: Four Incidents of Armed Robbery 1-7 April | 3 |
| Indian Coast Guard and Gujarat ATS Intercept Narcotics of Worth Approx Rs 1,800 Cr | 3 |
| MARITIME FORCES | 3-4 |
| Raksha Mantri Flags-Off <i>INS Sunayna</i> as Indian Ocean Ship Sagar from Karwar with 44 Personnel of Nine Friendly Nations of Indian Ocean Region | 3 |
| Indian Navy Warship <i>INS Sahyadri</i> Arrives in Colombo | 4 |
| Tiger Triumph 2025: India-US Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise Ends in Andhra Pradesh | 4 |
| Africa India Key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME) 2025 Inauguration | 4 |
| US Deploying Advanced Capabilities, Concepts to Philippines for Balikatan 2025 | 4 |
| SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY | 5-6 |
| The Makassar Strait is a Sign that Global Rules are Being Rewritten | 5 |
| Cochin Shipyard to Begin Construction on Two Green Tugs Ahead of Firm Orders | 5 |
| MoPSW: Major Ports, Cargo & Inland Growth | 5 |
| Cochin Shipyard Signs MoU with Drydocks World to Develop Ship Repair Clusters | 6 |
| Deputy Prime Minister of UAE Inaugurates DP World's Nhava Sheva Business Park in India | 6 |
| MARINE ENVIRONMENT | 6-8 |
| UNHRC Adopts Resolution Linking Plastic Pollution, Ocean Protection and Human Right to a Healthy Environment | 6 |
| Scientists Discover Deep-Sea Microplastic Hotspots Created by Fast-Moving Underwater Avalanches | 7 |
| Ocean Film Festival 2025 Makes Waves for Marine Conservation in Mumbai | 7 |
| Climate Shocks Could Cause Annual Economic Losses of at Least 6% in a Third of Asia-Pacific Countries, Warns UN Report | 7 |
| Overfishing is Threatening Coral Reef Fisheries in East Africa | 8 |
| GEOPOLITICS | 8-9 |
| Maritime Security in Focus: Key Threat Developments – March 2025 | 8 |
| Seventh India-Japan Maritime Affairs Dialogue | 8 |
| Prime Minister Participates in the 6th Bimstec Summit, Thailand | 9 |
| Beyond Borders & Battleships: Humanitarian Missions, Strategic Initiatives Shape Diplomacy in Indo-Pacific | 9 |
| US Wants Other Nations to Block Potential China Tariff Work-Around | 9 |

MARITIME SECURITY

INDIAN NAVY'S INS TARKASH SEIZES OVER 2,500 KG OF NARCOTICS IN WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN

Indian Navy frigate *INS Tarkash* intercepted and seized over 2,500 kg of narcotics in the Western Indian Ocean during a high-stakes counter-narcotics operation. Acting on multiple intelligence inputs from the Navy's P-8I maritime patrol aircraft, *INS Tarkash* investigated and interrogated several suspicious vessels in the area. The operation culminated in the boarding of a suspect dhow, where 2,386 kg of hashish and 121 kg of heroin were recovered from hidden compartments. Conducted in coordination with the Maritime Operations Centre in Mumbai, the successful seizure underscores the Indian Navy's commitment to securing maritime routes and combating transnational criminal networks operating at sea. The successful interdiction by *INS Tarkash* highlights India's proactive stance in combating maritime drug trafficking, reinforcing its role as a key security provider in the Indian Ocean Region.

Source: [Here](#) 02 April 2025

TAIWAN SHARPENS 'PORCUPINE' CAPABILITIES TO DETER CCP INVASION THREAT

Taiwan is accelerating its asymmetric "porcupine" defense strategy to deter a potential Chinese invasion, focusing on missile systems, drone swarms, and mobile coastal defenses. Key upgrades include Hsiung Feng cruise missiles, AI-powered drones (e.g., Tengyun, Albatross), and stealth corvettes like the Tuo Chiang-class. The strategy aims to create a "kill zone" in the Taiwan Strait, targeting amphibious forces and complicating PLA naval operations. Taiwan's Defense Ministry emphasized enhanced surveillance and rapid response capabilities, supported by U.S. arms sales (Harpoon missiles, HIMARS) and intelligence-sharing with Japan. The moves follow recent CCP patrols shadowing US and Canadian vessels in international waters.

