



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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MARITIME SECURITY

SEA ROBBERIES IN SINGAPORE STRAIT QUADRUPLE THIS YEAR

Sea robberies in the Singapore Strait have quadrupled in 2025, reaching 81 incidents so far—already a 10-year high. Attacks now occur nearly every two days, with three recent incidents on July 1 involving bulk carriers in close proximity; in one case, robbers carried “gun-like” objects, but no crew injuries were reported. Most incidents involve theft of engine spares, likely for an Indonesian black market. Authorities are urged to boost patrols and cooperation, as arrests and deterrence have been limited this year.

Source: [Here](#) 03 July 2025

MARITIME RISK IN FOCUS: RED SEA ESCALATION AND BLACK SEA TENSIONS DEFINE GLOBAL THREAT LANDSCAPE

Escalating conflicts have sharply increased maritime risks in the Red Sea and Black Sea. In the Red Sea, Houthi attacks since late 2023 have frequently targeted commercial shipping, leading most vessels to reroute around Africa. This rerouting causes major delays, increased insurance costs, and disrupts global trade. The Black Sea remains volatile due to ongoing regional tensions, especially around Ukraine’s grain exports. Overall, maritime operators face heightened security threats, operational disruptions, and rising costs as geopolitical instability reshapes global shipping routes and economic dynamics.

Source: [Here](#) 05 July 2025

ISRAEL ATTACKS THREE YEMEN PORTS

Israel attacked Houthi targets at Yemen’s Hodeidah, Ras Isa, and Salif ports, and the Ras Qantib power plant, marking its first strike on Yemen in nearly a month. The Israeli military said the attacks were in response to repeated Houthi strikes on Israel. Afterward, two missiles were launched from Yemen toward Israel; the results of the interception were under review. Israel also struck the Galaxy Leader ship, seized by Houthis and reportedly used for radar tracking. No immediate casualties were reported, and Hodeidah’s main power station was put out of service.

Source: [Here](#) 07 July 2025

INDIA URGES IMO PROBE INTO MARITIME INCIDENTS INVOLVING FOREIGN SHIPS

India has urged the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to investigate recent maritime incidents involving foreign-flagged container ships in Indian waters, including the *MSC ELSA 3* sinking and *WAN HAI 503* fire. These incidents, linked to undeclared hazardous cargo and structural issues, highlight safety gaps in handling lithium-ion batteries and dangerous goods. India calls for strengthened international safety standards, improved packaging, declaration, stowage, and monitoring under the IMDG Code. It emphasizes IMO-led probes to develop best practices and enhance global container ship safety, underlining the roles of the Indian Navy and Coast Guard.

Source: [Here](#) 09 July 2025

MARITIME INCIDENTS INVOLVING INDIA AND ITS SEAFARERS ROSE 22% IN 2024

Maritime incidents involving Indian seafarers and foreign vessels in Indian waters rose by 21.6% in 2024, totaling 186 incidents—the highest in a decade. The majority of incidents were linked to operational hazards, with onboard incidents being the most common and dangerous. Notably, there was a sharp 36.7% increase in non-operational incidents, such as missing crew and desertion. The Directorate General of Shipping stresses the need for stricter safety measures and improved crew welfare to address these rising risks.

Source: [Here](#) 15 July 2025

MARITIME FORCES

INS UDAYGIRI: NAVY INDUCTS INDIGENOUS STEALTH FRIGATE IN RECORD TIME

INS Udaygiri, the second stealth frigate of Project 17A, was inducted into the Indian Navy in a record 37 months from launch. Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, it is a multi-mission warship designed for blue-water naval operations against conventional and unconventional threats. The ship features advanced stealth technology with a hull 54% larger than its predecessor, the Shivalik-class, and uses Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) propulsion. Its weaponry includes supersonic surface-to-surface missiles, medium-range surface-to-air missiles, a 76mm naval gun, and close-in weapon systems, mostly indigenous. *INS Udaygiri* marks a major step in India's naval self-reliance and design expertise.