Source: [Here](#) 03 April 2025

TESTING A RIVAL'S RESPONSE: CHINA'S GRAY ZONE TACTICS IN AUSTRALIA

China has escalated its use of gray zone tactics against Australia, deploying naval warships for live-fire exercises in the Tasman Sea and sending the dual-use vessel Tan Suo Yi Hao along Australia's southern coastline under the pretext of scientific research. These actions, while technically within international legal boundaries, are designed to collect intelligence, map critical infrastructure, and probe Australia's response thresholds. The maneuvers closely resemble China's incremental assertiveness in the South and East China Seas, leveraging ambiguity and a perceived decline in US regional engagement to expand influence without provoking direct military confrontation.

Source: [Here](#) 07 April 2025

RECAAP ISC: FOUR INCIDENTS OF ARMED ROBBERY 1-7 APRIL

Four armed robbery incidents occurred in the Singapore Strait's Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) between April 1–7, 2025, marking a continued surge in maritime theft. Three involved theft of engine parts and ship stores; one saw no loss. No crew injuries were reported. With 39 incidents in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS) since January, ReCAAP ISC urged enhanced vigilance and increased patrols by littoral states. Separately, the Philippine Coast Guard downgraded the abduction threat in the Sulu-Celebes Seas to “LOW” due to military operations dismantling Abu Sayyaf Group networks, though vigilance remains advised.

Source: [Here](#) 07 April 2025

INDIAN COAST GUARD AND GUJARAT ATS INTERCEPT NARCOTICS OF WORTH APPROX. RS 1,800 CR

The Indian Coast Guard intercepted a suspicious fishing vessel off the Gujarat coast, seizing a cache of arms and ammunition believed to be destined for criminal networks in western India. The operation, based on intelligence from coastal surveillance systems, resulted in the apprehension of six crew members and the confiscation of automatic rifles, pistols, and satellite communication devices. Authorities suspect the involvement of transnational smuggling syndicates exploiting porous maritime borders. This successful interdiction highlights the growing sophistication of India's coastal surveillance and the importance of inter-agency coordination in countering maritime security threats along the nation's western seaboard.

Source: [Here](#) 14 April 2025

MARITIME FORCES

RAKSHA MANTRI FLAGS-OFF INS SUNAYNA AS INDIAN OCEAN SHIP SAGAR FROM KARWAR WITH 44 PERSONNEL OF NINE FRIENDLY NATIONS OF INDIAN OCEAN REGION

On April 5, India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off *INS Sunayna* as the Indian Ocean Ship SAGAR from Karwar, marking enhanced regional maritime security cooperation. The ship carries 44 personnel from nine Indian Ocean Region countries, symbolizing India's commitment to collective security, free navigation, and anti-piracy efforts in the region. Singh emphasized India's role in ensuring no nation suppresses another and highlighted the transition from SAGAR to the MAHASAGAR initiative to deepen regional collaboration. The event coincided with National Maritime Day and the 10th anniversary of SAGAR, reinforcing India's leadership in the Indian Ocean maritime domain.

Source: [Here](#) 05 April 2025

INDIAN NAVY WARSHIP INS SAHYADRI ARRIVES IN COLOMBO

Indian Navy's stealth frigate *INS Sahyadri* arrived at Colombo Port to reinforce maritime cooperation with Sri Lanka. The visit aligns with India's 'Neighbourhood First' and MAHASAGAR initiatives, focusing on regional security and collaboration. During the port call, the crew participated in joint exercises, professional exchanges, and cultural events with Sri Lankan counterparts to enhance interoperability and mutual understanding. The deployment highlights the role of naval diplomacy in strengthening strategic ties and promoting stability in the Indian Ocean Region.

Source: [Here](#) 07 April 2025

TIGER TRIUMPH 2025: INDIA-US HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF EXERCISE ENDS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

India and the United States conducted Exercise Tiger Triumph 2025 in Visakhapatnam, focusing on amphibious operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), and space-military coordination. Naval, air, and ground forces from both countries participated in complex drills, simulating joint operations in crisis scenarios. The exercise aimed to boost interoperability and operational synergy between the Indian Armed Forces and US Indo-Pacific Command. Tiger Triumph 2025 reaffirmed the growing depth of the India-US strategic partnership, especially in securing maritime domains across the Indo-Pacific region.

Source: [Here](#) 12 April 2025

AFRICA INDIA KEY MARITIME ENGAGEMENT (AIKEYME) 2025 INAUGURATION

India and African nations inaugurated the Africa India Key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME) 2025 in Tanzania, strengthening naval cooperation across the western Indian Ocean. The engagement included joint anti-piracy drills, coastal surveillance exercises, and operational discussions on maritime security challenges. Warships and maritime patrol aircraft from India and African partner countries participated. AIKEYME 2025 reflects India's deepening maritime diplomacy and operational outreach in Africa, aligned with the SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision, enhancing regional stability and mutual capabilities.

Source: [Here](#) 13 April 2025

US DEPLOYING ADVANCED CAPABILITIES, CONCEPTS TO PHILIPPINES FOR BALIKATAN 2025

The US announced deployment of advanced anti-ship missile systems and drones to the Philippines for Exercise Balikatan 2025 (April 21-May 9), with participation from Australia and Japan. This exercise enhances maritime security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, complementing India's regional efforts. The US Marine Corps will deploy the NMESIS "ship killer" missile system,

enhancing sea denial capabilities. The exercise strengthens interoperability among allies to counter maritime threats, indirectly supporting India's strategic environment.

Source: [Here](#) 14 April 2025

SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY

THE MAKASSAR STRAIT IS A SIGN THAT GLOBAL RULES ARE BEING REWRITTEN

The Makassar Strait's increasing geopolitical importance highlights the shifting global economic order in the Indo-Pacific. With the region hosting over 60% of global GDP and more than half of global trade, strategic locations like the Makassar Strait are central to international trade and security. This shift is underscored by growing diplomatic engagement, such as the European Union's enhanced trade talks with India. The developments reflect how regional dynamics are reshaping global governance and trade routes.

Source: [Here](#) 07 April 2025

COCHIN SHIPYARD TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION ON TWO GREEN TUGS AHEAD OF FIRM ORDERS

Cochin Shipyard started building two 60-tonne green tugs before securing orders, aiming to accelerate delivery once ports award tenders. The initiative supports India's Green Tug Transition Programme to replace conventional tugs by 2040, backed by a ₹1,000 crore investment. Major ports like JNPA and Paradip are expected to adopt these eco-friendly vessels, positioning CSL to lead India's sustainable maritime shift.

Source: [Here](#) 07 April 2025

MOPSW: MAJOR PORTS, CARGO & INLAND GROWTH

India's 12 major ports saw a 4.45% increase in cargo volume in FY24, handling 819.227 million tonnes, up from 784.305 million tonnes in FY23. Key contributors to the growth were iron ore (up 32.68%), raw fertiliser (up 13.56%), and coking coal (up 10.24%). Container traffic grew by 8.06%, with JNPA managing 6.43 million TEUs. Paradip Port led with 145.379 million tonnes in cargo, reflecting a 7.40% increase. These figures demonstrate the effectiveness of infrastructure development in strengthening India's maritime trade.

Source: [Here](#) 09 April 2025

COCHIN SHIPYARD SIGNS MOU WITH DRYDOCKS WORLD TO DEVELOP SHIP REPAIR CLUSTERS

Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) and Drydocks World, a DP World company, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly explore developing ship repair clusters in Kochi (Kerala) and Vadinar (Gujarat). The partnership aims to establish world-class maintenance and repair facilities, modernizing India's maritime infrastructure. CSL and Drydocks World will engage with government entities and major ports to enhance ship repair and offshore fabrication capabilities. The collaboration also extends to related areas like marine engineering and strategic infrastructure projects. This initiative is expected to boost India's ship repair industry and generate new employment opportunities.