Source: [Here](#) 01 July 2025

INS TAMAL COMMISSIONED: ALL ABOUT ITS CAPABILITIES, WHY IT MAY BE THE INDIAN NAVY'S LAST IMPORTED WARSHIP

INS Tamal, the Indian Navy's eighth Talwar-class stealth multirole frigate, was commissioned at Russia's Yantar Shipyard. It is likely the Navy's last warship purchased from abroad. The 4,035-tonne vessel is 124.8 meters long, capable of speeds exceeding 30 knots, with a range of 4,850 nautical miles. Equipped with 24 Shtil surface-to-air missiles, 8 BrahMos cruise missiles, a 100mm main gun, anti-submarine rocket launchers, torpedo tubes, and advanced electronic warfare systems, it supports Kamov helicopters and integrates Indian-Russian technology. *INS Tamal* symbolises a key step toward India's naval indigenisation.

Source: [Here](#) 04 July 2025

JAPAN COAST GUARD SHIP 'ITSUKUSHIMA' DOCKS IN CHENNAI

Japan Coast Guard ship *'Itsukushima'* arrived at Chennai Port on July 7, 2025, during its Global Ocean Voyage Training. The visit featured bilateral talks, joint training, cultural and yoga exchanges, and concluded with a joint sea exercise called 'Jaa Mata' alongside the Indian Coast Guard. Four Indian officers were aboard as Sea Riders for *Itsukushima*'s next leg to Singapore. The deployment strengthens India-Japan maritime cooperation under their 2006 memorandum and enhances Indo-Pacific regional security.

Source: [Here](#) 08 July 2025

NAVY, BEL SIGN CONTRACT FOR NMDA PROJECT TO UPGRADE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS

The Indian Navy signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to implement the National Maritime Domain Awareness (NMDA) project, enhancing coastal and maritime security. The project upgrades the existing NC3I network to an AI-enabled NMDA network, improving data collection, analysis, and sharing among maritime agencies. The Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) in Gurugram will be transformed into a multi-agency NMDA center. Executed on a turnkey basis, this initiative aims to provide a unified operational picture to bolster national maritime surveillance and response capabilities.

Source: [Here](#) 08 July 2025

DRDO HANDS OVER RADIATION SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING SYSTEMS TO INDIAN NAVY

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) delivered six indigenous radiation surveillance and monitoring systems to the Indian Navy at a ceremony in Jodhpur. These systems enhance radiation detection, environmental monitoring, and nuclear contamination control across land, air, and underwater domains. The products include Gamma Radiation Aerial Surveillance System, Environmental Surveillance Vehicle, Vehicle Radiological Contamination

Monitoring System, Underwater Gamma Radiation Monitoring System, Dirt Extractor and Cross Contamination Monitor, and Organ Radioactivity Detection System. This supports India's self-reliance in defence technology and meets Naval Staff Qualitative Requirements. DRDO Chairman Dr Samir V Kamat led the handover.

Source: [Here](#) 15 July 2025

SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY

DG SHIPPING SIGNS MOU WITH NALSAR

The Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) has signed a three-year MoU with the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR) to strengthen legal and academic support in maritime governance. NALSAR will assist in drafting maritime laws, provide legal advice, support litigation, and conduct capacity-building through training. Eight legal consultants will be deployed at DGS, backed by NALSAR faculty. The collaboration focuses on evolving challenges such as decarbonisation, digital shipping, and treaty compliance, ensuring India's maritime regulations align with international standards while maintaining strict confidentiality under a Non-Disclosure Agreement.

Source: [Here](#) 03 July 2025

JNPA'S FLOATING WASTE AND OIL SPILL UNDER SCRUTINY

Floating waste and an oil spill at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) are under heightened scrutiny due to recent incidents raising environmental concerns. As reported on July 11, 2025, port authorities are facing challenges managing significant amounts of floating trash and an oil spill, which have drawn attention from environmental agencies and the public. The situation has prompted calls for stronger waste management, oil spill containment, and cleanup mechanisms to protect the port's marine ecosystem and operational sustainability.

Source: [Here](#) 11 July 2025

SAUDI SETS SAIL WITH FIRST-EVER CRUISE SHIP REGULATIONS TO POWER RED SEA TOURISM

Saudi Arabia has introduced its first regulatory framework for cruise ship operations through the Saudi Red Sea Authority (SRSA), aiming to transform the Red Sea into a major tourism hub. The new regulations cover safety, environmental protection, and service standards, strictly requiring ships to have emergency response plans, qualified medical staff, safety equipment, and adherence to international conventions like MARPOL and SOLAS. Operators must be licensed by SRSA, maintain a branch in Saudi Arabia, appoint a licensed tourist navigator, and enforce a strict zero-

discharge policy to protect the Red Sea's ecosystem. The framework emphasises high-quality passenger experience and sustainable, secure growth of maritime tourism.