Source: [Here](#) 09 April 2025

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF UAE INAUGURATES DP WORLD'S NHAVA SHEVA BUSINESS PARK IN INDIA

DP World's Nhava Sheva Business Park (NSBP), a state-of-the-art Free Trade Warehousing Zone (FTWZ) near Mumbai, was inaugurated on April 29, 2025, by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE. The facility offers one million sq. ft. of advanced warehousing, with another million planned, and is part of a \$200 million investment in three Indian FTWZs. Strategically located near Jawaharlal Nehru Port, NSBP is IGBC Platinum certified, supports supply chain efficiency, sustainability, and gender inclusion, and further strengthens India-UAE trade connectivity.

Source: [Here](#) 12 April 2025

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

UNHRC ADOPTS RESOLUTION LINKING PLASTIC POLLUTION, OCEAN PROTECTION AND HUMAN RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

The UN Human Rights Council unanimously adopted a resolution recognizing plastic pollution as a direct threat to human rights, particularly for vulnerable coastal and Indigenous communities. The resolution demands global cuts to plastic production, equitable access to clean environments, and stronger protections for ocean health. This marks the first formal acknowledgment of plastic's role in undermining human dignity, linking environmental degradation to social justice. The move pressures nations to integrate marine conservation into human rights frameworks, prioritizing marginalized groups disproportionately affected by polluted waterways and declining marine ecosystems.

Source: [Here](#) 04 April 2025

SCIENTISTS DISCOVER DEEP-SEA MICROPLASTIC HOTSPOTS CREATED BY FAST-MOVING UNDERWATER AVALANCHES

Scientists discovered that fast-moving underwater avalanches (turbidity currents) transport microplastics into deep-sea biodiversity hotspots, posing risks to marine life. These currents, traveling up to 8 meters per second, carry plastic waste—primarily fibres from textiles—to depths exceeding 3,200 meters. Researchers observed this process in real time at Whittard Canyon (Celtic Sea), where microplastics co-locate with oxygen-rich ecosystems critical for deep-sea organisms. Over 10 million tonnes of plastic enter oceans annually, with 99% sinking. The study, led by the University of Manchester and the UK's National Oceanography Centre, highlights how global submarine canyons act as conduits, spreading microplastic pollution to vulnerable deep-sea habitats.

Source: [Here](#) 04 April 2025

OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL 2025 MAKES WAVES FOR MARINE CONSERVATION IN MUMBAI

The Ocean Film Festival of India 2025, hosted at Mumbai's Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Zoo, united filmmakers, scientists, and students to advocate marine conservation. Organized by Ecofolks, NFDC, ICAR-CIFE, and AquaSail, it featured documentaries like *Khalasis of Malabar* on Kerala's maritime heritage and *Dolphins of Maharashtra*. A masterclass by Dhanya Pilo highlighted women-led ocean conservation, while Prahlad Kakkar emphasized marine protection. The event concluded with a youth-led sailing session at Gateway of India, fostering dialogue and action for sustainable oceans.

Source: [Here](#) 06 April 2025

CLIMATE SHOCKS COULD CAUSE ANNUAL ECONOMIC LOSSES OF AT LEAST 6% IN A THIRD OF ASIA-PACIFIC COUNTRIES, WARNS UN REPORT

A UN ESCAP report warns climate shocks could cause annual GDP losses exceeding 6% in one-third of Asia-Pacific nations, including Cambodia (11%), Fiji, Myanmar, and Pakistan ($\geq 7\%$). Despite driving 60% of global growth, many struggle with climate risks due to extreme weather, vulnerable infrastructure, and rapid urbanization. The report urges proactive government action, resilient infrastructure, and green industry investments. Regional cooperation is vital to address disparities and ensure sustainable development amid escalating climate threats.