Source: [Here](#) 12 July 2025

INDIA AND ITALY EXPLORE MARITIME COOPERATION FOR NATIONAL MARITIME HERITAGE COMPLEX AT LOTHAL

A meeting between India's Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and an Italian delegation, led by Joint Secretary Shri Mukesh Mangal and Ambassador Antonio Bartoli, explored cooperation for developing the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat. Discussions focused on content development, advanced museum design, and exchanging historical knowledge to highlight ancient maritime ties between India and Italy. The collaboration aims to create a world-class maritime museum, reflecting shared efforts to preserve and showcase rich maritime heritage and foster cultural and technological synergies.

Source: [Here](#) 14 July 2025

REGIONAL MARITIME COOPERATION GETS A FRESH IMPETUS AT 2ND BIMSTEC PORTS CONCLAVE

The 2nd BIMSTEC Ports Conclave, held in Visakhapatnam on July 14-15, 2025, gave a significant boost to regional maritime cooperation among BIMSTEC member states. The event focused on harmonising customs procedures, enhancing logistical connectivity, developing port-linked industrial zones, promoting cruise tourism, digital integration, green shipping, upskilling the maritime workforce, and strengthening industry-academia ties. The conclave aimed to support intra-regional trade, sustainable partnerships, and the blue economy, aligning with India's Neighbourhood First policy and advancing the BIMSTEC Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation.

Source: [Here](#) 15 July 2025

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

YET ANOTHER WASHOUT: UN OCEAN CONFERENCE SEES LIMITED PROGRESS

The 2025 UN Ocean Conference in Nice highlighted limited progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 14 (life below water) due to massive funding shortfalls. Achieving SDG 14 requires \$175 billion annually by 2030, but less than \$10 billion was invested from 2015-2019. Although the conference called for increased financing and introduced new mechanisms like blue bonds and the One Ocean Finance Facility, a 92% funding gap remains. No country has fully met

SDG 14 targets, indicating insufficient financial commitment to ocean conservation and sustainable use, putting the 2030 global goals at risk.

Source: [Here](#) 01 July 2025

SCIENTISTS THOUGHT THE ARCTIC WAS SEALED IN ICE — THEY WERE WRONG

New research challenges the long-held belief that the Arctic Ocean was entirely sealed beneath a thick ice sheet during the coldest ice ages. Sediment samples from the central Nordic Seas and Yermak Plateau reveal chemical signs of marine algae that require open water and light, indicating seasonal sea ice rather than permanent ice cover over the past 750,000 years. Climate simulations support this, showing warm Atlantic water influx kept parts of the Arctic gateway ice-free seasonally, allowing life to persist through extreme glacial periods. This finding reshapes understanding of Arctic climate history and informs future climate change projections.

Source: [Here](#) 05 July 2025

THE MULTITASKING MICROBE THAT TURNS CO₂ INTO MINERALS

The soil bacterium *Bacillus megaterium* can convert extremely high CO₂ concentrations into solid calcium carbonate, the main mineral in limestone and marble. This process involves the enzyme carbonic anhydrase, which converts CO₂ into bicarbonate that reacts with calcium ions to form calcite. Impressively, 94% of the mineral carbon comes directly from CO₂, creating a clean mineralisation pathway without harmful byproducts like ammonia. This discovery offers a promising, scalable method for bio-based carbon sequestration with potential applications in construction and climate change mitigation industries with significant greenhouse emissions.

Source: [Here](#) 08 July 2025

MELTING GLACIERS ARE AWAKENING EARTH'S MOST DANGEROUS VOLCANOES

Melting glaciers, caused by climate change, are awakening long-dormant volcanoes worldwide, especially beneath thick ice sheets like those in Antarctica. Research on six Chilean volcanoes shows that during the last ice age, thick ice suppressed eruptions by exerting pressure on magma chambers. As glaciers rapidly melt, this pressure is released, allowing gases in magma to expand and trigger explosive eruptions. This phenomenon could lead to more frequent and intense volcanic activity, potentially accelerating climate change through a feedback loop. Similar risks exist in other glaciated regions such as North America, New Zealand, Russia, and Iceland. While volcanic responses are geological rapid, magma system changes occur over centuries, offering some monitoring time.