Source: [Here](#) 08 April 2025

OVERFISHING IS THREATENING CORAL REEF FISHERIES IN EAST AFRICA

Overfishing in East Africa's coral reefs is depleting key species like snappers and unicorn fish, threatening food security and fisheries sustainability. A study comparing fished areas and marine parks found catches missing 50% of historically available species, risking ecosystem collapse. Experts urge protecting entire fish communities, restricting destructive gear (gillnets/spearguns), and expanding no-take zones to restore yields. The loss of diverse fish jeopardizes nutrition for coastal communities and highlights flaws in current management strategies targeting only resilient species. Holistic policies are critical to prevent irreversible damage to reefs and livelihoods.

Source: [Here](#) 12 April 2025

GEOPOLITICS

MARITIME SECURITY IN FOCUS: KEY THREAT DEVELOPMENTS – MARCH 2025

March 2025 maritime threats included Houthi drone/missile attacks disrupting Red Sea routes, Gulf of Guinea piracy (hijackings off Nigeria/Cameroon), and Black Sea tensions affecting Ukrainian grain exports. South China Sea disputes heightened clash risks near contested reefs, while Iran-US friction threatened tankers in the Strait of Hormuz. Emerging risks featured cyberattacks on port systems and climate-driven conflicts in vulnerable coastal regions. Dryad Global urged route diversions (Red Sea, Gulf of Aden) and enhanced ship security protocols (ISPS compliance) to mitigate risks.

Source: [Here](#) 01 April 2025

SEVENTH INDIA-JAPAN MARITIME AFFAIRS DIALOGUE

The 7th India-Japan Maritime Affairs Dialogue took place on April 2, 2025, in Tokyo, with India represented by Ms Muanpuui Saiawi, Joint Secretary (Disarmament & International Security Affairs), and Japan by Mr Kashiwabara Yutaka, Deputy Director-General of Asian and Oceanian Affairs. The two sides discussed sustaining a secure maritime environment to support inclusive growth and global well-being. They reviewed ongoing cooperation and agreed to strengthen efforts in maritime domain awareness, countering illicit maritime activities, capability development, and capacity building. Both parties committed to continuing the dialogue at a mutually convenient date.

Source: [Here](#) 02 April 2025

PRIME MINISTER PARTICIPATES IN THE 6TH BIMSTEC SUMMIT, THAILAND

PM Modi attended the 6th BIMSTEC Summit (April 4, 2025) in Bangkok, proposing Centres of Excellence, UPI integration, and a Chamber of Commerce to boost regional trade. The summit adopted the Bangkok Vision 2030 and a Maritime Transport Agreement, focusing on disaster resilience and digital connectivity. Modi announced youth skilling (BODHI) and cultural initiatives like a Music Festival and 2027 Games. India-Thailand upgraded to a strategic partnership, enhancing defence and tech ties.

Source: [Here](#) 04 April 2025

BEYOND BORDERS & BATTLESHIPS: HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS, STRATEGIC INITIATIVES SHAPE DIPLOMACY IN INDO- PACIFIC

Humanitarian missions and strategic initiatives are increasingly defining diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific, moving beyond traditional displays of naval power. The U.S. Navy's Pacific Partnership, the region's largest humanitarian and civic assistance mission, exemplifies this trend by bringing together multinational teams to deliver medical, engineering, and disaster relief across Pacific Island nations, strengthening local capacities and regional bonds. Similarly, Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force has expanded its role through the Indo-Pacific Deployment, blending naval diplomacy with disaster relief and counter-piracy operations to foster a Free and Open Indo-Pacific. These efforts complement defence diplomacy, which is vital for crisis mitigation amid persistent regional tensions.

Source: [Here](#) 09 April 2025

US WANTS OTHER NATIONS TO BLOCK POTENTIAL CHINA TARIFF WORK-AROUND

The US urges 70+ nations to block China from bypassing tariffs via transshipment or offshore firms, tightening trade enforcement amid economic rivalry. The move targets tariff evasion through third-country rerouting and overseas Chinese operations, escalating tensions as Washington seeks to curb Beijing's trade advantages. The strategy, part of broader efforts to restrict China's economic influence, underscores ongoing US-China friction over trade practices and global supply chain dominance.

Source: [Here](#) 15 April 2025