Source: [Here](#) 08 July 2025

LASERS CAPTURE THE INVISIBLE DANCE OF WIND AND WAVES

Researchers led by Dr Marc Buckley have developed a laser-based imaging system aboard the research platform FLIP that captures high-resolution airflow just millimeters to a meter above the ocean surface. This breakthrough reveals two simultaneous wind-wave coupling mechanisms: short waves (~1 meter) that move slower than the wind and create pressure differences transferring energy to waves, and long waves (up to 100 meters) that move faster than the wind and generate distinct airflow patterns. This dual mechanism insight advances understanding of air-sea energy exchange, critical for climate, weather, and ocean modelling.

Source: [Here](#) 10 July 2025

GEOPOLITICS

US, INDO-PACIFIC PARTNERS AGREE TO STRENGTHEN MARITIME, CRITICAL MINERALS COOPERATION

The US, Australia, India, and Japan (Quad) are expanding cooperation in the Indo-Pacific to strengthen maritime security, economic prosperity, and critical technology collaboration. Recently, they launched the first-ever "Quad at Sea Ship Observer Mission," enhancing joint maritime law enforcement against piracy, trafficking, and illegal fishing. They also announced the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative to secure and diversify supply chains vital for high-tech production. The group reaffirmed its commitment to a free, open Indo-Pacific, opposing unilateral actions threatening regional stability, while supporting partners like ASEAN and the Indian Ocean Rim Association for collective security. This reflects deeper operational and diplomatic cooperation between the Quad countries.

Source: [Here](#) 01 July 2025

A CONFLICT IN THE PACIFIC COULD PROMPT A FIGHT OVER THE STRAIT OF MALACCA

The Strait of Malacca is one of the world's most critical and busiest maritime chokepoints, linking the Indian Ocean to the Pacific via the South China Sea. It handles about 25% of global trade and over 90,000 merchant vessels annually. In a potential Pacific conflict involving China, Taiwan, and possibly the US, control over this strait would be strategically vital. Possible conflict scenarios include blockades, mining, missile strikes on infrastructure, and attempts to seize adjacent land areas in Malaysia, Sumatra, and Singapore to dominate the waterway. Securing this choke point is crucial for both economic flows and military operations in the Indo-Pacific region.

Source: [Here](#) 06 July 2025

THE MALACCA DILEMMA: CHINA'S ACHILLES' HEEL

The Strait of Malacca is a vital and narrow maritime chokepoint crucial for global trade and especially for China's energy imports. Its vulnerability to blockades or conflicts poses a serious risk to China's economy and energy security. Despite efforts to diversify transport routes and strengthen naval presence, China remains heavily dependent on this strait. This dependence represents a significant strategic weakness in potential Indo-Pacific conflicts, making control or disruption of the Strait of Malacca a key factor in regional security dynamics.

Source: [Here](#) 08 July 2025

REFRAMING THE FRENCH INDO-PACIFIC: CLIPPERTON, FRANCE'S INDO-PACIFIC EDGE

Clipperton Island, though tiny and uninhabited, is strategically significant for France's Indo-Pacific presence, offering control over a vast 435,331 sq km EEZ rich in marine, mineral, and energy resources. Its ecological value includes biodiversity and a haven for migratory fish and seabirds. However, legal uncertainty over its status, illegal fishing, pollution, and absence of permanent French presence undermine effective governance. Experts advocate for a permanent scientific base to reinforce sovereignty, strengthen ecological monitoring, and fulfil legal criteria for EEZ claims, ensuring France's continued influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

Source: [Here](#) 12 July 2025

A CONFLICT WITH CHINA, ACCESS TO INDONESIA'S STRAITS ISN'T GUARANTEED

Indonesia's strategic control over critical sea lanes—Sunda, Lombok, and Makassar Straits—means that in a conflict with China, access for the US and its allies is uncertain. Although international law permits innocent passage, Indonesia's non-aligned stance and recent military transit regulations suggest it may restrict access to protect its sovereignty. Diplomatic efforts to secure Indonesia's cooperation are essential, as these straits are vital corridors connecting allied bases in Australia to potential conflict zones, making reliance on Indonesia's goodwill a key strategic consideration.

Source: [Here](#) 13 July 2025